



# NEWBURY Spring FESTIVAL

**9–23 May 2026**  
two weeks of world-class music



# Welcome

This year's Festival again opens with a Parade, produced by the same team which brought such pleasure and community involvement to Newbury last year. I am so grateful to Greenham Trust for their support of this project as well as of so much else that we do. I am also grateful to our numerous other sponsors, who are mostly generous private individuals, and of course to our Festival Friends and our many volunteers who all ensure the Festival's continuing success, now in its 47th year.



I am delighted that we will be visiting St Nicolas Church five times this year: it's our main concert hall with an excellent acoustic, and I look forward to welcoming back London Mozart Players, Philharmonia Orchestra in their 80th anniversary year, Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, our own Festival Chorus, and for the first time Berkshire Youth Symphony Orchestra, which adds a new dimension to our aims of showcasing youthful musical talent and building links into the local community within our international programme of world-class music.

There is so much to look forward to this year, and I hope that as you look through the following pages you will notice the number of diverse events, from many different genres including jazz, musical theatre, cabaret, world music, folk music, choral music, ballet, chamber music, solo recitals, brass bands and gospel choirs, all of the highest quality and presented at affordable prices. Thank you to all our venues, St Nicolas Church, Corn Exchange, and to our many beautiful local venues, the rural churches and private houses which welcome us each year to enjoy this beautiful part of England.

Please join me in looking forward to another glorious fortnight of world-class music, with much to enjoy for everyone!

Mark Eynon  
Festival Director

# Festival Parade

Come and celebrate the opening of the 2026 Festival.

Our wonderful Bandmaster Puppet will return to follow a route through town celebrating music and performance. She'll be interacting with performers along the route, before making her way into the Market Square.

We're working again with the Corn Exchange, Newbury and 101 Outdoor Arts to bring this vibrant celebration to the town centre.



Northbrook Street  
4.30pm

Free  
no ticket required

Generously  
funded by  
Greenham Trust

# Those Kings of Swing

Step back in time and experience the golden era of Big Band Swing!

Following his triumphant Festival debut at the Vineyard last year, Liverpool-born Kenny Martyn, celebrated clarinettist and bandleader, brings his renowned big band to the Corn Exchange for one unforgettable night. Having played to critical acclaim at the London Palladium, the Barbican, and the Royal Albert Hall, Kenny leads a dazzling tribute to the greats of swing.

Featuring special guest vocalist Sarah Hayes, flying in from New York for this exclusive UK performance. Join us for a night of exhilarating music celebrating the timeless legacy of Glenn Miller, Benny Goodman, Count Basie and Artie Shaw. An evening of swing classics for music lovers of all ages.



**Kenny Martyn**  
clarinet and bandleader  
**Sarah Hayes**  
vocals

Corn Exchange  
Newbury  
RG14 5BD

7.30pm (ends approx. 9.25pm)

£30 | £25 Adults  
£15 | £12.50 Children

Sponsored  
Mr and Mrs  
Graham Barker

# London Mozart Players

Ben Goldscheider is recognised as one of the leading musicians of his generation. Tonight he makes a welcome return to the Festival with the London Mozart Players. He will be performing the ever-popular Mozart Horn Concerto No.4, but he will also play a new work *Sirens* by GRAMMY-nominated composer Anna Clyne.

Dedicated to tonight's horn soloist Ben Goldscheider, the music draws on the myth of the sirens who lured sailors to their doom with their irresistible voices. Working closely together, Anna and Ben pushed the boundaries of the horn to conjure the sirens' hypotonic sound world; ethereal, beguiling and completely entrancing.

The concert opens with Elgar's ever-popular *Introduction & Allegro*, and after the interval Mendelssohn's Symphony No.1 sparkles with the classical spirit of Mozart, while the symphonic fingerprints of Haydn and Beethoven forcefully emerge throughout the composition.



**Ben Goldscheider**  
horn  
**Jonathan Bloxham**  
conductor

**Elgar**  
*Introduction & Allegro*  
**Anna Clyne**  
*Sirens*  
**Mozart**  
Horn Concerto No. 4  
**Mendelssohn**  
Symphony No. 1

St Nicolas Church  
Newbury  
RG14 5HG

7.30pm (ends approx. 9.25pm)

£57 | £40 | £27 Adults  
£28.50 | £20 | £13.50 Children

Sponsored by  
Mrs Rosamond  
Brown

Kilfinan Trust

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

# Barry Douglas

Barry Douglas has established a major international career since winning the Gold Medal at the 1986 Tchaikovsky International Piano Competition, Moscow. As Artistic Director of Camerata Ireland, the only all-Ireland orchestra and the Clondeboy Festival, he continues to celebrate his Irish heritage whilst also maintaining a busy international touring schedule.

For this afternoon recital Barry is combining works by Schubert, and Prokofiev while celebrating his Irish heritage with two of Field's *Nocturnes*. The recital will culminate in Beethoven's *Appassionata*. Widely regarded as one of his greatest and most technically challenging piano sonatas, the *Appassionata* was considered by Beethoven to be his most tempestuous piano sonata, and remains a cornerstone of the piano repertoire, a popular favourite with audiences.



Barry Douglas  
piano

Field  
Two Nocturnes  
Schubert  
*Wanderer Fantasy*  
Prokofiev  
*Romeo & Juliet*  
(3 excerpts)  
Beethoven  
Sonata No.23 in  
F minor, Op 57  
*Appassionata*

Corn Exchange  
Newbury  
RG14 5BD  
3.00pm (ends  
approx. 5.00pm)  
£30 | £25 Adults  
£15 | £12.50  
Children

Sponsored by  
Lady Sieff  
Sir Hugh and  
Lady Stevenson

# Berkshire Youth Symphony Orchestra

In its 40 year history, Berkshire Music Trust has proudly supported children and young people to develop their passion for music. The Berkshire Youth Symphony Orchestra is formed of some of the most talented and dedicated young musicians in Berkshire. Making their festival debut, their musical directors Jonathan Burnett and assistant musical director Ben Copeman are keen to showcase the orchestra through well-loved classics, and a new commission by emerging composer Amit Manna.

Rising star cellist Jonathan Swensen won the Windsor International String Competition in 2019 and has gone on to an international career. Performing one of Britain's most well-loved pieces, Elgar's Cello Concerto, this partnership will undoubtedly bring new energy to a modern-day classic.



Jonathan Swensen  
cello  
Jonathan Burnett  
conductor

Amit Manna  
*A Quiet Smile from  
Far Away*  
Elgar  
Cello Concerto  
Sibelius  
Symphony No. 1

St Nicolas Church,  
Newbury  
RG14 5HG  
7.00pm (ends  
approx. 9.00pm)  
£25 | £20 | £18  
Adults  
£12.50 | £10 | £9  
Children

Sponsored by  
The Headley Trust

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

# Florian Störtz

Florian Störtz, one of the most exciting young baritones of his generation and Mark Rogers met during their student days at the Royal Academy of Music in London and found congenial musical partners in each other from the get-go. Their specialty is the close-knitted musicianship and refreshing interpretative drive that have earned them recognition in the world of song. Together, they have won the 2023 Helmut Deutsch Song Competition with an electric performance of songs by Schubert, Wolf and Mahler. Shortly afterwards, they won the Prix de mélodie at the 2023 Nadia et Lili Boulanger International Song Competition in Paris.

Their programme today centres around Wagner's *Wesendonck Lieder*, one of the pinnacles of Romantic song writing. Alongside this, we hear songs by Franz Liszt, Johanna Müller-Hermann and Richard Strauss, all composers with strong connections to Wagner.



