

LONDON CHAMBERMUSIC SOCIETY

Programme
2025-26 Season

Sundays at 6pm



at St John's Waterloo



LONDON CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY CONCERTS 2025/26

St John's Waterloo

I am delighted to introduce the first LCMS season in our new venue – the elegant and recently renovated Georgian church of St John's, Waterloo.

We host a range of exceptional string quartets – the Heath Quartet in September, followed by the Carducci, Chilingirian, Sacconi, and Brother Tree Sound – the latter joined by virtuoso horn player Ben Goldscheider. We also welcome back the Chamber Principals of London in a programme to include Schubert's beautiful String Quintet, and in November a wonderful quartet of baroque musicians in a programme built around Biber's remarkable Rosary sonatas.

We welcome two famous piano trios, the Gould Trio and Greenwich Trio, as well as two distinguished duos – Mathilde Milwidsky and Amadeus Wiesensee in a programme including violin sonatas by Ravel and Elgar, and Raphael Wallfisch and Simon Callaghan in a programme including cello sonatas by Brahms and Ethel Smyth.

Our larger ensembles include the English Symphony Orchestra in two magical chamber orchestra arrangements of Mahler and Strauss, and the Firebird Orchestra in a programme to include Beethoven's Piano Concerto No.4 and Haydn's 'Miracle' Symphony. Our season closes with the Hanover Band in a programme of eighteenth-century orchestral classics, ending, naturally, with Haydn's 'Farewell' symphony.

I very much look forward to seeing you at the concerts in our beautiful new venue.



Dr Peter Fribbins,
Artistic Director
Professor of Music, Middlesex University

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Information in this concert diary was correct at the time of printing. The right is reserved to substitute artists and to vary programmes if necessary.

Cover Photos
Sacconi Quartet © Nathan Eaton-Baudains
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Sun 28 Sept

6 pm

Heath Quartet

Haydn String Quartet in G Op. 33 No. 5
Grażyna Bacewicz String Quartet No.6
Matthew Locke Consort of Fower Parts,
 Suite III in F
Beethoven String Quartet in F Op.135

The Heath Quartet has now been an established international quartet for more than 30 years, having won numerous awards, including the Gramophone and Royal Philharmonic Society. They open our first season in the new venue with a programme typical of the wide breadth of LCMS concerts, presenting virtually a history of the quartet medium. Classic masterworks by Haydn and Beethoven are combined with a quartet by celebrated 20th-century Polish composer Grażyna Bacewicz, as well as beautiful music for string consort, the precursor to the quartet, by Matthew Locke from the 1600s.



Sun 12 Oct

6 pm

Greenwich Trio

Brahms Piano Trio in C minor Op.101
Fanny Mendelssohn Piano Trio in D minor
Beethoven Piano Trio in B-flat Op.97
 'Archduke'

To mark the release of the second CD in their critically acclaimed Brahms trio series on the Linn label, the Greenwich Trio play his trio in C minor, the last of his three trios. This is paired with Fanny Mendelssohn's highly charged and turbulent trio, completed shortly before her death in 1847. Their concert ends with one of the most famous piano trios in the repertoire, Beethoven's mighty 'Archduke' Trio, so called because of its dedication to his patron Archduke Rudolph of Austria.



Sun 26 Oct

6pm

Mathilde Milwidsky (violin) & Amadeus Wiesensee (piano)

Mozart Sonata for Piano and Violin in A K.305

Bacewicz Witraz (Stained Glass Window)

Ravel Sonata for Violin and Piano in G

Brahms Scherzo from the FAE Sonata

Elgar Sonata for Violin and Piano in E minor Op.82

Award-winning violinist Mathilde Milwidsky is joined by the Bavarian pianist Amadeus Wiesensee in a colourful programme of works for violin and piano. The expressive classicism of Mozart's A major sonata is complemented by Ravel's early-20th century classicism, with Grażyna Bacewicz's 'Stained Glass Window' forming a beautiful short intermezzo between the two. The second half of their programme features Elgar's violin sonata from 1918, passionate and wistful in turns, prefaced with music by Brahms, one of the earlier German composers who formed such a powerful influence on his work.



