



NEWBURY Spring FESTIVAL

10–24 May 2025
two weeks of world-class music



Welcome

I am proud of the Festival's longstanding support of young musicians and this year our orchestral programme at St Nicolas Church features a line-up of outstanding young international soloists. On the opening night, I am delighted to welcome back Bulgarian pianist Emanuil Ivanov, former winner of the Busoni Competition as well as our own Sheepdrove Competition, for his debut with English Chamber Orchestra in Chopin's Piano Concerto no 1, and on the following Saturday BBC New Generation Artist, Swedish superstar violinist Johan Dalene, in a performance of the Mendelssohn concerto with Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.

Our final night brings together a quartet of young British star soloists, including sensational soprano Hilary Cronin, returning after her triumph in 2024, who join our own Festival Chorus, Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra and conductor Tom Primrose in Beethoven's great *Missa Solemnis*, for what promises to be a memorable finale.

Other choral highlights will be the return of Ex Cathedra to Douai Abbey, under the inspired direction of Jeffrey Skidmore, in his unique version of Rachmaninov's *Vespers*, and the festival debut of Gesualdo Six under Owain Park, another world-class British vocal ensemble. I am also delighted to welcome British baritone James Newby back to Newbury after his unforgettable performance a few years ago in our young artist series, now one of the most acclaimed singers of his generation. Other outstanding young stars featured throughout the main programme are cellist Sheku Kanneh-Mason (who joins the Castalian Quartet after his free afternoon schools' workshop),

his frequent recital partner Brazilian guitarist Plinio Fernandez, whom we welcome to Highclere, and Tom Featherstonhaugh and his Fantasia Orchestra, returning with Zoe Tweed for a performance of Mozart's *Horn Concerto No 4*.

The Corn Exchange programme opens with a tribute to Nat 'King' Cole, and developing this theme of American popular song we have shows devoted to the music of Leonard Bernstein, Kurt Weill, Stephen Sondheim and Joséphine Baker, whose remarkable talents and career will be brought to life by the outstanding young singer actress and writer Cassiopeia Berkeley-Agyepong in her show with Counterpoise Ensemble, *An Evening with Joséphine*. Another brilliant solo performance not to be missed is by writer and actor Tama Mattheson who returns to Englefield House, again bringing to vivid life the genius of a very different artist in his play *A Vision of Beethoven*, accompanied by pianist Jayson Gilham.

Please look through the following pages where I hope you will find much more to enjoy. With thanks to our wonderful and generous sponsors, without whom none of this can happen, I look forward to welcoming you to the 2025 Festival for what promises to be a magical fortnight, "two weeks of world-class music", in this beautiful part of England.

Mark Eynon
Festival Director



Festival Parade



Come and celebrate the opening of the 2025 Festival and watch the Festival Parade as it moves through Newbury culminating in the Market Square!

Working in partnership with the Corn Exchange Newbury & 101 Outdoor Arts this promises to be a vibrant celebration to mark the opening of the Festival, led by the **Giant Bandmaster Puppet**.

In early 2025 local groups and organisations will be invited to join in the parade with further details to follow, so please check the Festival website for regular updates.

We look forward to welcoming everyone to the Festival Parade!

Time tbc

Free, no ticket required

Generously funded by Greenham Trust

Saturday 10 May

The Nat King Cole Story

Celebrating one of the defining voices of the Twentieth Century: Nat 'King' Cole.

Featuring world-class live music, narration and projected archive images, this is a unique evening of world-class music and a must-see for any music fan. Tonight's performance will feature many of Nat King Cole's most celebrated songs, alongside stylish reworkings of his lesser-known gems, for a unique evening celebrating one of music's all-time greats.

Starring acclaimed jazz singer, Atila, alongside a world-class group of musicians, this thoughtful and entertaining new show takes a fresh look at the life and work of the timeless Nat King Cole, whose vocal styling in songs such as *Nature Boy*, *Unforgettable* and *When I Fall in Love*, continues to define a golden era of music.



Atila with his Jazz Quartet

Corn Exchange
Newbury
RG14 5BD

7.30pm (ends
approx. 9.25pm)

£30 | £25

Sponsored
The Earl and
Countess of
Carnarvon

English Chamber Orchestra

Emanuil Ivanov was the outstanding winner of our own Sheepdrove Piano Competition in 2023. He attracted international attention after receiving the First prize at the 2019 Ferruccio Busoni Piano Competition in Italy. This achievement was followed by concert engagements in some of the world's most prestigious halls including Teatro alla Scala in Milan and Herceullessaal in Munich. He joins the English Chamber Orchestra under the direction of Roberto Forés Veses for this evening's concert which includes one of the most popular piano concertos in the repertoire, Chopin's First.

The concert includes two works inspired by Mendelssohn's visit to Scotland, his atmospheric overture *The Hebrides (Fingal's Cave)* and his Third Symphony. This symphony gained its Scottish name as he wrote the work following his visit to Scotland and the ruins at Holyrood where he sketched the first bars of what would later become this well-loved work.



Emanuil Ivanov
piano
Roberto Forés
Veses
conductor

Mendelssohn
Overture,
The Hebrides
Chopin Piano
Concerto No. 1
Mendelssohn
Symphony No. 3,
Scottish

St Nicolas Church
Newbury
RG14 5HG

7.30pm (ends
approx. 9.25pm)

£55 | £35 | £25

PLEASE NOTE
this concert should
be booked online
via the Festival
website only.

Sponsored by
Mr and Mrs Mark
Edwards

CH-R Family
Solicitors

Sound Beginnings

Pinocchio

Musical story-telling for the young at heart! The Story of Pinocchio, with music by Stravinsky specially arranged for four hands on one piano and brought to life with lively narration by opera singer Richard Morris.

This special informal performance takes place in the beautiful surroundings of Sheepdrove Organic Farm. After each performance there's the chance for guests to bring their own picnics to enjoy in the gardens and grounds at Sheepdrove.

Sound Beginnings concerts are designed as an accessible way to experience classical music, with the environment, programme, length of recital and more tailored to be welcoming to all so that young and old (and everyone in between) can enjoy high quality live music together. Sheepdrove is a disability-inclusive venue.



Mikhail Kazakevich
piano
Elena Zozina
piano
Richard Morris
narrator

Sheepdrove
Lambourn
RG17 7UU
11.00am (ends approx. 12.00pm)
2.30pm (ends approx. 3.30pm)
£10 adults
£7 children 5 years and over
Under 5s Free
(includes £1.25 Corn Exchange booking fee
per ticket)

Sponsored by
Sheepdrove Trust

Sunday with Sondheim



Stephen Sondheim is regarded as one of the most iconic figures in musical theatre, a “Titan of the American Musical”. He set an unsurpassed standard of brilliance and artistic integrity in musical theatre.

This afternoon’s cabaret marks the welcome return of University of Chichester Conservatoire Musical Theatre students with musical direction by Stuart Hutchinson.

The programme will feature some of Sondheim’s greatest songs, from shows including *A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum*, *Anyone Can Whistle*, *Company*, *Follies*, *A Little Night Music*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Merrily We Roll Along*, *Into The Woods*, *Passion*, and *Sunday In The Park With George*.

Final year students from the University of Chichester Conservatoire Musical Theatre Triple Threat

Stuart Hutchinson
musical direction

Sunday Lunch
Optional two course pre-show lunch £27.50 Payable on the day, but please reserve when booking tickets.

Watermill Theatre
Bagnor
RG20 8AE

3.00pm (ends approx. 4.00pm)

£25 | £20

Sponsored by
Mr and Mrs David
Dinkeldein

Peter Donohoe

Peter Donohoe CBE is one of Britain's foremost pianists, whose international career was launched by his success at the 1982 Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow. Since then, he has performed at the world's major venues, including the Hollywood Bowl, the Sydney Opera House and the Teatro Colón, collaborating with conductors such as Simon Rattle, Yevgeni Svetlanov and Gustavo Dudamel, and he has appeared at the BBC Proms a remarkable twenty-two times.

This afternoon's recital will include works from Schumann, Busoni, Chopin and Debussy before culminating with Rachmaninov's *Variations of a theme of Chopin*, Rachmaninov's first large-scale piece for solo piano, which explores an enormous range of pianistic challenges at the outer reaches of difficulty.



Peter Donohoe
piano

Schumann
Abegg Variations
Op.1

Busoni
Sonatina No 1

Chopin
24 Preludes Op.28

Debussy
Estampes
Rachmaninov
Variations on
theme of Chopin
Op.22

Corn Exchange
Newbury
RG14 5BD

3.00pm (ends
approx. 5.00pm)

£30 | £25

Sponsored by
Lady Sieff

Sir Hugh and
Lady Stevenson

Septura Brass Septet

One Equal Music

Septura, now celebrating their 10th anniversary, comprises some of the finest brass players of their generation. Their creation – the brass septet – is uniquely vibrant and versatile, and aims to harness its intense emotional power to produce transformative musical experiences for audiences.

The fate of brass chamber music mirrors that of the female composers of the past – marginalised, neglected, ignored for centuries, and only now coming to the fore.

Tonight's concert places the music of two female composers, Élisabeth Jacquet de la Guerre and Clara Schumann, alongside that of their historically more celebrated male contemporaries. They also include baroque music inspired by Ovid's *Metamorphoses* and romantic music originally for the keyboard, imagining a world in which these men and women had written for brass.