Florian Störtz  
bass-baritone  
Mark Rogers  
piano

Corn Exchange  
Newbury  
RG14 5BD

12.30pm (ends  
approx. 1.30pm)

£20 Adults  
£10 Children

Series ticket for  
6 lunchtime recitals  
£105 Adults  
£52.50 Children

Sponsored by  
The Headley Trust

# The Highclere Concert



Since forming their duo in 2016, saxophonist Huw Wiggin and harpist Oliver Wass have continued to develop and refine their programmes of music for this unusual pairing of instruments. Huw and Oliver have developed a reputation as warm communicators who draw audiences into their intimate and engaging performances.

"A seemingly unlikely combination that works real magic" is how composer Robert Hugill reviewed a CD performance of saxophonist Huw Wiggin and harpist Oliver Wass. From Bach to Debussy to more modern composers this duo plays with a delicacy and verve that will have listeners hearing familiar music in a new way.

Tonight's programme will include a range of different works from Bach, Couperin and Purcell through to Einaudi and Bernstein, all carefully curated and arranged for this beguiling pairing of instruments.

Huw Wiggin  
saxophone  
Oliver Wass  
harp

Highclere Castle  
Newbury  
RG20 9RN

7.30pm (ends  
approx. 9.30pm)

£100 Adults  
£50 Children

To include  
Champagne  
on arrival and in  
the interval

Sponsored by  
Viking

By kind  
permission of  
The Earl and  
Countess of  
Carnarvon

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

# Loyd Grossman

## The Artist and the Eternal City

We are delighted to welcome Sir Loyd Grossman to talk about the subject of his book *The Artist and the Eternal City: Bernini, Pope Alexander VII, and the Making of Rome*. By 1650, the spiritual and political power of the Catholic Church was shattered. Thanks to the twin blows of the Protestant Reformation and the Thirty Years War, Rome--celebrated both as the Eternal City and Caput Mundi (the head of the world) -- had lost its preeminent place in Europe. Then a new Pope, Alexander VII, fired with religious zeal, political guile, and a mania for creating new architecture, determined to restore the prestige of his church by making Rome the key destination for Europe's intellectual, political, and cultural elite. This afternoon talk will explore more of the history of this fascinating city.

Sir Loyd has a lifelong interest in history, the arts and heritage, receiving a PhD from the University of Cambridge and serving on the board of a number of cultural institutions including English Heritage, the British School at Rome and the Public Monuments and Sculpture Association. He is Chairman of The Royal Parks, Chair of the Royal Society of Arts, President of The Arts Society and a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society. He is well-known as a writer and presenter for a wide range of television programmes including *Through the Keyhole*, *MasterChef*, *Behind the Headlines*, *History of British Sculpture*, *Loyd on Location* and *Build Britain*. He also wrote and presented a series, *Composers at Home*, for BBC Radio 3.



Loyd Grossman  
writer & broadcaster

Englefield House  
Theale  
RG7 5EN

3.00pm (ends  
approx. 4.15pm)

£25 | £22 Adults

£12.50 | £11  
Children

£10 Tea & Cake

Sponsored by  
Mr & Mrs  
Robin Aird

# RANT

With three acclaimed albums under their belt, RANT remain at the forefront of the Scottish fiddle scene. The meeting of four of the country's finest players, the quartet use just their fiddles to weave a tapestry of melodies, textures, layers and sounds.

Bethany Reid from Shetland, Anna Massie and Lauren MacColl from the Highland peninsula of the Black Isle, and Gillian Frame from Arran join forces to showcase the combined resonance of their instruments with repertoire unearthed from both old collections and their own contemporary writing.

RANT create a sound which is both spacious and lush, yet retaining all the earthy bite and spark of a traditional Scottish fiddle player. Their performances reflect years of honing their sound together and their love for the music of their respective home regions through their writing, repertoire and stories.



Bethany Reid  
Anna Massie  
Lauren MacColl  
Gillian Frame

Corn Exchange  
Newbury  
RG14 5BD

7.30pm (ends  
approx. 9.30pm)

£25 | £22 Adults

£12.50 | £11  
Children

Sponsored by  
The Storey  
Charitable Trust

# Homecoming

Ruby Hughes • Tamsin Waley-Cohen • Huw Watkins

Three of Britain's leading musicians come together for this evening's special concert on the theme of Homecoming, culminating in an arrangement of Schubert's sublime masterpiece *Shepherd on the Rock*.

Ruby Hughes is a former BBC Radio 3 New Generation Artist, holds a Borletti-Buitoni Trust Award and was shortlisted for a 2014 Royal Philharmonic Society Music Award. Through her blossoming catalogue of recordings and lovingly curated performances, she has become known for her interpretations of the music of the baroque and 20th and 21st Century.

British-American violinist Tamsin Waley-Cohen is known for her visceral and deeply expressive performances in repertoire spanning six centuries. With musical storytelling central to her approach, she has gained a reputation for poetic performances that go straight to the heart.

Huw Watkins has appeared as soloist with the BBC Symphony Orchestra, the Britten Sinfonia, and the London Sinfonietta, and performs throughout Europe and North America as soloist and chamber musician, alongside his flourishing composing career.



Ruby Hughes  
soprano  
Tamsin Waley-Cohen  
violin  
Huw Watkins  
piano

Holy Cross  
Ramsbury  
SN8 2QH  
7.30pm (ends approx. 9.30pm)  
£27 | £22 Adults  
£13.50 | £11 Children

Sponsored by  
Mrs Sarah Abell  
The Gordon  
Palmer Charitable  
Trust

# Paddington Trio

Seen as the one of the most exciting chamber ensembles of their generation, the Paddington Trio, winners of the 2023 Parkhouse Award, have been recognised in international competitions and live performances for their fresh interpretations and exuberant energy. Like the famous bear of the same name, Finnish violinist Tuulia Hero, Irish cellist Patrick Moriarty and American pianist Stephanie Tang have made London their home. They are now considered one of the leading piano trios of their generation.

The trio is celebrated for its close and energetic communication, insightful and imaginative programming as well as its highly refined ensemble playing. The trio's grand mission is to bridge the gap between new listeners and serious classical music enthusiasts by welcoming everyone into their living room of musical discovery and shared love of chamber music.



Stephanie Tang  
piano  
Tuulia Hero  
violin  
Patrick Moriarty  
cello

Ravel  
Trio in A minor  
Shostakovich  
Piano Trio No.2 in  
E minor, Op. 67

Corn Exchange  
Newbury  
RG14 5BD  
12.30pm (ends approx. 1.30pm)  
£20 Adults  
£10 Children

Sponsored by  
The Headley Trust  
With additional  
support from  
Parkhouse Award

Series ticket for  
6 lunchtime recitals  
£105 Adults  
£52.50 Children

# Romano Viazzani Ensemble

## An Evening of Tango, Music and Dance

The Romano Viazzani Ensemble brings together seven outstanding musicians from the worlds of classical, jazz and Latin-American music to play and create tango and tango-inspired music.

Based on the line up of Astor Piazzolla's famous quintet they recreate music that ranges from Piazzolla's own works to classic Argentine and European tango. They also arrange music in the style of tango and write their own original tango-inspired music with a twist of swinging London.



Romano Viazzani  
accordion/  
bandoneon  
John Bailey  
piano  
Nick Pini  
double bass  
Philippa Mo  
violin  
Kieran Gunter  
guitar

Jacqui Tate  
Guillermo  
Rozenhuter  
vocals  
Laura Lorenzi  
David Chartoriski  
dancers

Corn Exchange  
Newbury  
RG14 5BD  
7.30pm (ends  
approx. 9.30pm)  
£26 Adults  
£13 Children

Sponsored by  
Friends of  
Newbury Spring  
Festival

# Simon Johnson

Simon Johnson became Master of Music at Westminster Cathedral in September 2021, following 13 years as the Organist and Assistant Director of Music at St Paul's Cathedral. He was involved in all of the national occasions that took place at St Paul's during this time, playing for Her Majesty the Queen, the Dalai Lama, as well as numerous Prime Ministers and Archbishops.