Sun 9 Nov

6pm

Carducci Quartet

Schubert String Quartet No.10 in Eb D.87

Caroline Shaw Entr'acte

Shostakovich String Quartet No.2 in A Op.68

The celebrated Carducci Quartet performs Schubert's beautiful 10th quartet in E-flat – first performed privately in the Schubert household by members of the family in 1813, hence sometimes called the Haushaltung (Household) Quartet. It is followed by American composer Caroline Shaw's remarkable 'Entr'acte', written in 2011 and inspired by the minuet from one of Haydn's Op.77 quartets. Their concert closes with Shostakovich's 2nd quartet, one of his two chamber works composed during the Second World War, in 1944, following the eighth symphony.



Sun 30 Nov

6pm

Charlotte Spruit (violin)
Jonathan Byers (cello)
Sergio Buchelli (lute)
Tom Foster (harpsichord)

Biber Mystery Sonatas: 'The Annunciation', 'The Agony in the Garden', 'The Crucifixion', and 'The Coronation of the Blessed Virgin'

Handel Sonatas for Violin and continuo in D and in G minor HWV.371 and 364a

JS Bach Sonata for Violin and continuo in E Minor BWV.1023

A concert weaving together some of the most striking baroque violin and continuo sonatas. Heinrich Biber's remarkable sonatas on each of the 15 Mysteries of the Rosary were dedicated to his employer, the Prince-Archbishop of Salzburg. Probably written in the 1670s they were virtually unknown until their publication in 1905. Performed by four musicians well-known for their sensitive readings of baroque music, this is a rare opportunity to hear several from the set, paired with popular sonatas of the period by Handel and J.S. Bach.

This concert is generously supported by Susan and Walter Rudeloff.



Sun 25 Jan

6pm

English Symphony Orchestra with April Frederick (soprano) and Kenneth Woods (conductor)

Richard Strauss Four Last Songs (arr. James Ledger)

Mahler Symphony No.9 (arr. Klaus Simon)

Strauss never heard his beautiful valedictory Four Last Songs in performance. Composed in 1948, he died before their premiere in London in 1950. Similarly, Mahler never lived to hear his Ninth Symphony, his last completed work, premiered in Vienna in 1912. Alban Berg wrote: "It expresses an extraordinary love of the earth, for Nature. The longing to live on it in peace, to enjoy it completely, to the very heart of one's being." Klaus Simon's highly praised arrangements of Mahler are in the spirit of those made in the 1920s for Schoenberg's Society for Private Musical Performances, reducing the forces to a small chamber orchestra. James Ledger's arrangement, similar in scope, was premiered in 2005 by Felicity Lotte, the Nash Ensemble, and Bernard Haitink.

Tickets from £7 to £35



Sun 8 Feb

6pm

Chilingirian Quartet

Haydn String Quartet Op.33 No.1 in B minor

Arriaga String Quartet in D minor

Schubert String Quartet in A minor
'Rosamunde' D.804

The celebrated Chilingirian Quartet perform Haydn's unusual B minor quartet from the Op.33 set, alongside one of the highly expressive and dramatic quartets by Juan Crisóstomo Arriaga, sometimes called 'the Spanish Mozart', who died young in 1826. Their concert ends with Schubert's ever-popular A minor quartet, often named 'Rosamunde' after the play for which Schubert wrote famous incidental music, and from which some of the quartet's material is derived.