Septura Brass
Septet

Rameau
Suite from
Dardanus

Bach Suite from
*Geschwinde,
geschwinde, ihr
wirbelnden Winde*

de la Guerre
Suite from *Céphale
et Procris*

Brahms
Five Chorale
Preludes

Clara Schumann
Piano Sonata
in G minor

Mendelssohn
Organ Sonata
in C minor

Church of
the Ascension
Burghclere
RG20 9HX

7.30pm (ends
approx. 9.25pm)

£25

Sponsored by
Mr and Mrs
John Skinner

Timothy Stewart

Winner of the 2023 London Organ Competition, Timothy Stewart is currently in his second year at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, under the tutelage of Daniel Moulton and Nicholas Wearne, after having been awarded the DMC McDonald Foundation Scholarship Award.

He continues to be active as a recitalist, having given solo recitals at numerous prestigious venues such as Westminster Abbey, Coventry Cathedral and many other cathedrals and churches around the country.

The Festival is delighted to present this varied lunchtime programme at Newbury Methodist Church, featuring its recently restored organ.



Timothy Stewart
organ

J.S. Bach
Toccata, Adagio
and Fugue BWV
564

Liszt
Consolation no.3

Mendelssohn
Sonata no.1

Schumann
Six Studies
IV-Innig
V-Nicht zu Schnell

Franck
Cantabile

Dupre
Prelude and Fugue
in B major

Newbury
Methodist Church
Newbury
RG14 1AN

12.30pm (ends
approx. 1.30pm)

£18
Series ticket for all
6 concerts £90

Sponsored by
The Headley Trust

Good Vibes Music Academy Showcase Performance



Now in its third year, The Good Vibes Music Academy Showcase is a joyful celebration of the rich and vibrant musical life of our community. This concert brings together local musicians of all ages and backgrounds, highlighting the incredible talent that thrives across our region.

The event stands as a testament to the transformative influence of music education.

From school groups to amateur musicians, adult ensembles, and more, the concert is a true reflection of the diverse and interconnected musical community that we are so proud of. Each group has worked tirelessly to prepare for this moment, and we are excited to share their passion, creativity, and hard work with you.

Steve Christmas
director

Corn Exchange
Newbury
RG14 5BD

7.30pm (ends
approx. 9.45pm)

£8
Under 16s free

Sponsored by
Berkshire
Community
Foundation

Monday 12 May

The Sheepdrove Recital

Mikhail Kazakevich is currently a Professor of Piano at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance. He frequently gives masterclasses and adjudicates at the London Guildhall School of Music and Drama, the Royal Academy of Music, the Royal College of Music and the Atlantic College of Wales.

Mikhail will present a programme featuring works by Ravel and Debussy including the *Suite Bergamasque* and *L'isle joyeuse* in the first half. After the interval his recital will include three large-scale works by Liszt: *Funerailles*, *Valse Oubliee* and *Vallee d'Obermann*.

Mikhail will also be one of the judges at the Sheepdrove Piano Competition held at the same venue on Sunday 18 May (See page 32).



Mikhail Kazakevich
piano

Ravel
Sonatine

Debussy
Suite Bergamasque

Debussy
L'isle joyeuse

Chopin-Liszt
Frühling (Spring)

Schumann-Liszt
Widmung

Liszt
Funerailles

Liszt
Valse Oubliee No.1

Liszt
Vallee d'Obermann

Sheepdrove
Lambourn
RG17 7UU

7.30pm (ends
approx. 9.30pm)

£26

Free for
Under 30s



Sponsored by
Sheepdrove Trust

Plínio Fernandes

Born and raised in São Paulo, Plínio Fernandes fuses the tradition of classical guitar with Brazilian folk music.

For this intimate recital in the beautiful surroundings of Highclere Castle he will combine works by Villa-Lobos and Bach alongside some other lesser-known Brazilian composers.

Plínio was named on Forbes Brazil's Under 30 list, a Rising Star by Classic FM, and recently received the Revelação Award at the 30th Annual Prêmio da Música Brasileira. He is also an exclusive Decca Gold recording artist.



Plínio Fernandes
guitar

Villa-Lobos
Bachianas
Brasileiras
No.4 Prelúdio

J.S. Bach
Prelude, Fuga and
Allegro, BWV 998
in E flat Major

Villa-Lobos
Five Preludes
Parra
Gracias a la vida
Barroso
Aquarela do Brasil
Lobo / Buarque
Beatriz
Do Bandoli
Assanhado

Highclere Castle
RG20 9RN

7.30pm (ends
approx. 9.30pm)

£95
Includes interval
Champagne

Sponsored by
Viking

By kind
permission of
The Earl and
Countess of
Carnarvon

Tuesday 13 May

Sense & Musicality

The love story of Jane Austen and Music

Soprano Penelope Appleyard, accompanied by Jonathan Delbridge on a historic square piano, presents a programme about the 'head vs heart' love story between Jane Austen and music, in celebration of her 250th anniversary.

Narrated semi-theatrically, the performance includes extracts from her work and letters and an introduction to the square piano.

Both entertaining and informative, this innovative and intimate recital invites audiences into Austen's drawing room to investigate her relationship with music, emotion and romance.

The performance is followed by the opportunity to have tea and cake in the beautiful surroundings of Shaw House.



Penelope Appleyard
soprano
Jonathan Delbridge
square piano

Shaw House
Newbury
RG14 2DR

3.00pm (ends
approx. 4.10pm)

£20

£7 tea and cake

Sponsored by
Martelize

An Evening of Indian Classical Music

Enjoy the beautiful sounds of Indian classical music in this concert featuring two leading ambassadors with worldwide reputations.

Debasmita Bhattacharya is a luminous talent in Indian classical music, combining a deep understanding of tradition with an innovative spirit that revitalizes the essence of Hindustani music. She has become a powerhouse musician, touring India and internationally with cross-genre artists while breaking gender stereotypes.

Returning by popular demand after his Festival debut last year, we welcome back Tabla player Kousic Sen whose extraordinary talent has captivated audiences worldwide. Before the evening performance they will be hosting an afternoon workshop for local school age children (see page 54).



Debasmita
Bhattacharya
sarod

Kousic Sen
tabla

Corn Exchange
Newbury
RG14 5BD

7.30pm (ends
approx. 9.30pm)

£15

Tuesday 13 May

The Gesualdo Six

Wishing Tree

Embark on a captivating vocal journey, a collection of exquisite vocal consort pieces from the Renaissance to today. Experience works celebrating nature and love by Cornysh and Byrd, alongside lyrical melodies by Ferrabosco and Gibbons. Discover how contemporary composers breathe life into verses by Christina Rossetti and Kathleen Jamie. Immerse yourself in skilful re-imaginings of traditional British folk songs that beautifully tie the sequence together.

The Gesualdo Six is an award-winning British vocal ensemble comprising some of the UK's finest consort singers, praised for their imaginative programming and impeccable blend.

They will be directed by their founder Owain Park, who is also a prolific composer and Principal Guest Conductor of the BBC Singers.



Owain Park
director
Guy James
countertenor
Alasdiar Austin
countertenor
Josh Wicks
tenor
Josh Cooter
tenor
Michael Craddock
baritone

St Martin's Church
East Woodhay
RG20 0AL
7.30pm (ends
approx. 9.30pm)
£25

Sponsored by
Mr and Mrs
Patrick
Hungerford
Mr and Mrs
Toby Ward

Maiastra String Quintet

Directed by prize-winning violinist, Akiko Ono, the Maiastra Piano Quartet is the result of a recent course run by the Aidan Woodcock Charitable Trust, which provides opportunities for emerging and talented young professionals who are hoping to make chamber music a major part of their careers.

Today's lunchtime programme includes Mendelssohn's much-loved Piano Quartet No.3 in B minor which was completed shortly before Mendelssohn's 16th birthday. This will be followed by Dvořák Piano Quartet No. 2 in Eb major, a work demonstrating wonderful dramatic conviction and intensity.



Akiko Ono
director

Mendelssohn
Piano Quartet No. 3
in B minor, Op. 3

Dvořák
Piano Quartet No. 2
in Eb major, Op. 87

Corn Exchange
Newbury
RG14 5BD

12.30pm (ends
approx. 1.30pm)

£18

Series ticket for all
6 concerts £90

Sponsored by
The Headley Trust

Wednesday 14 May

Alistair McGowan

The Piano Show

The hugely versatile and internationally famous Alistair McGowan is an impressionist, actor, writer, stand-up comedian and, latterly, pianist. Alistair began his career by providing voices for the puppets on *Spitting Image* and is fondly remembered for his popular BAFTA-winning TV show *The Big Impression*, in which he impersonated everyone who was anyone in the early noughties.

Following his Sony album reaching No 1 in the Classical charts, Alistair McGowan combines his talents as a master impressionist and comedian with his new-found talent as a classical pianist.

Alistair's stunning impressions mixed with much-loved piano gems by Chopin, Elgar, Grieg, Debussy, to name but a few. Expect a lot of beautiful music with a large dose of his trademark comedy!



Corn Exchange
Newbury
RG14 5BD

7.30pm (ends
approx. 9.30pm)

£35 | £30

Sponsored by
Knights

Friends of
Newbury Spring
Festival

Maxwell Quartet

The Maxwell Quartet combines a refined approach to classical works with a passion for its own folk heritage and a commitment to expanding the string quartet repertoire through wide-ranging projects. Friends since they met playing in youth orchestras in Scotland, their tight bond shows through in compelling musical interpretations and their joyous communication with audiences.