We are pleased to be presenting this evening recital in partnership with Douai Abbey on the Vigil of the Feast of the Ascension. Simon has curated a recital of music for the Feast, culminating in Messiaen's mighty cycle from 1932-33.



Simon Johnson  
organ

J.S. Bach  
Prelude and  
Fugue in C major  
(BWV 547)

Byrd  
*A Fancy*

Howells  
*Master Tallis's  
Testament*

Messiaen  
*L'Ascension*

J.S. Bach  
*Heut triumphieret  
Gottes Sohn*  
(BWV 630)

Douai Abbey  
Woolhampton  
RG7 5TQ

7.30pm (ends  
approx. 8.30pm)

£25 Adults  
£12.50 Children

Sponsored by  
Julian & Veronica  
Slater

# Foyle-Štšura Duo

Michael Foyle and Maksim Štšura, critically acclaimed for their live performances and recordings of works from the 17th Century to the present day, came together in 2012 and won the Salieri-Zinetti International Chamber Music Competition and the Beethoven Piano Society of Europe Duo Competition in 2015.

For tonight's recital in the iconic venue of Englefield House's Long Gallery, Michael and Maksim will perform three of the most popular violin sonatas in the repertoire: Beethoven's fresh and vibrant '*Spring Sonata*' sits alongside the poetic G major Sonata of Brahms, where the composer revisits the '*Regenlied*' theme of one of his earlier songs. Franck's evergreen work is possibly the jewel in the crown of the entire duo sonata repertoire.



Michael Foyle  
violin  
Maksim Štšura  
piano

Beethoven  
Violin Sonata No.5  
in F major, Op.24  
'*Spring*'

Brahms  
Violin Sonata No.1  
in G major, Op.79  
'*Regensonate*'

Franck  
Sonata in A major  
for Violin and Piano

Englefield House,  
Theale  
RG7 5EN

7.30pm (ends  
approx. 9.30pm)

£28 | £25 Adults

£14 | £12.50  
Children

Free for  
Under 30s



Sponsored by  
The Storey Family  
Trust

# Marti Webb

## In Conversation with Edward Seckerson



Marti Webb is renowned for her leading roles in West End musicals. She gained prominence through performances in productions such as *Evita*, in which she played the role of Eva Perón from 1979, and *Tell Me on a Sunday*, a one-woman show specifically written for her by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Don Black.

Webb's career spans over five decades in musical theatre and recording, establishing her as one of Britain's most enduring stars in the genre. Her breakthrough came in the late 1970s with *Evita* at the Prince Edward Theatre, followed by acclaimed turns as Grizabella in *Cats*, Anna Leonowens in *The King and I*, and Mrs. Johnstone in *Blood Brothers*.

In addition to stage work, she starred in the 1980 television adaptation of *Tell Me on a Sunday*, which propelled her to pop chart success with the single "*Take That Look Off Your Face*," reaching No. 3 on the UK Singles Chart.

We are delighted to be returning to Andrew Lloyd Webber's private theatre where writer, broadcaster and interviewer Edward Seckerson will be in conversation with Marti about her life and career.

Marti Webb  
actress & singer  
Edward Seckerson  
writer & broadcaster

The Chapel  
Sydmonton Court  
Old Burghclere  
RG20 9NK

11.30am (ends  
approx. 12.30pm)

£22 Adults  
£11 Children

By kind  
permission of  
Lord & Lady  
Lloyd Webber

# Around the World (of Gilbert & Sullivan) in 80 minutes

Charles Court Opera, Festival favourites, present this special gala programme of scenes, duets and songs from ALL the beloved Gilbert & Sullivan operettas. Featuring CCO's very finest singers, and led by renowned G&S specialist John Savournin, this concert promises to be a very special occasion not to be missed.



John Savournin  
compère & baritone  
Ellie Neate  
soprano  
Amy J Payne  
mezzo  
William Morgan  
tenor  
David Eaton  
pianist

Corn Exchange  
Newbury  
RG14 5BD

7.30pm (ends approx. 9.30pm)

£23 | £20 Adults  
£11.50 | £10 Children

Free for Under 30s



Sponsored by Mr & Mrs David Dinkeldein

# Septura An American in Paris

We welcome back to the Festival Septura, the internationally renowned brass septet after their triumph in Newbury last year.

A celebration of the vibrant music that arises from the crossing of boundaries of genre and culture. Septura explore a great transatlantic relationship, charting a course from Debussy's *Préludes*, through Ravel's *Mother Goose*, to his friend Gershwin's iconic *An American in Paris*, especially arranged for brass and solo car-horns.

The blending of classical forms and jazz idioms is exemplified by Gershwin's *Three Piano Preludes*, and in a suite from *Treemonisha*, the first African American opera, by Gershwin's compatriot and contemporary, Scott Joplin.



Septura Brass Septet

Ravel  
*Mother Goose Suite*

Debussy  
*Préludes (selection)*

Gershwin  
*Three Piano Preludes*

Joplin  
*Suite from Treemonisha*

Gershwin  
*An American in Paris*

St Mary's Church  
Shaw  
RG14 2DR

7.30pm (ends approx. 9.10pm)

£26 Adults  
£13 Children

Sponsored by Fairhurst Estates

# Ensemble Renard

Ensemble Renard, 2025 CMF Artists, devote themselves to showcasing the breadth of colour the wind quintet is capable of. Their dedication to the genre has taken them to prestigious venues and festivals across the UK and abroad, including return appearances at the Aldeburgh Festival, Folkestone New Music, and BBC Radio 3's In Tune.

In this lunchtime recital they take the audience through a musical history from some of the earliest written music by 13th-century composer Pérotin, arranged by one of the most important composers in recent history, the late Oliver Knussen. This is followed by reimaginings of the music of Ravel's much loved *Le Tombeau de Couperin*, and Bartók's rhythmically charged *Six Dances in Bulgarian Rhythm*.

No exploration of the wind quintet could be complete without the most celebrated work in the genre – the rich and expansive Wind Quintet by Carl Nielsen.



Ellie Blamires  
flute

Francesca Cox  
oboe

James Gilbert  
clarinet

George Strivens  
horn

Patrick Bolton  
bassoon

Pérotin arr.  
Oliver Knussen  
*Alleluia Nativitas*

Maurice Ravel arr.  
Mason Jones  
*Le Tombeau  
de Couperin*

Béla Bartók arr.  
George Strivens  
*Six Dances in  
Bulgarian Rhythm*

Carl Nielsen  
Wind Quintet Op.43

Corn Exchange  
Newbury  
RG14 5BD

12.30pm (ends  
approx. 1.30pm)

£20 Adults

£10 Children

Series ticket for  
6 lunchtime recitals  
£105 Adults  
£52.50 Children

Sponsored by  
The Headley Trust

# Hooray for Hollywood

Joe Stilgoe · Liza Pulman

Some of the best loved songs of our movie-musical lives. *The Wizard of Oz* to *Wicked*, *West Side Story* to *La La Land* – and many many more.

The Hollywood musical feels like it's been with us forever. Starting with the Jazz Singer in 1927, almost 100 years later audiences are still flocking to the box-office to watch the big screen come alive with singing, dancing, comedy and romance. Liza Pulman and Joe Stilgoe's combined love and exhaustive movie knowledge is on technicolour display here as they bring some of these great movie-musical songs to life on the stage. No big screen, only big talents, great harmonies and lots of music and laughter. So, bring your popcorn as they bring you the magic of the movie musicals.



Joe Stilgoe  
piano & vocals  
Liza Pulman  
singer

Corn Exchange  
Newbury  
RG14 5BD

7.30pm (ends  
approx. 9.30pm)

£30 | £25 Adults

£15 | £12.50  
Children

# The Sixteen

## Choral Pilgrimage

Spain's Siglo de Oro, the Age of Gold, gave rise to some of the greatest sacred choral music of the Renaissance. The Sixteen and Harry Christophers devote their latest Choral Pilgrimage to pieces by two outstanding Spanish composers. They explore majestic works by Cristóbal de Morales, famed throughout Europe and in the New World, and the exquisite polyphony of Sebastián de Vivanco, whose intricately crafted counterpoint adorned services at the cathedrals of Ávila and Salamanca during the late 1500s.