Sun 22 Feb

6pm

Gould Piano Trio

Haydn Piano Trio in E Hob.XV/28

Heinrich Marschner Grand Trio No.5 in D minor Op.138

Schubert Piano Trio in B-flat D.898

The famous Gould Piano Trio perform a concert of German masterworks, culminating in Schubert's B-flat trio, one of the triumphs of the trio repertoire. They pair this with Haydn's late E major trio, in turn playful and highly expressive, and a trio by Heinrich Marschner. Marschner (1795-1861) was regarded as one of the most important composers in Germany in the nineteenth century, a friend of Beethoven and Mendelssohn and a strong influence on Schumann. Particularly well known for opera and lieder, his chamber works also have an operatic and vocal quality, especially in their beautiful and distinctive melodies.



Sun 8 Mar

6pm

The Firebird Orchestra, with Ariel Lanyi (piano), conducted by George Jackson

Mendelssohn Overture to a Midsummer Night's Dream
Beethoven Piano Concerto No.4 in G Op.58
Puccini Crisantemi for strings
Haydn Symphony No.96 in D 'The Miracle'

The Firebird Orchestra presents a concert on the theme of 'Visions and Spirits'. Mendelssohn's famous Overture to a Midsummer Night's Dream is followed by the most introspective and other-worldly of Beethoven's piano concertos, the soloist the award-winning pianist Ariel Lanyi. Puccini's Crisantemi was written in 1890 in just one night, as a tribute to the late Amadeo I of Spain. Haydn's Symphony No.96 was composed for one of his London visits and premiered in the Hanover Square rooms in March 1791. One of the chandeliers fell from the ceiling just after the performance, but miraculously no-one was harmed.

Tickets from £7 to £35



Sun 22 Mar

6pm

Sacconi Quartet and Levi Andreassen (double bass)

Haydn String Quartet in C Op.33 No.3 'The Bird'
Boccherini String Quintet in E G.275
Dvořák String Quintet in G Op.77

The celebrated Sacconi Quartet are joined by the virtuoso double bassist Levi Andreassen in a programme of string quintets by Dvořák and Boccherini. Dvořák's quintet is full of the passion and energy that make his music so popular and the minuet from Boccherini's quintet was made famous in the 1950s film 'The Ladykillers'. Their programme starts with Haydn's ever-popular 'Bird' quartet, which as well as imitating bird song, is both experimental and highly expressive, containing an unusual and dramatic scherzo and a slow movement, in turns elegant and intense.

This concert is generously supported by Kirker Holidays.



Sun 12 Apr

6 pm

Chamber Principals of London

Donizetti String Quartet No.4 in D
Beethoven String Trio in G Op.9 No.1
Schubert String Quintet in C D.956

Sergey Levitin, Jan Schmolck (violins),
Rachel Roberts (viola) **Josephine Knight,**
Hetty Snell (cellos)

The Chamber Principals of London ensemble was established in 2023 by Sergey Levitin, concertmaster of the orchestra of the Royal Opera House, together with several of London's foremost symphony orchestra principals. The centrepiece of their programme is Schubert's string quintet, one of the most ambitious chamber works for strings, completed just weeks before his death in 1828. Signalling the opera credentials of many of the ensemble's players, their concert begins with a quartet by the famous early-nineteenth century Italian opera composer, Donizetti, and continues with Beethoven's ever-popular G major string trio from his Opus 9 set.



Sun 10 May

6 pm

Brother Tree Sound and Ben Goldscheider (horn)

Beethoven String Quartet in F minor Op.95 'Serioso'
Edward Nesbit Cintra Park in the Dark, for horn and strings (world premiere)
Stanford Phantasy for horn and strings in A minor
Mendelssohn String Quartet in A minor Op.13

A string quartet that combines the worlds of classical and contemporary music in a distinctive and refreshing way, in 2025 Brother Tree Sound won a four-star recommendation in the BBC Music Magazine for their new recording of French quartets. This season features a series of new commissions for horn quintet, with the virtuoso Ben Goldscheider. The premiere of a new work by the British composer Edward Nesbit, is paired with a beautiful late quintet by Charles Villiers Stanford. These are framed by two of the most popular quartets in the classical repertoire – Beethoven's terse and dramatic F minor quartet, and Mendelssohn's highly expressive A minor quartet.