Strongly connected to its own Scottish roots, the group often performs classical repertoire and new music alongside folk-inspired works. Their programme this evening does exactly that, combining works by Dvorak and Haydn alongside their own interpretations of Scottish folk music.



Colin Scobie
violin
George Smith
violin
Elliot Perks
viola
Duncan Strachan
'cello

Haydn
String Quartet in
D major Op.20 No.4
Maxwell Quartet
Folk Music
of Scotland
Dvořák
String Quartet No.13
in G major, Op.106

Englefield House
Theale
RG7 5EN

7.30pm (ends
approx. 9.30pm)

£30 | £25

Sponsored by
Mr and Mrs
Alastair Storey

Free for
Under 30s



Thursday 15 May

A Vision of Beethoven

A play by Tama Matheson

When the ghost of Ludwig Van Beethoven appears to pianist Jayson Gillham, concerned that music has lost its meaning in a musically-oversaturated world, the audience is plunged into an extraordinary retelling of the composer's life-story – hurled along the strange and wonderful path of Beethoven's biography, narrated by the ghost of the composer himself, and re-lived as though it were happening before them.

Moving through Beethoven's dreadful childhood, his early successes as a virtuoso, the world-shattering onset of his deafness, his titanic determination to overcome it, and his ultimate triumph and resolution in music, this play with music paints a picture of Beethoven's life that will leave audiences breathless with emotion.

Written by award-winning playwright and actor, Tama Matheson, with world-renowned pianist Jayson Gillham at the piano, this is a performance unlike any other.



Jayson Gillham
piano
Tama Mattheson
actor

Englefield House
Theale
RG7 5EN

3.00pm (ends
approx. 5.00pm)

£30 | £25

Sponsored by
Mr and Mrs
Robin Aird

Sheku Kanneh-Mason with Castalian Quartet



Cellist Sheku Kanneh-Mason's mission is to make music accessible to all, whether that's performing for children in a school hall, at an underground club, or in the world's leading concert venues. We're delighted that he will host an afternoon concert for school children before this evening's concert (see page 54).

Sheku was last at the Festival in 2018 when he performed in St Nicolas Church just one week before he played at the wedding of the Duke and Duchess of Sussex, a performance watched by over two billion people worldwide.

For tonight's concert Sheku joins the Castalian Quartet for an evening to include works for Solo Cello, String Quartet and String Quintet.

The Castalian String Quartet are no strangers to the Festival, and continue to take the international chamber music scene by storm. Gaining renown for interpretations "full of poetry, joy and sorrow, realised to such perfection" (The Observer).



Sheku Kanneh-Mason
'cello

Sini Simonen
violin

Daniel Roberts
violin

Natalie Loughran
viola

Steffan Morris
'cello

Schubert
String Quartet
in C minor
Quartettsatz, D.703

Natalie Klouda
Suite for Solo Cello

Thomas Adès
Arcadiana
for String Quartet

Schubert
String Quintet
in C major, D.956

Corn Exchange
Newbury
RG14 5BD

7.30pm (ends
approx. 9.30pm)

£40 | £35 | £30

Sponsored by
Mr and Mrs
Graham Barker

Thursday 15 May

Coracle

Coracle brings together the talents, imagination and creativity of three artists with vastly different backgrounds, who have come together through their love of traditional music cut through with experimentation, boldness, humour and risk.

Be thrilled by the silvery voice of Anna Tam, the free flowing mix of reeds, clarinets and accordion, cello, nyckelharpa, viola da gamba and hurdy-gurdy. Expect ethereal to turn gutsy, passion to be tempered by a good laugh and a tide of improvisation which means no two evenings are ever the same.



Paul Hutchinson
accordion
Karen Wilmhurst
clarinet
Anna Tam
hurdy gurdy, voice

Donnington Priory
Newbury
RG14 2JE

7.30pm (ends
approx. 9.30pm)

£20

Sponsored by
Dreweatts

Apollo's Cabinet

Join award-winning ensemble Apollo's Cabinet on a European tour. You will be taken on a Baroque musical voyage following Charles Burney on his journey: a kaleidoscope of European Baroque music with compositions from each of the countries Burney visited, interspersed with readings of his original 18th century diary entries and anecdotes from his travels.

Until 1776, no history of music existed in the English language. To equip himself to fill the gap, musicologist Dr. Charles Burney set off on two long journeys in 1770 and 1772, to Italy, France, Germany, Bohemia (Czechia), Austria, Belgium and the Netherlands. He researched in libraries and archives, spoke to personalities in the musical world, attended musical events, and subsequently published accounts of both tours.



Harry Buckoke
viola da Gamba
Jonatan Bougt
theorbo, baroque guitar
David Lopez Ibanez
violin
Jordan Murray
percussion
Thomas Pickering
harpsichord, recorder, traverso
Teresa Wrann
recorder

Corn Exchange
Newbury
RG14 5BD

12.30pm (ends
approx. 1.30pm)

£18
Series ticket for all
6 concerts £90

Sponsored by
The Headley Trust

Friday 16 May

An Evening with Joséphine

Three classic and influential silent movies, with scores newly composed by Jean Hasse and Luke Styles, set the scene for the extraordinary story of Joséphine Baker.

The acclaimed ensemble Counterpoise set the colourful scene in 1920s Paris: a time of experimental cinema, Dadaism and lively nightclubs, also performing newly commissioned scores for these silent movie classics. The influential René Clair film *Entr'acte* features Picabia, Satie, Cocteau, Duchamp, Man Ray and Clair himself.

This performance tells the story, with text, visuals and movement, of the American-French dancer, singer and actress Joséphine Baker, notorious for her banana dance, but also a civil rights activist, champion of women's rights, intrepid French Resistance fighter and "the most sensational woman anyone ever saw" (Hemingway).



Cassiopeia
Berkeley-
Agyepong
actor/singer

Counterpoise
Ensemble

Yshani
Perinpanayagam
piano, music
director and
composer/arranger

Amy Green
saxophones
Deborah Calland
trumpet

Andrew
Connington
trombone

Corn Exchange
Newbury
RG14 5BD

7.30pm (ends
approx. 9.30pm)

£20

Sponsored by
Friends of
Newbury Spring
Festival

Kaleidoscope Chamber Collective

Kaleidoscope is one of the country's leading chamber ensembles featuring some of the finest soloists of their generation.

Their programme culminates in a performance of Elgar's great Piano Quintet, one of the most glorious and best-loved British chamber works. It was written in 1918, shortly before the composer's Cello Concerto, with which it shares an elegiac quality.

Alongside it, Kaleidoscope presents two works which deserve to be heard far more often than they are: African-American composer George Walker's Lyric for Strings has been described as a sunnier counterpart to Barber's famous Adagio, while Korngold's richly romantic Suite for two violins, cello and left-hand piano is one of the most exhilarating works in the repertoire, its virtuoso piano part written for Paul Wittgenstein, whose right arm had been amputated in the First World War.



Elena Urioste
violin
Savitri Grier
violin
Rosalind Ventris
viola
Laura van der
Heijden
'cello
Tom Poster
piano

Walker
Lyric for Strings
Korngold
Suite for two
violins, cello and
piano left-hand,
Op. 23
Elgar
Piano Quintet in
A minor, Op. 84

Holy Cross
Ramsbury
SN8 2QH
7.30pm (ends
approx. 9.30pm)
£25 | £20

Sponsored by
Harbrook Farm
The Gordon
Palmer Charitable
Trust

Free for
Under 30s



Saturday 17 May

Groove Onto the Moon

Following last year's performance *Grooving with Pirates*, this year we strap in and prepare to blast off on a cosmic adventure like no other as you venture into the thrilling music experience of *Groove Onto the Moon*!

In this fun sci-fi adventure, children aged 3 to 7 and their adventurous grown-ups will be transported into space, encountering alien creatures, embarking on daring missions, and facing challenges that will put their bravery to the test.

Follow three intrepid astronaut friends on a mission to discover the first lunar footprint left by Neil Armstrong, proving to their grown-ups that they're ready for big-kid adventures!



Cameron Reynolds
organ and keyboards

Lawrence Corns
guitar

Chris Nickolls
drums

Corn Exchange
Newbury
RG14 5BD

10.30am (ends
approx. 11.40am)

£12 | £8 children

Sponsored by
Sheepdrove Trust

East Woodhay Silver Band

East Woodhay Silver Band have been bringing music to the community for over 140 years now, from humble beginnings as The East Woodhay Mechanics Band in 1884 to the present day. This is an opportunity to come and see the band and learn more about what they do.

The band welcomes players of all ages and abilities, keenness being the primary requirement, and no audition is needed. An active training and improvement programme is in place, and all instruments can be provided.

This morning performance will include a varied repertoire suitable for all the family, demonstrating the versatility of the Brass Band.

All proceeds from this concert will go to East Woodhay Silver Band.