Their programme also features spellbinding settings of words by Saint John Henry Newman: Sir James MacMillan's *Nothing in Vain* for soloists and double choir and the world premiere of Kerensa Briggs' *Lead, Kindly Light*, specially commissioned for the Choral Pilgrimage.



Harry Christophers  
conductor

Douai Abbey  
Woolhampton  
RG7 5TQ

7.30pm (ends  
approx. 9.30pm)

£48 | £38 Adults  
£24 | £19 Children

Sponsored by  
Mr & Mrs Roderick  
Chamberlain  
The Greenwood  
Family Trust

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

# Wallace & Gromit The Wrong Trousers

Nick Park's animated adventure is one of the best-loved British films of all time. Come and experience this fun-filled family favourite on the big screen with a cracking live brass band musical accompaniment!

*The Wrong Trousers* follows hapless Wallace and his loyal beagle in their battle against evil penguin Feathers McGraw, capped by one of the most thrilling chase sequences in movie history.

This Oscar-winning film boasts a brilliant brass-band soundtrack written by Julian Nott – members of Wantage Band will play it live alongside the movie at this fun-filled family concert.



Wantage Band  
Chris King  
musical director

Corn Exchange  
Newbury  
RG14 5DB

10.30am (ends  
approx. 11.30am)

£16 Adults  
£12 Children

# Big Sing Saturday

Celebrate the joy of singing together at a whole-day festival showcasing the best of Newbury and the surrounding area. This relaxed, family-friendly event brings together amateur choirs across genres – classical, gospel, pop, folk, jazz and more – for a day of performance, connection and community.

Audiences are welcome to come and go through the day, enjoy refreshments, and to soak up a programme full of diverse voices and inspiring leaders. A retiring collection will be taken in support of a local charity.



Led by Maia Hendrickx

A full schedule of performers will be available on the Festival website

St Johns' Church  
Newbury  
RG14 7PY

10.00am (ends approx. 7.00pm)

Free  
no tickets required

# Jess Gillam Masterclass

Jess Gillam is a celebrated saxophonist and presenter. With her electrifying performances, vibrant stage presence and magnetic personality, the 'uniquely mercurial' (*The Times*) Jess has been invited to play on the world's major stages since becoming the youngest ever soloist to perform at the Last Night of the Proms at the Royal Albert Hall, London. Equally at home behind the microphone, Jess' award-winning weekly show, *This Classical Life*, on BBC Radio 3 is now in its seventh season.

Jess will be working with local young saxophone players who will have the opportunity to learn from her directly. Any saxophonists (Grade 5+) who might like to take part in the masterclass should contact the Festival office by 1 March 2026.



Jess Gillam  
saxophone

Newbury Methodist Church  
Newbury  
RG14 1AN

1.00pm (ends approx. 3.00pm)

Free  
tickets required

Sponsored by  
The Ambrose  
and Ann Appelbe  
Trust

# Jess Gillam Trio

Jess Gillam is a celebrated saxophonist and presenter. With her electrifying performances, vibrant stage presence and magnetic personality, the 'uniquely mercurial' (*The Times*) Jess has been invited to play on the world's major stages since becoming the youngest ever soloist to perform at the Last Night of the Proms.

Along with her long-time collaborators pianist Zeynep Özsuca and bassist Sam Becker, Jess Gillam, weaves a programme of fantastic lesser-known repertoire with fresh takes on some firm favourites.

From Jazz influences with music by composers such as Phil Woods, Sidney Bechet, Barbara Thompson and Rudy Weideoft to Baroque energy from Corelli to joyous Gershwin and shades of folk, this programme has something for everyone to enjoy.



Jess Gillam  
saxophone  
Sam Becker  
bass  
Zeynep Özsuca  
piano

Corn Exchange  
Newbury  
RG14 5DB  
7.30pm (ends  
approx. 9.30pm)  
£32 | £28 Adults  
£16 | £14 Children

# Philharmonia Orchestra

Leeds International Piano Competition winner, and BBC New Generation Artist 2023-25, Alim Beisembayev made his debut at the BBC Proms with the Sinfonia of London. Tonight he joins the Philharmonia Orchestra who celebrate their 80th Anniversary with rising star conductor Adam Hickox.

Beethoven's 4th Piano Concerto is possibly the most popular, and indeed the most lyrical of the series, which the Festival has been featuring over the past few years, and will be preceded by Mendelssohn's concert overture which was inspired by Goethe's poem of the same name. The concert will conclude with Brahms's triumphant First Symphony which he composed in the shadow of Beethoven's monumental output, finally realising his ambition to create his own orchestral masterpiece.



Alim Beisembayev  
piano  
Adam Hickox  
conductor

Mendelssohn  
*Calm Sea and  
Prosperous Voyage*  
Beethoven  
Piano Concerto  
No. 4  
Brahms  
Symphony No. 1

St Nicolas Church  
Newbury  
RG14 5HG  
7.30pm (ends  
approx. 9.30pm)  
£57 | £40 | £27  
Adults  
£28.50 | £20 |  
£13.50 Children

Sponsored by  
Viking  
Highclere Castle

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

# Soul in the Market Place

## Soul Sanctuary Gospel Choir

Come along for a free taster session with Soul Sanctuary Gospel Choir (SSGC) before their afternoon performance in the Corn Exchange (see page 30). Joining them will be some of the students they have been working with as part of the Festival Education Programme (see page 53).

SSGC is one of the country's leading gospel choirs, committed to creating contemporary gospel of the highest standard and performing it as widely as possible, especially in the places where gospel's power to raise the human spirit is most needed. They are famous for their free monthly outdoor performances at St James's Piccadilly which attract huge crowds.



Clarence Hunte  
choir director

Market Place  
Newbury  
RG14 5DB

12.00pm (ends  
approx. 12.30pm)

Free  
no ticket required

Sponsored by  
Greenham Trust

# Sheepdrove Piano Competition

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 Prokofiev, 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 18 May as part of the Festival's popular Young Artists Lunchtime Recital Series (see page 32).

**1st Prize:** The Kindersley Prize of £3,000 plus a recital on Monday 18 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

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



Jury  
Rupert Christiansen  
Mark Eynon  
Mikhail Kazakevich  
Lucy Parham  
Fred Scott

Sheepdrove  
Lambourn  
RG17 7UU

3.00pm (ends  
approx. 5.45pm)

£28  
including  
tea and cake

Free for  
Under 30s



Sponsored by  
The Sheepdrove  
Trust

# Soul Sanctuary Gospel Choir

Soul Sanctuary Gospel Choir (SSGC) is a London-based gospel choir committed to creating contemporary gospel of the highest standard and performing it as widely as possible, especially in the places where gospel's power to raise the human spirit is most needed.

Since the choir was founded in 2005, SSGC's mission is to spread a message of faith, hope, and love through gospel music; to create performances full of life-affirming joy and soulful celebration, collaborating with other artists and art forms; and to support and work with a diverse range of like-minded churches, charities and communities.

Soul Sanctuary is now considered one of the finest UK gospel choirs and performs regularly at St James's Piccadilly as well as St Martin in the Fields and at the South Bank and Barbican Centres.

*"I genuinely haven't ever seen a better gospel choir than that. Astonishing sound..."*  
 Joe Stilgoe, Singer/Pianist/Songwriter



Clarence Hunte  
 choir director

Corn Exchange  
 Newbury  
 RG14 5BD

3.00pm (ends  
 approx. 5.45pm)

£22 Adults  
 £11 Children

Sponsored by  
 Greenham Trust

# Dominic Alldis Trio

Urbane jazz pianist & vocalist Dominic Alldis brings his renowned cabaret-jazz trio to Combe Manor in a programme featuring songs by Cole Porter, Jerome Kern, Rodgers & Hart, George Gershwin, Noel Coward and Michel Legrand.

