

C A M B R I D G E PHILHARMONIC

2025-2026 SEASON



www.cambridgephilharmonic.com

Season Summary

A warm welcome from us all at the Cambridge Philharmonic to our 2025/26 season.

The chorus opens our concert season with an intimate evening of **Britten** and **Duruflé** in Downing Place URC, where we will be joined by up-and-coming vocal stars from the Royal Academy of Music, directed by our chorus master Tom Primrose.

Our first West Road programme of the year presents **Respighi's** monumental **Roman Trilogy**, a triptych of tone

poems about Ancient Rome – *Pines of Rome, Fountains of Rome* and *Roman Festivals*. This is a bombastic and brilliant orchestral tour de force, not to be missed. We're also thrilled to welcome back violinist Freya Goldmark to play **Guirne Creath's** wonderful and long-forgotten *Violin Concerto*.

The chorus and orchestra unite in the run-up to Christmas for **Berlioz's** festive oratorio *L'Enfance du Christ*, a dramatic and poignant re-telling of the Nativity story. Then in the new year Lucy Hollins returns for another wacky and wonderful pair of maritime **family concerts**, *Lucy's Ocean Adventure*. A great opportunity to introduce young listeners to the world of classical music.

After the success of **Dvořák's** *Stabat Mater*, we return to the Czech master's choral-orchestral oeuvre for his *Requiem* in March. We finish our West Road concert season in May with a sparkling orchestral programme including **Ethel Smyth's** Overture to *The Wreckers*, and **Shostakovich's** gripping *Symphony No 5*. We're also delighted to welcome the acclaimed pianist Benjamin Grosvenor to play **Strauss'** *Burleske*. We end the year with a return to Saffron Hall for **Vaughan Williams'** towering *Sea Symphony*.

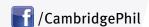
Whether you're a passionate music-lover or a total newcomer, there is something for everyone in this exciting programme, and we look forward to seeing you at one of our concerts.

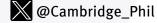
Harry Sever, *Music Director*

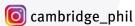
"Powerful and uniformly accomplished"

Cambridge Independent

All information is correct at the time of printing. The Cambridge Philharmonic reserves the right to make any changes to the published programme that prove necessary.







Saturday 18 October 2025 at 5pm

Duruflé Requiem

Britten *Rejoice in the Lamb* Duruflé *Requiem*

Downing Place United Reformed Church, Cambridge

Sunday 9 November 2025 at 7.30pm

Roman Trilogy

Guirne Creith *Violin Concerto* Respighi *Roman Trilogy*

West Road Concert Hall, Cambridge

Saturday 20 December 2025 at 4pm

Berlioz L'Enfance du Christ

West Road Concert Hall, Cambridge

Saturday 17 January 2026 at 2pm & 4pm

Family Concerts

West Road Concert Hall, Cambridge

Saturday 14 March 2026 at 4pm

Dvořák Requiem

West Road Concert Hall, Cambridge

Saturday 23 May 2026 at 4pm

Shostakovich 5

Smyth Overture to 'The Wreckers' Strauss Burleske Shostakovich Symphony No. 5

West Road Concert Hall, Cambridge

Sunday 5 July 2026 at 4pm

A Sea Symphony

Debussy *Prélude à l'Après-midi* Ireland *These Things Shall Be* Vaughan Williams *A Sea Symphony*

Saffron Hall, Saffron Walden



Duruflé Requiem

Benjamin Britten *Rejoice in the Lamb* Maurice Duruflé *Requiem*

Cambridge Philharmonic Chorus
Tom Primrose conductor
Hannah Dienes-Williams soprano
Helena Paish alto

Joseph Hancock *tenor* Tom Butler *baritone*

Join us for an evening of French and English choral masterworks that explore the spiritual, the poetic, and the transcendent.

The programme opens with Benjamin Britten's Rejoice in the Lamb, a quirky and imaginative setting of text by the 18th-century poet Christopher Smart.

Written while Smart was confined in an asylum, the poem is a unique outpouring of religious devotion.

In contrast, Maurice Duruflé's *Requiem* offers a luminous vision of eternal peace. Rooted in the timeless melodies of Gregorian chant, Duruflé creates a deeply contemplative work that stands apart from the drama of many Romantic settings of this text. With rising star soloists from the Royal Academy of Music, this promises to be an evening of sensual vocal colour.

Tickets: from £15 (concessions and free carers' tickets available)

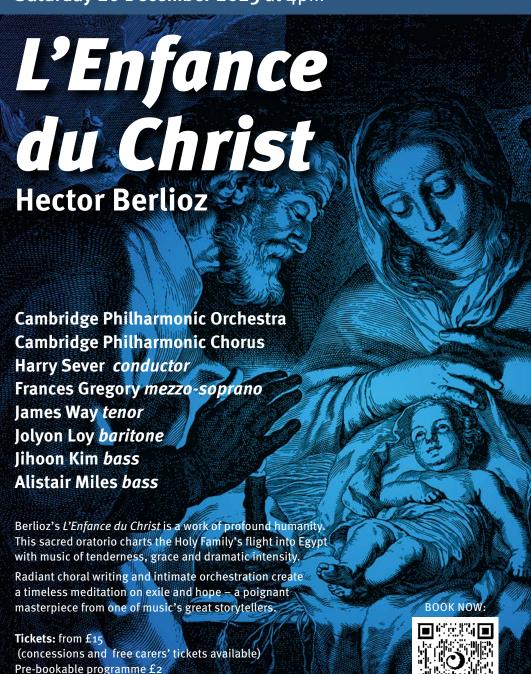
Pre-bookable programme £2

Book online: www.cambridgephilharmonic.com

Phone: 0333 666 3366 (fee applies)