Tim Crouter
musical director

St Martin's Church
East Woodhay
RG20 0AL

11.00am (ends
approx. 12.45pm)

£15

Saturday 17 May

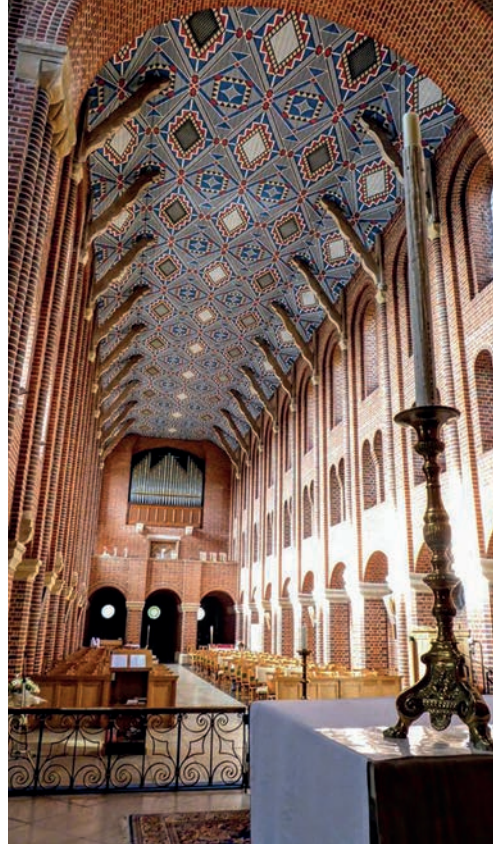
Come and Sing Evensong

Following last year's wonderful evensong, we're delighted to invite you to Come and Sing again in 2025. Join other local choir members and musicians for this special Festival Evensong at St John's Church under the direction of Janet Coxwell and Steve Bowey with Christopher Sears playing the organ.

Don't worry if you have little or no experience of singing in a choir for Evensong. The idea of the afternoon is to gather people together from the musical community of Newbury, to raise our voices and to enjoy taking part in something a little bit different.

Music for the service will be sent out in advance to those who register to sing, ready for the rehearsal on the day.

Evensong is held at many cathedrals and churches and provides a restful, peaceful and contemplative time at the even point of the day, between the end of the working day and night-time. Anyone can attend Choral Evensong: people of any faith or none, everyone is welcome.



Directed by
Janet Coxwell
Steve Bowey
Christopher Sears
organ

St John's Church
Newbury RG14 7PY

1.30pm rehearsal
3.30pm service (ends approx. 4.30pm)

Free no ticket required

Singers should register in advance by booking through the box office and selecting a voice part.

Northern SoulTrain

Now in their seventeenth year as the UK's leading Northern Soul band, Northern SoulTrain arrive in Newbury with their big soul shakedown party promising the hottest soul night around... and this Lancashire based, nine piece freight train of a band are showing no signs of slowing down as the group continue to perform at festivals, dancehalls and theatres around the UK.

Hear the very best soul anthems from Wigan Casino, Twisted Wheel and Blackpool Mecca. Great songs by Dobie Gray, Frank Wilson, Billy Butler and many more. Throw in just a pinch of Motown and we have a new look Northern Soul stew served up by Lancashire's very own Northern SoulTrain! A cabaret show this is not, this is an authentic soul party!



David Jaggs
vocals
Strang
guitar/
backing vocals
Gary Owen
drums/
backing vocals
Garry Purse
keyboards/
backing vocals

Gary Ward
bass/
backing vocals
Rod Wilson
Lee Howson
trumpet
Tony Marshall
tenor saxophone
Steve Derbyshire
baritone
saxophone

Corn Exchange
Newbury
RG14 5BD

7.30pm (ends
approx. 9.30pm)

£30 | £25

Free for
Under 30s



Sponsored by
Greenham Trust

Saturday 17 May

Royal Philharmonic Orchestra

Johan Dalene is one of the most important young violinists to have emerged on the international stage in recent years, having won the Sibelius Competition and then nominated as a member of the prestigious BBC New Generation Artist scheme.

Tonight he is joined by one of the country's leading orchestras and distinguished conductor Martyn Brabbins in a performance of the ever popular Mendelssohn concerto, flanked by two of Beethoven's most important works, the Overture 'Egmont' and the Seventh Symphony, described by Wagner as 'the apotheosis of the dance'.



Johan Dalene
violin

Martyn Brabbins
conductor

Beethoven
Overture *Egmont*

Mendelssohn
Violin Concerto

Beethoven
Symphony No 7

St Nicolas Church
Newbury
RG14 5HG

7.30pm (ends
approx. 9.45pm)

£55 | £35 | £25

PLEASE NOTE

this concert should
be booked online
via the Festival
website only.

Sponsored by
Mrs Rosamond
Brown

Kilfinan Trust

Foden's Band

Foden's Band are the current 'Double National Champions of Great Britain' as well as being ranked as one of the leading brass bands in the World.

Foden's were formed in 1902 by Edwin Foden, originally named *The Foden's Motorworks Band*. From these humble beginnings few would have thought they would go on to win numerous prizes and competitions. As well as being successful on the contest front the band have won numerous awards for CD releases, regularly appear on BBC TV and Radio and perform at all the countries leading concert halls.

We're delighted to welcome them to Newbury for an afternoon of popular brass band music, including Dvořák's *Carnival Overture* and *The Rumble in the Jungle*, a set of music celebrating the 50th anniversary of this iconic boxing match.



Michael Fowles
conductor

Corn Exchange
Newbury
RG14 5BD

3.00pm (ends
approx. 5.00pm)

£20
Half-price
for Under 16s

Sponsored by
Greenham Trust

Sunday 18 May

Sheepdrove Piano Competition Final

A wonderful opportunity to hear the best international piano students drawn from all the major UK conservatoires – and to cast your vote for the audience prize!

This notable competition, established by the Sheepdrove Trust, is open to candidates aged 26 and under from the eight major UK music colleges, and attracts young pianists of the highest standard from around the world. Today's competition, which this year has an emphasis on Ravel, features four shortlisted finalists and takes place in the tranquil setting of Sheepdrove on the Lambourn Downs. The overall winner will perform a solo recital in the Corn Exchange on Monday 19 May as part of the Festival's popular Young Artists Lunchtime Recital Series (see page 36).

1st Prize: The Kindersley Prize of £3,000 plus a recital on Monday 19 May

2nd Prize: £1,500 donated by Greenham Trust

3rd Prize: £750 donated by the Friends of NSF

4th Prize: £500 donated by an anonymous donor

Audience Prize: £250 donated by an anonymous donor

The Robert Turnbull Piano Foundation Prize: £750 to a runner up from either round



Jury
Rupert Christiansen
Mark Eynon
Mikhail Kazakevich
Lucy Parham
Elena Vorotko
David Whelton

Sheepdrove
Lambourn
RG17 7UU

3.00pm (ends
approx. 5.45pm)

£25
including
tea and cake

Sponsored by
Sheepdrove Trust

Janie Dee

Beautiful World Cabaret



All the world's a stage, let's protect it. Two-time Olivier Award-winning West End star Janie Dee confronts the climate crisis, and celebrates our beautiful world through song and spoken word. Unusual and inspiring: this green twist on classic cabaret asks how we can each make a difference in the fight for our planet. Playful, radical, informative, and ultimately hopeful.

Janie has devised, produced and performed this cabaret celebrating nature and the planet, whilst also bringing attention to the threat posed to them by climate change.

Fresh from acclaimed performances at the Edinburgh Fringe, Wenlock Abbey, and London and regional venues, Janie's Beautiful World Cabaret will charm, inform and entertain.

Guests are welcome to bring their own food and dine at tables from 6pm, when there will also be a cash bar available.

Janie Dee
producer, director
and performer

Combe
Manor Barn
Combe
RG17 9EJ

7.30pm (venue
open from
6.00pm – ends
approx. 9.30pm)

£35 | £30

Sponsored by
Mr and Mrs
Graham Barker

Festival Diary

Saturday 10

Festival Parade
time tbc Page 3

The Nat King Cole Story
Corn Exchange Page 4
7.30pm

English Chamber Orchestra
St Nicolas Church Page 5
7.30pm

Sunday 11

Sound Beginnings
Sheepdrove Eco Centre Page 6
11.00am and 2.30pm

Sunday with Sondheim
Watermill Theatre Page 7
3.00pm

Peter Donohoe
Corn Exchange Page 8
3.00pm

Septura Brass Septet
Church of the Ascension Page 9
Burghclere
7.30pm

Monday 12

Timothy Stewart
Newbury Methodist Church
12.30pm

Good Vibes Music Showcase
Corn Exchange Page 7
7.30pm

Sheepdrove Recordings
Sheepdrove Eco Centre
7.30pm

Plínio Fernandes
Highclere Castle Page 7
7.30pm

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A Vision of Beethoven
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3.00pm

Sheku Kanneh-Mason with Castalian Quartet
Corn Exchange Page 21
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Coracle
Donnington Priory Page 22
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Apollo's Cabinet
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An Evening with Josephine
Corn Exchange Page 24
7.30pm

Kaleidoscope Chamber Collective
Holy Cross Page 25
Ramsbury
7.30pm

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Groove onto the Grooves
Corn Exchange Page 10
10.30am

East Woodhay School
St Martin's Church Page 11
11.00am

Come and Sing
St John's Church Page 3
3.00pm

Northern Soul Train
Corn Exchange Page 7
7.30pm

Royal Philharmonic
St Nicolas Church Page 7
7.30pm

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Opium: Seduction, Greed, Art
Arlington Arts Page 38
10.30am and 1.45pm

Metronomes Steel Orchestra
Corn Exchange Page 39
7.30pm

James Newby
St Mary's Church Page 40
Shaw
7.30pm

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Daniel Shao
Corn Exchange Page 41
12.30pm