The unique combination of piano-bass-guitar evokes the classic 50s and 60s recordings of Nat Cole, Oscar Peterson, Erroll Garner and later recordings by Blossom Dearie and Diane Krall. As well as the interplay of the trio, Dominic's refined vocal styling has been compared to Mel Tormé and Tony Bennett. The evening will combine musical gems with entertaining anecdotes in the style of a New York supper club!

Guests are welcome to dine at tables from 6pm, when there will also be a cash bar available. Details of catering options will be available on the Festival website and when booking in person.



Dominic Alldis  
 pianist & vocalist  
 Andrew Cleyndert  
 double bass  
 Colin Oxley  
 guitar

Combe Manor  
 Barn  
 Combe  
 RG17 9EJ

7.30pm (venue  
 open from  
 6.00pm – ends  
 approx. 9.20pm)

£36 | £32 Adults  
 £18 | £16 Children

Sponsored by  
 Rivar

By kind  
 permission of  
 Jason & Sybille  
 Russell

# Piano Competition Winner

Newbury Spring Festival is delighted to welcome the winner of the 2026 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 17th 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 Prokofiev, this year's featured composer.

Today's recital is an opportunity to hear more of the winning pianist following the competition held at Sheepdrove, Lambourn on Sunday 17 May (see page 29).



Sergei Prokofiev  
1891 – 1953

Corn Exchange  
Newbury  
RG14 5BD

12.30pm (ends approx. 1.30pm)

£20 Adults  
£10 Children

Series ticket for  
6 lunchtime recitals  
£105 Adults  
£52.50 Children

Sponsored by  
The Headley Trust

# Good Vibes Music Academy Showcase

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.



Steve Christmas  
director

Corn Exchange  
Newbury  
RG14 5BD

7.30pm (ends approx. 9.30pm)

£12 Adults  
Children Under 16  
Free

Sponsored by  
Berkshire  
Community  
Foundation

## Saturday 9

**Festival Parade**  
Northbrook Street  
4.30pm Page 3

**Those Kings of Swing**  
Corn Exchange  
7.30pm Page 4

**London Mozart Players**  
St Nicolas Church  
7.30pm Page 5

## Sunday 10

**Barry Douglas**  
Corn Exchange  
3.00pm Page 6

**Berkshire Youth  
Symphony Orchestra**  
St Nicolas Church  
7.00pm Page 7

## Monday 11

**Florian Störtz**  
Corn Exchange  
12.30pm Page 8

**The Highclere Concert**  
Highclere Castle  
7.30pm Page 9

## Tuesday 12

**Loyd Grossman**  
Englefield House  
3.00pm Page 10

**RANT**  
Corn Exchange  
7.30pm Page 11

**Homecoming**  
Holy Cross, Ramsbury  
7.30pm Page 12

## Wednesday 13

**Paddington Trio**  
Corn Exchange  
12.30pm Page 13

**A Night of Argentinian Tango**  
Corn Exchange  
7.30pm Page 14

**Simon Johnson**  
Douai Abbey  
7.30pm Page 15

**Foyle-Štušra Duo**  
Englefield House  
7.30pm Page 16

## Thursday 14

**Marti Webb**  
Sydmonton Court  
11.30am Page 17

**G&S in 80 minutes**  
Corn Exchange  
7.30pm Page 18

**Septura**  
St Mary's Church, Shaw  
7.30pm Page 19

## Friday 15

**Renard Ensemble**  
Corn Exchange  
12.30pm Page 20

**Hooray for Hollywood**  
Corn Exchange  
7.30pm Page 21

**The Sixteen**  
Douai Abbey  
7.30pm Page 22

## Saturday 16

**Wallace & Gromit**  
Corn Exchange  
10.30am Page 23

**Big Sing Saturday**  
St John's Church, Newbury  
10.00am Page 24

**Jess Gillam Masterclass**  
Newbury Methodist Church  
1.00pm Page 25

**Jess Gillam Trio**  
Corn Exchange  
7.30pm Page 26

**Philharmonia Orchestra**  
St Nicolas Church  
7.30pm Page 27

## Sunday 17

**Soul in the Market Place**  
Market Place, Newbury  
12.00pm Page 28

**Piano Competition Final**  
Sheepdrove  
3.00pm Page 29

**Soul Sanctuary**  
Corn Exchange  
3.00pm Page 30

**Dominic Alldis Trio**  
Combe Manor, Combe  
7.30pm Page 31

## Monday 18

**Piano Competition Winner**  
Corn Exchange  
12.30pm Page 32

**Good Vibes Showcase**  
Corn Exchange  
7.30pm Page 33

**Ensemble Augelletti**  
St Mary's Church, Kintbury  
7.30pm Page 36

## Tuesday 19

**The Echoing Scream**  
Newbury Rugby Club  
10.30am and 1.45pm Page 37

**Ballet Central**  
Corn Exchange  
7.30pm Page 38

**Pavel Haas Quartet**  
St Lawrence Church,  
Hungerford  
7.30pm Page 39

## Wednesday 20

**Fibonacci Quartet**  
Corn Exchange  
12.30pm Page 40

**What's New**  
Corn Exchange  
7.30pm Page 41

**Fidelio Trio**  
Church of the Ascension,  
Burghclere  
7.30pm Page 42

## Thursday 21

**Britten's Spring Awakening**  
Shaw House  
3.00pm Page 43

**MZ Duo**  
Donnington Priory  
7.30pm Page 44

**Brahms German Requiem**  
St Nicolas Church  
7.30pm Page 45

## Friday 22

**Immy Churchill Quartet**  
Corn Exchange  
12.30pm Page 46

**Budapest Café Orchestra**  
Corn Exchange  
7.30pm Page 47

**VOCES8**  
St Martin's Church,  
East Woodhay  
7.30pm Page 48

## Saturday 23

**Sound Beginnings**  
Sheepdrove  
11.00am and 2.30pm Page 49

**Flowers Band**  
Corn Exchange  
7.30pm Page 50

**Bournemouth Symphony  
Orchestra**  
St Nicolas Church  
7.30pm Page 51

# Ensemble Augelletti

## Jewels that Brightly Burn

Founded in 2019, Ensemble Augelletti were New Generation Baroque Ensemble in partnership with BBC Radio 3, the National Centre for Early Music, and the Royal College of Music and City Music Foundation Artists 2024-5. They are now regarded as among the most innovative and exciting period instrument ensembles who specialise in creating engaging programmes that tell the everyday stories of people living in the 17th and 18th centuries through baroque chamber music.

Describing Bach's students as 'jewels that brightly burn', Telemann championed Bach's skill in arranging music to inspire a new generation of musicians as they performed 'under the orange tree' in Leipzig. Through their letters and memoirs, this programme tells the story of Bach's students as they became 'jewels'. The programme includes arrangements of Bach's joyous instrumental music alongside Telemann's stunning 'Paris' quartets, and sonatas and dances by Pisendel, Fasch and Torelli.



Olwen Foulkes  
recorders  
Ellen Bundy  
violin  
Carina Drury  
cello  
Toby Carr  
lute  
Benedict Williams  
harpsichord

St Mary's Church  
Kintbury  
RG17 9TR  
7.30pm (ends  
approx. 9.25pm)  
£26 Adults  
£13 Children

Sponsored by  
Miss W E  
Lawrence  
Charitable Trust

# The Echoing Scream

## The Birth of Expressionism

We are pleased to be joining the Arts Society Newbury for another fascinating daytime lecture. When Edvard Munch created *The Scream* in 1893, he was responding to an intense emotional experience. Today, we would call it a panic attack. Crippling and anxious making, this primal cry was also a rallying call: for Munch and for the wider world of art. It gave birth to a movement known as expressionism, showing life not at it is (realism) or as it might be perceived in a fleeting moment (impressionism), but as it is experienced within the unembellished core of our being.