Sun 24 May

6pm

Raphael Wallfisch (cello) and Simon Callaghan (piano)

Beethoven Sonata for Piano and Cello in C Op.102 No.1

Brahms Sonata for Cello and Piano in F Op.99

Ethel Smyth Sonata for Cello and Piano in A minor Op.5

Franck Sonata for Violin and Piano in A (arr. Delsart)

Ethel Smyth first met Brahms in Leipzig in the late 1870s. She greatly admired his music and got to know him well, her cello sonata being published in 1887, the same year as Brahms's F major cello sonata. This concert presents both works, opening with Beethoven's late 'free' cello sonata from the 1820s, and ending with César Franck's famous violin sonata, arranged for cello by Jules Delsart with Franck's permission in the late 1880s. Curiously, there is evidence the work started life as a cello sonata, before Franck reworked it into a violin sonata as a wedding gift for his friend Ysaÿe.



Sun 14 Jun

6pm

The Hanover Band with Geoff Coates (oboe), conducted by Leon Bosch

Johannes Sperger Symphony in F 'Arrival'

Mozart Oboe Concerto in C K.314

Gluck Dance of the Blessed Spirits

Haydn Symphony No.45 in F-sharp minor 'Farewell'

Haydn's famous 'Farewell' symphony gets its name from the ending, when each musician stops playing to leave just two muted violins – a hint to Prince Esterházy to allow his musicians and retinue to return home to their families after a long stay at his summer palace. Haydn's contemporary, Johannes Sperger (1750-1812), amusingly inverts the trick in his 'Arrival' symphony, starting with two violins and building from there. The celebrated Hanover Band, conducted by Leon Bosch, offers the opportunity to hear both works in this special final concert of the first LCMS series at St John's Waterloo. They also play Gluck's hauntingly beautiful 'Dance of the Blessed Spirits', and with oboist Geoff Coates, Mozart's much-loved Oboe Concerto.

Tickets from £7 to £35



Tickets

Admission is £7 - £35. Different prices apply to some orchestral concerts. Ticket prices are shown on the page for each event, together with a link to purchase tickets. For online bookings, a £1 booking fee is included in the ticket prices.

A number of tickets are available to purchase at the venue, but the charges are higher than online prices because of the additional costs.

Friends Tickets

For just **£35**, a Friend is entitled to a **25% discount** on all ticket prices throughout the 2025/26 season. Join online via our website londonchambermusic.org.uk or email us via Friends@londonchambermusic.org.uk. Friends discounted tickets cannot be purchased for, or used by, non-Friends.

Tickets for Students and Young People

Students and young people under 26 including school students, can purchase tickets for LCMS concerts for £7, online or at the door. All of these tickets can be purchased on the day, subject to availability.

Purchase method

We operate a cashless concert series, so ticket purchase must be via debit card, not cash.

Accessibility

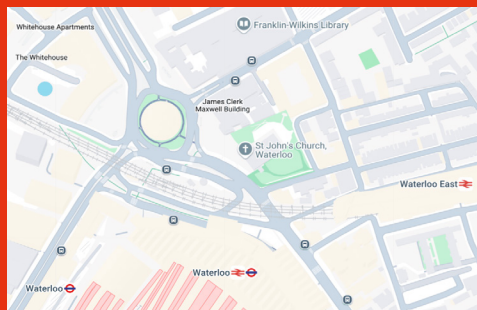
St John's Waterloo is an accessible venue, providing step-free access and accessible toilet facilities for visitors with limited mobility and wheelchair users. Please contact us for any further information.

LONDON CHAMBERMUSIC SOCIETY

The London Chamber Music Society is pleased to collaborate with Middlesex University, London



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