The Music of Leonard Bernstein
Corn Exchange Page 42
7.30pm

Michael Collins
St Mary's Church Page 43
Kintbury
7.30pm

Thursday 22

Paul Nicholas
The Chapel Page 11
Sydmonton
11.30am

Ballet Central
Corn Exchange Page 7
7.30pm

Fantasia Orchestral
St Lawrence Church Page 7
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7.30pm

10–24 May 2025

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Sense & Musicality
Shaw House
3.00pm Page 14

A Evening of Indian Music
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7.30pm Page 15

The Gesualdo Six
St Martin's Church
East Woodhay
7.30pm Page 16

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Maiestra Piano Quintet
Corn Exchange
12.30pm Page 17

Alistair McGowan
Corn Exchange
7.30pm Page 18

Maxwell Quartet
Englefield House
7.30pm Page 19

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Corn Exchange
3.00pm Page 31

Piano Competition Final
Sheepdrove
3.00pm Page 32

Janie Dee
Combe Manor
Combe
7.30pm Page 33

Monday 19

Piano Competition Winner
Corn Exchange
12.30pm Page 36

Jazz at The Vineyard
The Vineyard
Stockcross
7.30pm Page 37

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Friday 23

Finn Carter Quartet
Corn Exchange
12.30pm Page 47

Seth Lakeman
Corn Exchange
7.30pm Page 48

Ex Cathedra
Douai Abbey
Woolhampton
7.30pm Page 49

Saturday 24

The British Atom Bomb Project
Corn Exchange
10.30am Page 50

O Moon of Alabama
Corn Exchange
7.30pm Page 51

Beethoven's Missa Solemnis
St Nicolas Church
7.30pm Page 52

Piano Competition Winner

Newbury Spring Festival is delighted to welcome the winner of the 2025 Sheepdrove Piano Competition to the Corn Exchange to perform a recital as part of the Festival's Young Artists Lunchtime Series.

The prestigious competition, now in its 16th year is open to students from all the major UK conservatoires. The competition was founded in 2009 by the Sheepdrove Trust and is now widely recognised as one of the important national piano competitions.

The winning pianist's programme will include works by Ravel, this year's featured composer to celebrate his 150th anniversary.

Today's recital is an opportunity to hear more of the winning pianist following the competition held at Sheepdrove, Lambourn on Sunday 19 May (see page 32).



Maurice Ravel
(1875-1937)

Corn Exchange
Newbury
RG14 5BD

12.30pm (ends
approx. 1.30pm)

£18

Series ticket for all
6 concerts £90

Sponsored by
The Headley Trust

Jazz at The Vineyard

We are delighted to welcome back to The Vineyard Jamie Safir, one of the country's leading jazz pianists who is joined this evening by renowned clarinet virtuoso Kenny Martyn making his festival debut.

Jamie is a Decca-Recording artist, "...one of the biggest talents of British jazz piano" (Jay Rayner, The Guardian) collaborating with Will Young regularly since 2015 and Kylie Minogue since 2022. Resident at The Ritz, he's also performed alongside the likes of Olly Murs, Tony Hadley, Mica Paris, Claire Martin, Elaine Delmar, Clare Teal, Liane Carroll, Rebecca Ferguson and Tony Christie.

Tonight Jamie will be joined by Kenny Martyn, a talented multi-instrumentalist who regularly performs across the world on alto sax, clarinet, ukulele and as a vocalist. Together Jamie and Kenny will explore music from New Orleans, the British Trad Jazz era, American swing and ballad standards.

The evening will start with a drink on arrival, before a two-course meal prepared by The Vineyard's head chef with seating at tables of 10.



Jamie Safir
piano
Kenny Martyn
clarinet

The Vineyard
Stockcross
RG20 8JU
7.30pm dinner
8.30pm
recital (ends
approx. 9.30pm)
£95
Including
two-course meal

Sponsored by
Rivar

Opium: Seduction, Greed, Art

We're delighted to be joining with the Arts Society, Newbury again this year for this fascinating lecture looking at the influence of Opium on the lives and creations of many artists.

Amanda Herries read Archaeology and Anthropology at Cambridge, and worked as curator at the Museum of London before moving to Japan, lecturing and writing on Oriental/Western cross-culture and artistic influences.

The source of the stuff of dreams, the poppy is a beautiful, fragile flower with immense power. Opium (from the Greek 'opion' – poppy juice) is a hypnotic bringer of sleep, delightful lethargy and relief from pain. It is also highly addictive. Greed led to the introduction of this hugely desirable substance first to China, and then to Europe.

The beguiling seduction of its effects led to its use to quieten troubled minds and calm agitated children and babies. Its use, often by those with troubled minds, led to the creation of great works of art in music, art and literature. Social and art history meet as this lecture unfolds.



Amanda Herries
lecturer

Arlington Arts Centre
Mary Hare School
Snelmore RG14 3BQ

10.30am (ends approx. 11.45am)
1.45pm (ends approx. 3pm)

£15

Free for Friends of the Festival
(ticket required)

Metronomes Steel Orchestra

One of Britain's leading groups, Metronomes are an innovative steel band and a unique community in London's Ladbroke Grove. With both traditional styles and modern approaches to their shows, the group are equally at home playing Caribbean classics or recording with grime artists.

The group also have a strong tradition of education and workshops, and we're delighted that they'll be leading workshops with local school children in advance of the Festival and on the day of their Festival performance.

They are regulars at both Notting Hill Carnival and Panorama, the national Steel Pan competition, and will be bringing their trademark carnival sound to Newbury this year.



Eversley 'Breeze' Mills
band leader

Corn Exchange
Newbury
RG14 5BD

7.30pm (ends
approx. 9.30pm)

£20

Tuesday 20 May

James Newby

Distinguished baritone James Newby is a former BBC New Generation Artist and Rising Star of the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment. As well as a 2022 Borletti Buitoni Trust Award winner, he was an ECHO Rising Star (2022/23) with appearances at major concert halls throughout Europe. He is now considered one of the leading singers of his generation with an international career in both opera and in recital.

He will be accompanied by Joseph Middleton, one of the leading vocal accompanists in the world. His solo song recital, *The Shipping Forecast*, features songs around the theme of the sea from composers including Elgar, Schubert, Ives, Coates, Stanford and more.



James Newby
baritone

Joseph Middleton
piano

St Mary's Church
Shaw
RG14 2DR

7.30pm (ends
approx. 9.30pm)

£25

Sponsored by
Fairhurst Estates

Daniel Shao

Daniel Shao is a British-Chinese flautist who studied at the Purcell School, Oxford University, and Royal Academy of Music with teachers including Samuel Coles, graduating from both universities with first class honours and a DipRAM. He was a finalist in the 2024 Royal Over-Seas League Annual Music Competition.

He now enjoys a varied career, performing and recording as an orchestral musician with ensembles including Philharmonia Orchestra (having been Associate Member 2019-2021), London Symphony Orchestra, London Philharmonic Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra of Europe, Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, as well as having been a member of the European Union Youth Orchestra and an adjudicator for the National Youth Orchestra.

He'll be accompanied by Joseph Havlat for today's lunchtime recital including works by Bach, Prokofiev and Bonis.



Daniel Shao
flute
Joseph Havlat
piano

JS Bach
Flute sonata in
B minor BWV 1030

Mel Bonis
Flute Sonata in
C Sharp minor
Op 64

Prokofiev
(arr. Various)
Romeo and Juliet
Fantasy

Corn Exchange
Newbury
RG14 5BD

12.30pm (ends
approx. 1.30pm)

£18
Series ticket for all
6 concerts £90

Sponsored by
The Headley Trust

With additional
support from
The Royal Over-
Seas League

Wednesday 21 May

The Music of Leonard Bernstein

Leonard Bernstein was a titan of 20th Century music. His timeless compositions for choirs, soloists and orchestras remain essential parts of the musical canon along with the many great songs he wrote that have now become jazz standards. Among his most memorable creations are his extensive musical theatre compositions of which *West Side Story* is the most famous.

Giving voice to this wide collection, in his original and most creative manner comes with his trio Rob Barron, a creative jazz pianist, who recognises that Bernstein's imaginative creations give themselves generously to a reimagined and updated, improvised interpretation. Rob devotes the first half to *West Side Story*, whilst the second half captures a wide range of music from Bernstein's *Candide*, *On The Town*, *Wonderful Town*, *A Quiet Place* and more.



Rob Barron
piano
Jeremy Brown
double bass
Matt Skelton
drums
Emma Smith
guest vocalist

Corn Exchange
Newbury
RG14 5BD

7.30pm (ends
approx. 9.30pm)

£30 | £25

Sponsored by
Mr and Mrs
Alastair Storey

Free for
Under 30s



Michael Collins

Michael Collins is one of the most complete musicians of his generation. With a continuing, distinguished career as a soloist, he has in recent years also become highly regarded as a conductor.

Tonight he performs a solo recital with pianist Michael McHale in a programme that includes works by Weber, Ferguson, Debussy and Poulenc.

Michael McHale has established himself as one of Ireland's leading pianists and has developed a busy international career as a solo recitalist, concerto soloist and chamber musician.