Explosive and emotive, the aftershocks of Munch's vision were felt across the world: in art and music, literature, dance and film. Charting the origins of expressionism and its historical context, this multifaceted talk embraces artists and thinkers such as Kandinsky, Klee and Schiele, Nietzsche, Freud and Schoenberg, pondering the radical ways in which they both reflected and ignited our inner feelings.

A writer and broadcaster, Gavin appears on BBC Radio 3 and 4, and contributes to newspapers, magazines and opera and concert programmes worldwide. He lectures widely about the culture of Central Europe. Recent appearances include Klimt and *The Kiss* in cinemas worldwide, and talks for the Hay and Cheltenham Literature Festivals, the Royal Opera House, the National Gallery, the National Trust, the National Theatre, the British Museum and the V&A.



Gavin Plumley  
lecturer

Newbury Rugby Club  
Newbury  
RG14 7RW  
10.30am (ends approx. 11.30pm)  
1.45pm (ends approx. 2.45pm)  
£15  
Free for Friends of the Festival  
(ticket required)

# Ballet Central

Following a widely celebrated 2025 tour, Ballet Central returns in 2026 with a brand-new company of dancers and a revitalising programme of classical ballet and contemporary dance. Join us to experience the magic of live dance, showcasing the excellence of Central's next generation of dancers. The 2026 programme presents a mixed bill of four works, including the quirky, dream-like world of *Solitaire* by Kenneth MacMillan, plus the glamorous *Times Square Ballet*, an excerpt from Ashley Page's musical *On The Town*. We are also delighted to present two new commissions from distinctive choreographers Monique Jonas and Cameron McMillan.



choreographers  
Ashley Page  
Kenneth MacMillan  
Monique Jonas  
Cameron McMillan

Corn Exchange  
Newbury  
RG14 5DB  
7.30pm (ends approx. 9.00pm)  
£30 | £26 Adults  
£15 | £13 Children

Sponsored by  
Mrs Katherine Astor  
Mr & Mrs Malcolm Kimmins

# Pavel Haas Quartet

The Pavel Haas Quartet is revered across the globe for its richness of timbre, infectious passion and intuitive rapport. Playing "as if their lives depend on it" (*The Times*). Based in Prague, the quartet performs at the world's most prestigious concert halls and has received numerous high-profile awards for its recordings, firmly establishing them as one of the world's foremost string quartets.

Renowned as the leading interpreter of Eastern European chamber music masterpieces, the Quartet was named as Ambassador for the Year of Czech Music in 2024. From 2025 until 2027, the Pavel Haas Quartet is Artist-in-Residence at Smetana's Litomyšl Festival, alongside the Czech Philharmonic.

For their much-awaited return to Newbury Spring Festival they will offer a programme of popular masterpieces by Schubert and Beethoven.



Veronika Jarůšková  
violin  
Marek Zwiebel  
violin  
Šimon Truszka  
viola  
Peter Jarůšek  
cello  
Schubert  
Quartettsatz in C minor D 703  
Beethoven  
String quartet in F Major op.135  
Schubert  
String quartet no.14 in D minor, D 810 *Death and the Maiden*

St Lawrence Church  
Hungerford  
RG17 0JB  
7.30pm (ends approx. 9.00pm)  
£26 Adults  
£13 Children

Free for Under 30s



Sponsored by  
Doves Farm Foods  
Dickins Hopgood Chidley  
An anonymous supporter

# Fibonacci Quartet

The Fibonacci Quartet are one of Europe's leading young string quartets. Formed at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, the quartet teach as Quartet in Residence at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama as well as at the Royal Academy of Music in their position as Nina Drucker Fellows. Winners at the 2024 Young Classical Artists Trust (YCAT) International auditions, they were also recently appointed as Grand Résident ensemble at ProQuartet in Paris for seasons 2025-2027.

This lunchtime recital will combine works by Beethoven and Janacek alongside an arrangement made by the quartet featuring Moravian Love Songs.



Krystof Kohout  
violin  
Luna De Mol  
violin  
Elliot Kempton  
viola  
Findlay Spence  
cello

Beethoven  
String Quartet  
No. 1 in F, op. 18  
Arr. Fibonacci  
Quartet  
Moravian Love  
Songs  
Janacek  
String Quartet No.2  
Intimate Letters

Corn Exchange  
Newbury  
RG14 5BD

12.30pm (ends  
approx. 1.30pm)

£20 Adults  
£10 Children

Series ticket for  
6 lunchtime recitals  
£105 Adults  
£52.50 Children

Sponsored by  
The Headley Trust

# What's New

Ian Shaw · Iain Ballamy · Jamie Safir

We are delighted to welcome back to the Festival renowned jazz vocalist Ian Shaw, jazz pianist resident at The Ritz Jamie Safir and to welcome tenor sax star Iain Ballamy for an evening based around their latest album.

*What's New*, the album (Silent Wish records), was a timely coming together of three players whose collective interest in 'the moment' – i.e. musical improvisation, in cahoots with a true love of classic song forms – makes the live experience of the album an ever-growing, yet representative, gig.

The material is about human connections – friendships, relationships, positive and otherwise – and plunders 80 years of the popular song form. These are fresh arrangements of songs of love and hope – from the title song of their recording to Bernstein's *Some Other Time* as well as the Bacharach/David classics *Alfie* and *You'll Never Get To Heaven* alongside works by Legrand, Jobim and Ellington.



Ian Shaw  
vocals  
Iain Ballamy  
tenor sax  
Jamie Safir  
piano

Corn Exchange  
Newbury  
RG14 5BD

7.30pm (ends  
approx. 9.30pm)

£25 | £22 Adults  
£12.50 | £11  
Children

Free for  
Under 30s



## Fidelio Trio

'The virtuosic Fidelio Trio' (*Sunday Times*) lead an acclaimed and diverse international performing and recording career. Here they bring together two of the most loved piano trios with a new work by Anna Clyne.

Dedicated to his friend, pupil and patron, Archduke Rudolph of Austria, Beethoven's 'Archduke' Trio is his longest piano trio and is chamber music of symphonic scope. Anna Clyne's *A Thousand Mornings* was commissioned by Fidelio Trio in 2020. Inspired by a Mary Oliver poem of the same title, we are reminded that we will always get through dark and difficult times.

Ravel's only Piano Trio of 1914 is a spectacular virtuosic work, full of colour, texture, melody and mastery of orchestration for the ensemble.



Darragh Morgan  
violin  
Tim Gill  
cello  
Mary Dullea  
piano

Beethoven  
Piano Trio in B flat  
major, 'Archduke',  
Op. 97  
Interval  
Anna Clyne  
*A Thousand  
Mornings*  
Ravel  
Piano Trio

Church of the  
Ascension  
Burghclere  
RG20 9HX  
7.30pm (ends  
approx. 9.25pm)  
£30 | £26 Adults  
£15 | £13 Children

Sponsored by  
Dr Stephen  
Golding

## Britten's Spring Awakening

Fifty years after the composer's death, writer and broadcaster Tony Scotland traces Benjamin Britten's stormy journey to self-discovery through three defining – and technically illegal – relationships in the late 1930s: with the composer Lennox Berkeley, ten years his senior; the German poet Wulff Scherchen, still a teenager; and the tenor Peter Pears, who was to become his lifelong partner.

Once a voice of Radio Three, Tony Scotland is the author of ten books, including *Wulff – Britten's Young Apollo*.



Benjamin Britten  
1913 – 1976

Tony Scotland  
writer & broadcaster

Shaw House  
Newbury  
RG14 2DR  
3.00pm (ends  
approx. 4.00pm)  
£22 Adults  
£11 Children  
£8 tea and cake

Sponsored by  
Martelize

# MZ Duo

## Re-imaginings

The MZ Duo, made up of Canadian saxophonist David Zucchi and Spanish accordionist Iñigo Mikeleiz-Berrade, presents a programme of creative reimagining's of the classical repertoire, reaching as far back as JS Bach's whirlwind Flute Sonata in E Minor and Edvard Grieg's landmark *Holberg Suite*, to a Dixieland interpretation of Eric Satie's iconic *Gnossienne no. 1*, and finishing with a much-loved exploration of Astor Piazzolla's *Nuevo Tango*.

It also includes stopovers in Spain and Scotland via various reimagining of folklore and popular song, and features a work written especially for the duo by award-winning composer Aileen Sweeney.



David Zucchi  
saxophone  
Iñigo Mikeleiz-Berrade  
accordion

Donnington Priory  
Newbury  
RG14 2JE

7.30pm (ends approx. 9.25pm)

£22 | £18 Adults  
£11 | £9 Children

Free for Under 30s

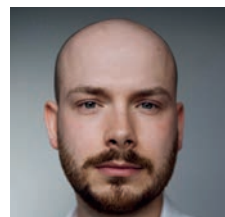


Sponsored by  
Dreweatts

# Brahms' A German Requiem

Building on the recent successes of the Festival Chorus we're delighted to be presenting them for this special performance of Brahms' *A German Requiem*. This so-called "London" version of the Requiem was originally created in 1869 by the composer as a four-hand piano version of the complete work, incorporating voice and orchestra parts together for keyboard performance. It was not, therefore, simply a setting of the choral work with piano reduction of the orchestral parts, and will provide a powerful showcase for our excellent chorus.

For tonight's performance under the baton of Tom Primrose our own Festival Chorus will be joined by two remarkable young soloists. Hilary Cronin is already a Festival favourite and is without doubt one of the leading sopranos of her generation. James Atkinson is a BBC New Generation Artist (2023-2025) and winner of the 2022 Royal Over-Seas League Singers Prize.



Newbury Spring Festival Chorus  
Hilary Cronin  
soprano

James Atkinson  
baritone

Libby Burgess  
Sebastian Wybrew  
piano

Tom Primrose  
conductor

St Nicolas Church  
Newbury  
RG14 5HG

7.30pm (ends approx. 9.20pm)

£47 | £37 | £27  
Adults

£23.50 | £18.50 |  
£13.50 Children

Sponsored by  
Mr & Mrs  
John Skinner  
Mr & Mrs  
Mark Edwards

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

# Immy Churchill Jazz Quartet

Immy Churchill is a singer-songwriter and jazz vocalist acclaimed as one of London's 'rising stars'. As a CMF 2025 Artist and finalist in the Tina May Young Jazz Musician Competition 2025, Immy is no stranger to performing and has extensive experience of touring in the UK and across Europe. Growing up in a musical family, she was surrounded by the sounds of Ella Fitzgerald, Frank Sinatra, Count Basie and Nat King Cole from a very young age.

The American Songbook is Immy's true musical love and she will be bringing her piano trio to celebrate the iconic jazz voices from the 50s and 60s. Expect to be transported back in time with the sounds of *I'm In The Mood For Love*, *Stardust* and *Cheek To Cheek* as well as many more.



Immy Churchill  
vocals  
Scottie Thompson  
piano  
Toby Yapp  
bass  
Jonah Evans  
drums

Corn Exchange  
Newbury  
RG14 5BD

12.30pm (ends  
approx. 1.30pm)

£20 Adults  
£10 Children

Series ticket for  
6 lunchtime recitals  
£105 Adults  
£52.50 Children

Sponsored by  
The Headley Trust

# Budapest Café Orchestra

Refreshingly unconventional, snappily attired, boutique orchestra. Budapest Café Orchestra bring you gypsy and folk-flavoured music repackaged in their own fresh and surprising way. From Balkan and Russian traditional pieces to artful distillations of the masterpieces by the great Romantic composers to Gaelic folk anthems their infectious music will get into your veins and stay there forever.

The Budapest Café Orchestra was established in 2009 by British composer and violinist, Christian Garrick, and led by him have won legions of fans with their magical and infectious performances. A small but impeccably formed ensemble of just four players, the BCO combines violin, guitar, accordion, double bass, saz and balalaika to dazzling effect.



Christian Garrick  
violin, doumbek  
Eddie Hession  
button accordion  
Kelly Cantlon  
double bass  
Adrian Zolotuhin  
guitar, saz, balalaika, domra

Corn Exchange  
Newbury  
RG14 5BD

7.30pm (ends  
approx. 9.25pm)

£30 | £25 Adults  
£15 | £12.50  
Children

Sponsored by  
Friends of  
Newbury Spring  
Festival

# VOCES8

## Give Me Your Stars

VOCES8 make a welcome return to the Festival with a programme exploring the profound and diverse beauty of music inspired by the heavens, human connection, and the places we call home. At its heart is Lucy Walker's eponymous new work, written for VOCES8, which captures the delicate balance between celestial wonder and the deep, personal connections that make us human.

The programme spans centuries of choral music, from the luminous polyphony of Tomás Luis de Victoria's *Regina Caeli* to timeless jazz standards. Along the way, we encounter the reflective sentiments of Eric Whitacre's *All Seems Beautiful to Me* and Ola Gjeilo's *Ubi Caritas*, folk traditions in *Danny Boy* and Michael McGlynn's *Dúlamán*, and evocative tales of cities and starlight in *April in Paris* and *New York, New York*.



Savannah Porter  
 Eleonora Poignant  
 Katie Jeffries-Harris  
 Barnaby Smith  
 Blake Morgan  
 Euan Williamson  
 Chris Moore  
 Dominic Carver

St Martin's Church  
 East Woodhay  
 RG20 0AL  
 7.30pm (ends approx. 9.20pm)  
 £35 | £30 Adults  
 £17.50 | £15 Children

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

# Sound Beginnings

## The Firebird

A special family-friendly performance of Stravinsky's *The Firebird*, arranged for two pianos and narrator.

Originally a ballet and based on a Russian folk tale, *The Firebird* is about a magical glowing bird that Prince Ivan is searching for. The firebird is imprisoned in a castle with a beautiful princess. Ivan rescues the bird and the princess but then his own sister poisons him and the princess. Luckily, the firebird flies to the fountain of youth and with magic water brings Prince Ivan and his beloved princess back to life.

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.

After each performance there's the chance for guests to bring their own picnics to enjoy in the gardens and grounds at Sheepdrove.



Mikhail Kazakevich  
 piano  
 Elena Zozina  
 piano  
 Richard Morris  
 narrator

Sheepdrove Eco Centre  
 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

Sponsored by  
 The Sheepdrove  
 Trust

# Flowers Band

The 2024 National Champions of Great Britain, Flowers Band returns to Newbury Spring Festival with a programme that really does have something for everyone, including *Orbital* by Ivor Novello award-winning composer, Richard Blackford. This exciting work is Richard's first work for Brass Band and Flowers Band are delighted to be part of the consortium that have commissioned this major piece, with support from BBC Radio 3 and The Radcliffe Trust.

Other programme highlights include a world premiere of a new major work for Euphonium from the pen of Lucy Pankhurst. The piece will be performed by Dan Thomas, the band's Solo Euphonium player, one of the world's most in demand euphonium soloists.

The band will also perform a world premiere of a new concert opener by Kelly-Marie Murphy, a renowned Canada-based composer who has written for ensembles such as the Vancouver, Winnipeg, and Toronto Symphony Orchestras.

The rest of the programme will feature the band's stellar soloists, and will include music from well-known film, and more original music for brass band.