Michael Collins
clarinet

Michael McHale
piano

Weber
Grand Duo
Concertante

Ferguson
Four Short Pieces

Brahms
Clarinet Sonata
No. 1

Debussy
Première
Rhapsodie

Muczynski
Time Pieces Op. 43

Poulenc
Clarinet Sonata

St Mary's Church
Kintbury
RG17 9TR

7.30pm (ends
approx. 9.30pm)

£25

Sponsored by
Dr Stephen
Golding

Miss W E
Lawrence
Charitable
Settlement

Thursday 22 May

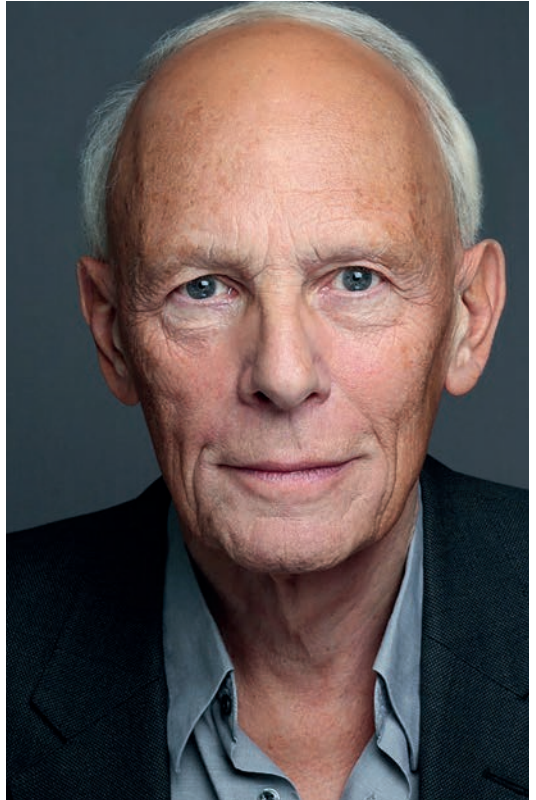
Paul Nicholas

In Conversation with Edward Seckerson

Paul Nicholas started out with a pop career, but soon changed to musical theatre, playing the lead role in *Jesus Christ Superstar* at the West End's Palace Theatre in 1972. Later, in the 1970s, he returned to the pop charts, and he began an acting career – starring in the 1983 BBC sitcom *Just Good Friends*. The show won a BAFTA and Paul was nominated for best comedy performance.

After the TV series ended, he returned to musical theatre and various other entertainment roles, including producing and directing. He is also known for his more recent television role in *EastEnders* and *The Real Marigold Hotel*.

It is a pleasure to return to Andrew Lloyd Webber's private theatre for writer, broadcaster and interviewer Edward Seckerson's conversation with Paul Nicholas about his life and career.



The Chapel
Sydmonton Court
Old Burghclere
RG20 9NJ

11.30am (ends
approx. 12.30pm)

£20

By kind
permission of
Lord and Lady
Lloyd Webber

Ballet Central



Experience the magic of live ballet, right on your doorstep as Ballet Central returns to Newbury Spring Festival for their annual visit.

This exciting mixed bill is performed by dance talents from the world-renowned Central School of Ballet and features much-loved classical ballet alongside exciting contemporary pieces and some brand-new work, created especially for you.

Each year Ballet Central brings the joys of dance to theatres across the country, inviting audiences to an evening of excitement, inspiration, and entertainment.

Kate Coyne
artistic director

Ben Warbis
Ballet Central Lead

Philip Feeney
Tabor Music Director

Corn Exchange
Newbury
RG14 5BD

7.30pm (ends
approx. 9.40pm)

£30 | £25

Sponsored by
Mrs Katherine
Astor

Mr and Mrs
Malcolm Kimmins

Thursday 22 May

Fantasia Orchestra

Tom Featherstonhaugh returns with his orchestra after their acclaimed BBC Proms debut in 2024, with a Classical programme featuring music by Gluck, Mozart and Haydn.

Both halves open with arresting passion. Gluck's *Dance of the Furies* from his opera *Orpheus and Euridice* is a high-octane frenzy, and Haydn's F minor Symphony no. 49 'La Passione' is typical of the Sturm und Drang (Storm and Stress) style of writing from the period.

Contrasting these stormy scenes are two sunny and tranquil works by Mozart. His Horn Concerto no. 4 is melodious and ever-popular, and the A major Symphony, no. 29, is charming, spirited, and abounding in spring-tide optimism.

Horn player Zoë Tweed, frequent member of Fantasia Orchestra, will be the soloist in Mozart's remarkable concerto.



Zoë Tweed
horn
Tom
Featherstonhaugh
conductor

Gluck
Dance of the Furies
(from *Orpheus and Euridice*)

Mozart
Horn Concerto no. 4

Haydn
Symphony no. 49 in
F minor *La Passione*

Mozart
Symphony no. 29
in A major

St Lawrence
Church
Hungerford
RG17 0JB

7.30pm (ends
approx. 9.00pm)

£25 | £20

Sponsored by
Doves Farm Foods
an anonymous
supporter

Finn Carter Quartet

The Finn Carter Quartet comprises some of London's most important up-and-coming jazz musicians. Separately, they all regularly tour the world with musicians such as Loyle Carner, Sampha and Tom Misch. Playing together in this group allows these musicians to explore new musical terrain each time they play together.

They are all technically virtuosic, but the music they create together is more than that; it is sensitive, emotive and synergistic. They have played numerous sold-out shows, including a main show at Ronnie Scott's, headlining Jern og Metall Festival in Norway and closing out Brick Lane Jazz Festival 2022.



Finn Carter
piano
Kaidi Akinnibi
tenor saxophone
Joe MacLaren
double bass
Blake Cascoe
drums

Corn Exchange
Newbury
RG14 5BD

12.30pm (ends
approx. 1.30pm)

£18
Series ticket for all
6 concerts £90

Sponsored by
The Headley Trust

Friday 23 May

Seth Lakeman

Accompanied by Benji Kirkpatrick and Alex Hart

West Country folk singer and multi-instrumentalist Seth Lakeman will be accompanied by folk singer and musician Benji Kirkpatrick and Devon singer-songwriter Alex Hart.

Seth Lakeman was catapulted into the music mainstream when he was nominated for the Mercury Music Prize for his album *Kitty Jay*. 2024 marked the 20th anniversary of the album's release and the start of an incredible solo journey which has included record deals, 11 album releases (including six Top 40), and a clutch of awards.

Widely regarded as the UK's foremost folk singer-songwriter, Seth Lakeman takes the established folk orthodoxy and turns it on its head. The spirit of the rock band meets the timeless and heartfelt subject matter of the folk tale in a blur of fiddle, acoustic guitar and foot-stomping rhythms, with Seth's unmistakable vocals riding the wave.



Corn Exchange
Newbury
RG14 5BD

7.30pm (ends
approx. 9.30pm)

£35 | £30

Sponsored by
Friends of
Newbury Spring
Festival

Friday 23 May

Ex Cathedra

Rachmaninov Vespers

Powerful, passionate, hypnotic – in a time of turmoil and amid the shock of war, Rachmaninov turned to the choral heritage he held dear, and created one of the most awe-inspiring vocal masterpieces.

Immerse yourself in its luminous choral tapestry, mesmeric melodies and some of the lowest notes you'll ever hear sung. No wonder it is beloved by audiences and singers alike.

Hailed by the New York Times as “one of Britain’s very best choirs”, Ex Cathedra is a world-class vocal ensemble which leads the choral sector in the fields of performance, learning and wellbeing.



Jeffrey Skidmore
conductor
Martha McLorinan
mezzo soprano
James Robinson
tenor
Simone Rebello
bells

Douai Abbey
Woolhampton
RG7 5TQ

7.30pm (ends
approx. 9.30pm)

£45 | £35

Sponsored by
The Greenwood
Family Trust
Mr and Mrs
David Bruce
Mr and Mrs
Roderick
Chamberlain

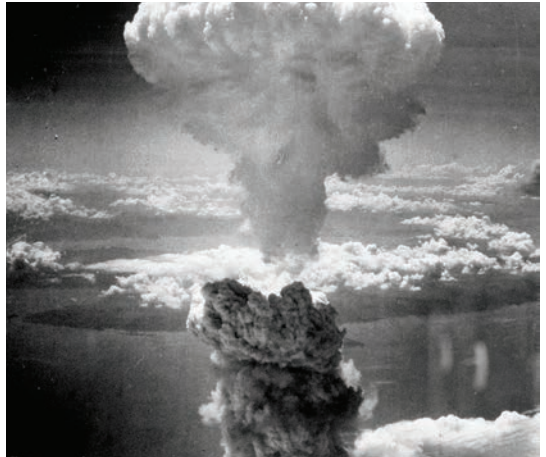
Saturday 24 May

The British Atom Bomb Project

What they didn't tell you in *Oppenheimer*

2025 marks the 80th anniversary of the dropping of the atom bomb on Hiroshima. The movie, *Oppenheimer*, gives the impression that this bomb was largely an American creation, made possible by the inspired leadership of Robert Oppenheimer. But this is not accurate. Indeed, the bomb would not have been built without crucial pioneering work in the early years of WW2, here in Britain. Sadly, our early scientific lead was squandered by administrators failing to understand the engineering challenges of building a fission bomb.

Professor Tim Palmer CBE FRS is a Royal Society Research Professor Emeritus in the Department of Physics at the University of Oxford, who will discuss the British contribution to the bomb, how we failed to capitalise on our early lead and why we are still paying the price for this administrative incompetence today.



Professor Tim Palmer CBE FRS
lecturer

Corn Exchange
Newbury
RG14 5BD

11.00am (ends
approx. 12.30pm)

£15

Sponsored by
Englefield
Charitable Trust

O Moon of Alabama

A Kurt Weill Cabaret

This evening's star-studded show gets under the skin of Weill's creations, bringing you a bewitching compilation of songs from some of his most popular works. It encompasses not only the Brecht-Weill era of 1920's Berlin but also the more upbeat and nostalgic songs from his Broadway period. Broadway and West End stars Mary Carewe and Walter Van Dyk are joined by a quartet of musicians led by international soloist Anthony Marwood.

Having watched a previous performance Joanna Lumley commented: "O Moon of Alabama is an entrancing show, the evening was an unmitigated triumph. The songs are performed with beauty and skill, heartbreaking, scary, funny in turn. I was bewitched throughout. This is what cabaret should be!"



Mary Carewe
actor/singer
Walter Van Dyk
actor/singer
Anthony Marwood
violin
John Myerscough
'cello
James Crabb
accordion
Michael Haslam
piano

Corn Exchange
Newbury
RG14 5BD

7.30pm (ends
approx. 8.50pm)
NB No Interval

£25

Sponsored by
Mr and Mrs
Graham Barker

Saturday 24 May

Beethoven's Missa Solemnis

Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra

"From the heart, may it go to the heart" was Beethoven's inscription on the score of this monumental spiritual masterpiece.

After Hilary's Cronin's memorable performance with the Festival Chorus in the 2024 Festival she makes a welcome return this year performing alongside some of Britain's other leading young soloists, Katie Bray, Elgan Llŷr Thomas and William Thomas.

The Festival Chorus continues to thrive under the preparation and direction of Tom Primrose who conducts tonight's performance with the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra.



Hilary Cronin
soprano
Katie Bray
mezzo soprano
Elgan Llŷr Thomas
tenor
William Thomas
bass

Bournemouth
Symphony
Orchestra
Newbury Spring
Festival Chorus
Tom Primrose
conductor

St Nicolas Church
Newbury
RG14 5HG

7.30pm (ends
approx. 9.45pm)

£55 | £35 | £25

PLEASE NOTE
this concert should
be booked online
via the Festival
website only.

Sponsored by
Greenham Trust

Free for
Under 30s



Open Studios 2025

OPEN Studios 2025 runs from
Saturday 10 – Monday 26 May.

We are the Open Studio Scheme for
West Berkshire and North Hampshire.



This is your opportunity to visit an artist studio or group exhibition near you and see how artists produce their work. You can chat to artists and other visitors and in most venues enjoy light refreshments.

Our range of artists is extensive; we have milliners, jewellery makers, sculptors, painters, printmakers, woodworkers, textile artists and ceramicists.

Why not start your experience by visiting our flagship exhibition at The Base, Greenham www.thebasegreenham.co.uk The exhibition is free of charge and allows you to see some of the recent work by all our registered artists. You can then plan your visits.

Pick up our revised OS Guide from most art centres or visit on our website www.open-studios.org.uk

John Brazendale
OS Chair



Top left: Jane Skingley Bottom Left: Shirley Eccles Right hand image: Tracey Clarkson

Free Learning and Community Participation 2025



February 2025

Metronomes Steel Orchestra

Members of the Metronomes Steel Orchestra will be visiting Newbury twice for day-long workshops – firstly with local primary school children, and later spending a day with secondary school age children.



10 May

Festival Parade

This is an opportunity for local performers and groups to get involved with a large-scale parade through the town culminating in the Market Square – see page 3 for further information.



13 May

Indian Classical Music

There will be an afternoon schools workshop, with opportunity for children to meet Debasmita Bhattacharya and Kousic Sen exploring Indian Music. There will be chance to learn more about the music, the instruments and the history of traditional Indian music and culture.

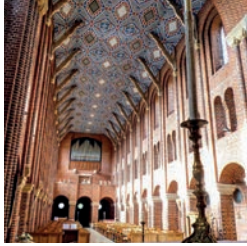


15 May

Sheku Kanneh-Mason

Sheku Kanneh-Mason will be hosting an hour-long afternoon workshop for local school children, particularly focussing on those who play the 'cello. There will be the chance to learn more about the 'cello with opportunity for a Q&A session also.

The Festival is committed to music education for children and the community. In 2025 school children are invited to attend a number of performances and join in with a variety of workshops completely free of charge, with some events open to people of all ages.



17 May
Festival Evensong

Singers of all abilities are invited to come along and join in the Festival Evensong service. Music will be available in advance with a short rehearsal on the day. There is no cost to this event. Under 18s should be accompanied by an adult.

20 May
Metronomes Steel Orchestra

Metronomes Steel Orchestra will hold a special afternoon concert for local school age children. This will be a fun afternoon learning more about the pans and their music ahead of their full evening performance (see page 39).

21 May
Masterclass

Michael Collins will hold a masterclass session for local clarinet students ahead of his evening recital (see page 43). Pupils interested in performing should contact Jane Pickering before the end of March 2025.

22 May
Ballet Central

Schools, dance classes and ballet companies are invited to come and watch this free Open Company Class at the Corn Exchange. There'll be chance to learn more about the evening performance (see page 45), and opportunity to ask the dancers questions about dance and performance.

Details of these free opportunities will be sent to all schools in advance; however places are limited and are reserved on a first-come, first-served basis. Please contact Jane Pickering 01635 528766 or email jane@newburyspringfestival.org.uk for further information. None of these events could happen without the support of our generous sponsors and funders, to whom we are hugely grateful.



FRIENDS OF NEWBURY SPRING FESTIVAL

- PRIORITY BOOKING
- FESTIVAL FOCUS MAGAZINE
- NEWSLETTER UPDATES
- FREE FESTIVAL PROGRAMME
- (SEE PAGE 62)
- SUPPORTING MUSIC LOCALLY



**FROM £35
PER YEAR**



Newbury Spring Festival 2025



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of Kent KG
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Chairman



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Festival Director



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Mary Hamilton (Front of House)
John Harris (Technical Direction)

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23-26 Parkway Newbury RG14 1AY

Hon Solicitors

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Liberty House Greenham Business Park
Newbury Berkshire RG19 6HS

Accountants

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Greenham Newbury RG19 6AB

Festival Guide Design Matt Barrett

Festival Administration Office

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Tel: 01635 32421 / 528766

enquiries@newburyspringfestival.org.uk

www.newburyspringfestival.org.uk

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Newbury Spring Festival could not be presented without support from the following, whose generosity is most gratefully acknowledged.

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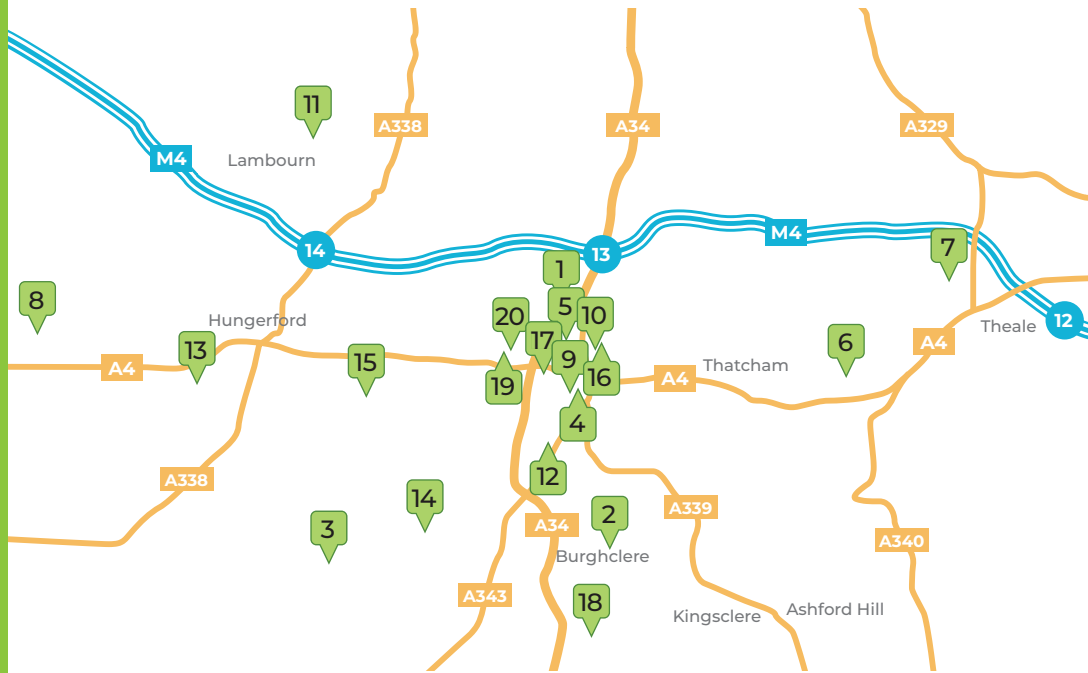