Paul Holland  
conductor

Corn Exchange  
Newbury  
RG14 5DB

7.30pm (ends  
approx. 9.25pm)

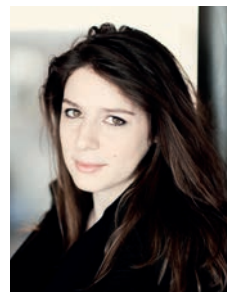
£30 | £25 Adults  
£15 | £12.50  
Children

Sponsored by  
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# Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra

In recognition of the 50th anniversary of the death of Benjamin Britten in 1976, we open with arguably his best-loved orchestral work, the *Four Sea Interludes* from his opera *Peter Grimes*. This will be followed by Richard Strauss's finest and final vocal composition, his *Four Last Songs*, performed tonight by one of the world's greatest Strauss interpreters, British soprano Elizabeth Watts. Elizabeth is a former BBC Radio 3 New Generation Artist and is much in demand across the world; we are delighted to welcome her back to the Festival.

After the interval we will hear Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 6, the *Pathétique*. A deeply emotional work that famously ends in a slow, sorrowful fade to silence, subverting the typical triumphant finale, it was described by Tchaikovsky in letters as "the best thing I ever composed or shall compose". He died nine days after its premier performance, which he conducted himself. Tonight's conductor, Tom Featherstonhaugh has already appeared at the Festival with his own orchestra, Fantasia, and we look forward to welcoming him with Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, a much-loved Festival favourite.



Elizabeth Watts  
soprano  
Tom  
Fetherstonhaugh  
conductor

Britten  
*Four Sea Interludes*  
Strauss  
*Four Last Songs*  
Tchaikovsky  
Symphony No. 6  
*Pathétique*

St Nicolas Church  
Newbury  
RG14 5HG

7.30pm (ends  
approx. 9.20pm)

£57 | £40 | £27  
Adults  
£28.50 | £20 |  
£13.50 Children

Sponsored by  
Greenham Trust

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

# Open Studios 2026

We are delighted to announce that OPEN Studios 2026 will run from Saturday, May 9, to Monday, May 25. We warmly invite you to visit our studios during this period to meet and chat with the participating artists and explore their work. While we hope you might find a beautiful piece to take home, there is absolutely no obligation to purchase; our primary aim is for you to enjoy your visit and the experience of engaging with art. We are committed to making every studio visit a comfortable and accessible experience, fostering a thriving artistic community in our region with your invaluable support.

To help you plan your visits, please refer to the comprehensive OS Guide, our official OS Website, and our flagship INSIGHT exhibition at The BASE, Greenham. Both the guide and The BASE feature detailed maps indicating the locations of each artist's studio, ensuring you can easily navigate and choose the studios that interest you most.

OPEN Studios WBNH operates as a not-for-profit organization, sustained entirely by the dedication of our volunteers, many of whom are artists themselves. I extend my sincere gratitude to all our committee members and the numerous OS Helpers whose time and effort are instrumental in making this scheme a reality.

We are particularly indebted to The Greenham Trust for their consistent and generous financial support. Additionally, we are grateful to The Friends of Newbury Spring Festival for their valuable contribution towards the production of our OS Guide.

Best regards, John Brazendale Chair, Open Studios WBNH



# Free Learning and Community Participation 2026

The Festival is committed to music education for children and the community. In 2026 school age children are invited to attend a number of performances and join in with a variety of workshops completely free of charge. There are also free events for the whole community to engage with.



February  
**Soul Sanctuary**

Members of Soul Sanctuary Gospel choir will be working with local secondary age students for a day workshop. Those students will then be invited to perform in the free outdoor performance on Sunday 17 May (see page 28).



9 May  
**Festival Parade**

Back for the second year, this is an opportunity for local performers to take part in the parade moving through town, culminating in the Market Square. More information is on page 3.



12 May  
**RANT**

RANT will host a special afternoon performance for local school age children. They'll be demonstrating some of the fiddle techniques and Scottish folk tunes that are central to their performances. See page 11 for details of their evening concert.



14 May  
**G&S**

Around the world (of G&S) in 60 minutes! A special hour long session introducing local school students to the world of operetta.

## Free Learning and Community Participation 2026 continued...



### 16 May Big Sing Saturday

An opportunity to celebrate singing in all its forms. Local choirs are invited to come along and take part. Audiences are invited to come and go across the whole day. Further information in on page 24.



### 16 May Masterclass

Jess Gillam is passionate about music education, and we're delighted she's hosting a free masterclass (see page 25). Pupils interested in performing should contact Jane Pickering before the end of March 2026.



### 17 May Soul in the Market Place

Members of the Soul Sanctuary Gospel Choir will perform with some of the students from the February education workshops for this free open-air event. See page 28 for further information.



### 19 May Ballet Central

Schools, dance classes and ballet companies are invited to come and learn from the free Open Company Class. This special afternoon session will feature extracts of the full evening show (see page 38).



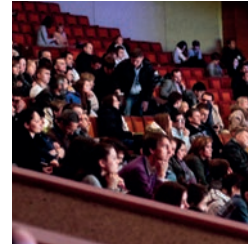
### 19 May Ensemble Augelletti

The Ensemble will stay on to visit three local primary schools the day after their concert (see page 36) to deliver a "Georgian Tea Party" concert introducing students to music of the 17th and 18th Centuries.



### 21 May Festival Chorus

School age students are invited to listen to the rehearsal of Brahms' German Requiem with Spring Festival Chorus in St Nicolas Church (see page 45).



### Lunchtimes Recitals

The balcony seats in the Corn Exchange are made available to local school students for each of the lunchtime Young Artist Recital series – for free.

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](mailto: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.



**NEWBURY**  
Spring  
**FESTIVAL**



# 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 2026



HRH The Duke of Kent KG  
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Graham Barker  
Chairman



Mark Eynon  
Festival Director



Ashley Morris  
General Manager



Jane Pickering  
Festival Administrator

### Board of Trustees

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(Hon Treasurer)

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Liberty House Greenham Business Park  
Newbury Berkshire RG19 6HS
- Accountants  
James Cowper Kreston LLP  
2 Communications Road Greenham Business Park  
Greenham Newbury RG19 6AB
- Festival Guide Design Pixel Collab

Festival Administration Office  
33/34 Cheap Street Newbury RG14 5DB  
Tel: 01635 32421 / 528766  
enquiries@newburyspringfestival.org.uk  
www.newburyspringfestival.org.uk  
Registered Charity No. 284622



# Sponsors, Business Partners and Festival Circle members

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

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Knights



RIVAR  
New Homes



Sheepdrove  
Eco Conference Centre



# Venues Map



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

This map is an approximate guide to venue locations. Please refer to the website for accurate directions: [www.newburyspringfestival.org.uk](http://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	<a href="http://www.newburyspringfestival.org.uk">www.newburyspringfestival.org.uk</a>

## St Nicolas Church, Douai Abbey and Highclere Concerts

To book tickets for concerts at St Nicolas Church, Douai Abbey and Highclere Castle please visit the Festival website. These concerts cannot be booked via the Corn Exchange box office. For any issues with booking these concerts please contact the Festival office on 01635 32421.

## Booking Dates

- Platinum Friends Priority booking – from 10.00am Tuesday 27 January 2026
- Gold Friends booking – from 10.00am Wednesday 28 January 2026
- Friends booking – from 10.00am Friday 30 January 2026
- Public booking – from 10.00am Tuesday 10 February 2026

## 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 30 January 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](http://www.newburyspringfestival.org.uk) If you require a wheelchair space, please request this at the time of booking.

## Souvenir Programme

The 160-page full-colour Souvenir Programme gives detailed information on each Festival event. It is on sale for £10 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

## Booking Fees

All tickets are subject to a £1.25 booking fee to cover the administrative costs of running the Box Office and booking systems. Ticket prices shown in this guide include the booking fee.

There is a non-refundable postage charge of £2.25 on all bookings.

## Refunds

All tickets are non-refundable, unless an event is canceled. 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 with ID and Universal Credit claimants £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 62). Anyone over the age of 14 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.



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 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.

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.

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