Knights



WATERSHIP
PROPERTY LTD

Venues Map



- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 Arlington Arts, Mary Hare, Snelsmore RG14 3BQ | 11 Sheepdrove Eco Centre, Lambourn RG17 7UU |
| 2 Church of the Ascension, Burghclere RG20 9HX | 12 St John's Church, Newbury RG14 7PY |
| 3 Combe Manor Barn, Combe RG17 9EJ | 13 St Lawrence Church, Hungerford RG17 0JB |
| 4 Corn Exchange, Newbury RG14 5BD | 14 St Martin's Church, East Woodhay RG20 0AL |
| 5 Donnington Priory, Newbury RG14 2JE | 15 St Mary's Church, Kintbury RG17 9TR |
| 6 Douai Abbey, Woolhampton RG7 5TQ | 16 St Mary's Church, Shaw RG14 2DR |
| 7 Englefield House, Theale RG7 5EN | 17 St Nicolas Church, Newbury RG14 5HG |
| 8 Holy Cross Church, Ramsbury SN8 2QH | 18 Sydmonton Court, Ecchinswell RG20 9NJ |
| 9 Newbury Methodist Church RG14 1AN | 19 The Vineyard, Stockcross RG20 8JU |
| 10 Shaw House, Newbury RG14 2DR | 20 Watermill Theatre, Bagnor RG20 8AE |

This map is an approximate guide to venue locations. Please refer to the website for accurate directions: www.newburyspringfestival.org.uk

Information

Box Office

Opening hours	Phone lines are open: Tuesday to Saturday 10am to 4pm (or until 7pm if there is a performance on) Sunday 11am to 4pm
In person or by post	Box Office, Corn Exchange, Market Place, Newbury RG14 5BD
By telephone	01635 522733
Online	www.newburyspringfestival.org.uk

St. Nicolas Church Concerts

To book tickets for concerts at St. Nicolas Church on 10, 17 and 24 May please visit the Festival website. These concerts cannot be booked via the Corn Exchange box office, for any issues with booking these three concerts please contact the Festival office on 01635 32421.

Booking Dates

Platinum Friends Priority booking – from 10.00am Tuesday 11 February 2025

Gold Friends booking – from 10.00am Wednesday 12 February 2025

Friends booking – from 10.00am Thursday 13 February 2025

Public booking – from 10.00am Tuesday 25 February 2025

Booking days, the Corn Exchange will be open from 9am for refreshments while queuing for tickets. Online and telephone bookings are preferred where possible.

Priority booking period

During the Platinum and Gold priority booking periods, those Friends are limited to 4 tickets per event, per booking. Once Friends booking opens on 13 February there is no limit to the number of tickets per booking.



Booking Information

Free Tickets for Under 30s

We are delighted to be continuing our scheme to encourage the next generation of Festival audiences. Thanks to the generous support of the Greenham Trust we are able to make tickets to certain events completely free of charge for anyone under 30 years old.



Events that have this option are clearly marked on the relevant page, and you'll see under the ticket pricing information the words "Free for Under 30s" and the logo shown. In each case there are a limited number of seats available for the performance that can be taken up and used by those under 30. Anyone under the age of 15 must be accompanied by an adult.

Tower Seating at St Nicolas Church

Please note, the seating in rows AA to HH will not be in raked seating, but on a new flat raised plinth to allow views over audience members seated in the nave. These seats will be in the £55 Price Band.

Access

Full information about each venue is available on the website: www.newburyspringfestival.org.uk

Souvenir Programme

The 160-page full-colour Souvenir Programme gives detailed information on each Festival event. It is on sale for £7.50 at the Box Office and at all venues from the start of the Festival. It can also be ordered in advance with your tickets; a voucher will be printed with your tickets, to be redeemed at your first event.

Souvenir Programme for Friends

Friends of the Festival who book six or more concerts, or tickets to the value of over £250, are entitled to one FREE Souvenir Programme. Please request this at the time of booking.

General information

The Festival reserves the right to change artists or programmes as necessary. The Festival reserves the right to refuse latecomers admission to any performance until a suitable break, or at the first interval. Finishing times of events are approximate and given as a guide only. Children under the age of 15 must be accompanied by a paying adult. Pushchairs and prams will not be permitted inside the Corn Exchange auditorium.

Booking Information

Corn Exchange Booking Charges

The Corn Exchange charge a booking fee to cover the administrative costs of running the Box Office and booking system. All tickets are subject to a £1.25 booking fee, ticket prices shown in this guide include the booking fee.

There is a postage charge of £2.25 on telephone, postal and online bookings.

Refunds

All tickets are non-refundable. In the case of a sold out event tickets can be returned to the Box Office for resale; if successfully resold an administration fee of £1 per ticket will be chargeable.

Tickets Advertised as Reserved

Seating plans are available to view online. For events with reserved seating you will be able to select the seat of your choice, when available.

Tickets Advertised as Unreserved

Seats are obtained on a 'first-come first-served' basis at the event.

Concessions

Students and unwaged (Jobseeker's Allowance) £2 off full ticket price. Accompanied children under 16 half full adult price (except family events where children's ticket prices are shown, and events that are part of the Free for Under 30s scheme – see page 61). Anyone unable to attend a performance by themselves will be entitled to a free essential companion ticket.

Group Discount

10% discount will be given to groups of 10 or more. Group bookings should be made 24 hours or more in advance.

Your Details

We will never share your details with a third party without your consent.

Recording

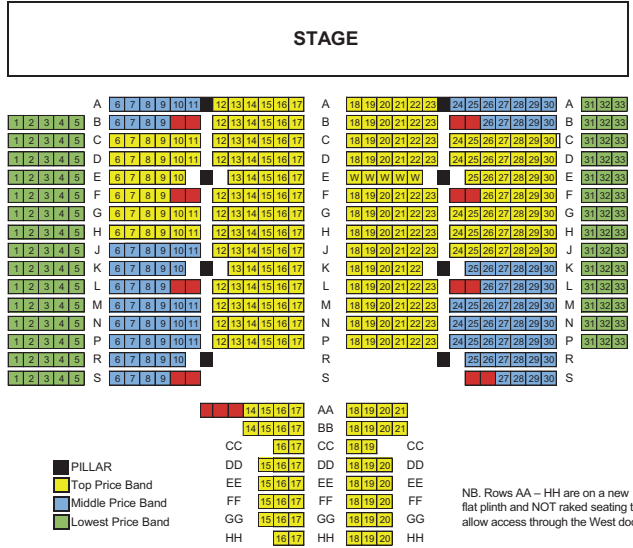
Please note the recording of any Festival event is strictly prohibited.

Interval refreshments

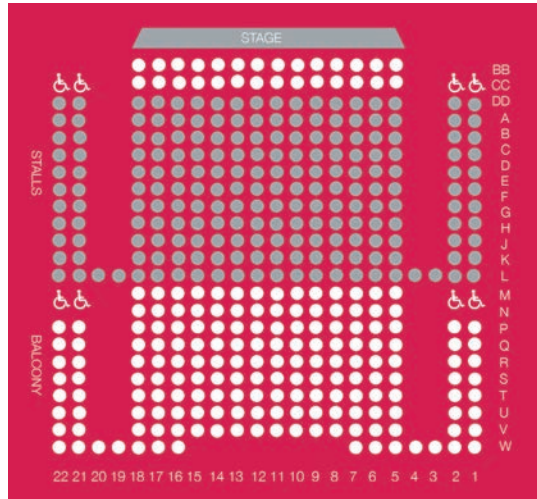
Please note there will be no interval refreshments available at St Nicolas Church.

Seating Plans

St Nicolas Church



Corn Exchange



Name

Address

Postcode

Telephone

email

Total from overleaf

£

If you are a Friend of the Festival booking for 6 or more concerts please tick box to receive FREE Souvenir Programme voucher.

Please tick this box if you wish to book by credit card and complete a telephone number that the Box Office can contact you on to take a card payment over the telephone.

Contact telephone number

Please note this will not delay the processing of your booking, and all bookings will still be processed/reserved in the strict order in which they have been received.

Please make cheques payable to Corn Exchange, Newbury.

Tickets for the Newbury Spring Festival Society Ltd will be handled by the Box Office of The Corn Exchange (Newbury) Trust.

Credit card details are never stored.

We do not pass your details to third parties.

Please tick if you wish to be added to the mailing list.

friends of newbury spring festival

Friends of the Festival are given the earliest opportunity to purchase tickets to the Festival. Gold and Platinum Friends enjoy additional days of priority booking, invitations to receptions and Platinum Friends have their names printed in the Souvenir Programme.

The Friends Scheme enables a generous annual grant toward the costs of the Festival.

Membership Benefits

Friends £35 Joint Friend £45

- Festival Focus with advanced preview of programme mailed in November.
- Festival Guide mailed to you in January
- Friends Priority Booking
- Annual Membership Card and Newsletters
- Free Souvenir Programme when purchasing tickets for six or more concerts

Gold Friends £65 Joint Gold Friends £80

- 24 hours Gold advanced priority booking
- All of the 'Friends' benefits plus invitation to receptions, where possible

Platinum Friends £130 Joint Platinum Friends £170

- 48 hours Platinum advanced priority booking
- All of the benefits plus Name printed in the Souvenir Programme (if wished)
- Invitation to the Festival Launch

Please contact the office if you wish to pay by Card, or setup an annual Standing Order.

Name

Address

Postcode

Telephone

email

I enclose a cheque made payable to Friends of Newbury Spring Festival in the sum of

£

giftaid it

Using Gift Aid means that for every pound you give we get an extra 25p from the Inland Revenue which means that a £35 subscription becomes £43.75.

Name

Signature

"I want all donations I have made since 6 April 2005 and all donations in the future to be Gift Aid until I notify you otherwise". To qualify for Gift Aid, what you pay in income tax or capital gains tax must at least equal the amount we will claim in the tax year.



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