FAMILY CONCERT Lucy's Ocean Adventure Cambridge Philharmonic Orchestra Tom Primrose conductor Lucy Hollins presenter

Dive into the deep blue sea with this interactive family concert, perfect for young explorers! Join Lucy as she sets sail on a magical journey beneath the waves. With music inspired by the sea, storytelling and plenty of surprises, this fun-filled concert will spark imaginations and introduce children to the wonders of orchestral sound.

Repertoire to include:

Benjamin Britten Four Sea Interludes (selections)

Edvard Grieg Storm from Peer Gynt

Felix Mendelssohn Hebrides Overture

John Williams Jaws

Grab your goggles and jump aboard!

Tickets: from £12 (No concessions. Free carers' tickets are available).

Book online: www.cambridgephilharmonic.com

Phone: 0333 666 3366 (fee applies)





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Phone: 0333 666 3366 (fee applies)

Dvořák Requiem

Cambridge Philharmonic Orchestra
Cambridge Philharmonic Chorus
Harry Sever conductor
Esther Mallett soprano
Miranda Westcott mezzo-soprano
Oliver Johnston tenor
Eugene Dillon-Hooper bass

Dvořák's Requiem is a towering musical statement that draws us into a world of mystery. Throughout the work, Dvořák sets traditional liturgical text with his unmistakable melodic gift, creating music that moves from sorrow to serenity, from shadow to radiant light.

The choral writing is both dramatic and lyrical, while the orchestra contributes richly coloured textures. Soloists step forward with poignant lines that feel more like operatic confessions than sacred recitations. The result is a Requiem that feels deeply human – filled with questioning and doubt, and finally, a glowing sense of peace.

Tickets: from £15 (concessions and free carers' tickets available)

Pre-bookable programme £2

Book online: www.cambridgephilharmonic.com

Phone: 0333 666 3366 (fee applies)

Shostakovich 5

Ethel Smyth Overture to 'The Wreckers' Richard Strauss Burleske Dmitri Shostakovich Symphony No. 5

Cambridge Philharmonic Orchestra
Otis Ekinodo-Lineham conductor
Benjamin Grosvenor piano

A concert of bold voices and fearless invention. We open with the stormy, impassioned overture to *The Wreckers*, Ethel Smyth's opera set on the rugged Cornish coast.

Next, superstar pianist Benjamin Grosvenor takes the spotlight in Richard Strauss's *Burleske* – a dazzling, high-octane work that brims with sardonic wit and virtuosic brilliance.

Shostakovich's gripping Symphony No 5 – veiled protest or triumphant apologia – delivers emotional power and biting irony in one of the 20th century's most compelling orchestral works.

Tickets: from £15 (concessions and free carers' tickets available)

Pre-bookable programme £2

BOOK NOW:

Book online: www.cambridgephilharmonic.com

Phone: 0333 666 3366 (fee applies)

BOOK NOW:





A Sea Symphony

Claude Debussy *Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune*John Ireland *These Things Shall Be*Ralph Vaughan Williams *A Sea Symphony*

Cambridge Philharmonic Orchestra
Cambridge Philharmonic Chorus
Tom Primrose conductor
Jenny Stafford soprano
Armand Rabot baritone

Our season closes with a monumental choral-orchestral programme at Saffron Hall. Join Tom Primrose and our combined forces for a journey through three dramatic musical landscapes.

Debussy's languid *Prélude* conjures a sun-drenched reverie, while John Ireland's choral epic *These Things Shall Be* offers a utopian vision of peace and progress.

Vaughan Williams' A Sea Symphony, set to Walt Whitman's stirring verse, is a glorious voyage into the vastness of the ocean – and the soul – in one of the repertoire's most exhilarating choral symphonies.

Tickets: from £16 via Saffron Hall Box Office (some concessions and free carers' tickets available) **Book online:** www.saffronhall.com

Phone: 0845 548 7650

BOOK NOW:



Thank you

We are very grateful to The Pye Foundation and Garfield Weston Foundation for their support.

We also warmly thank our Cambridge Philharmonic Friends as well as the following Cambridge Colleges: Trinity College, Fellows of Selwyn College, Churchill College, Emmanuel College, Pembroke College and other donors who wish to remain anonymous.

For ways to support Cambridge Philharmonic see:

www.cambridgephilharmonic.com/support-us













Join us!

Are you a singer or orchestral musician looking for a new creative challenge? We are keen to welcome new members to the Chorus and Orchestra.

We rehearse weekly during term time (Orchestra on Mondays, Chorus on Tuesdays) and perform in the best concert venues in and around Cambridge. Once you've sung or played with us for a few weeks, you'll be asked to audition. Members pay an annual subscription.

As well as pushing ourselves to perform at the highest standard, we enjoy the social side of making music together — and we'd love to meet you!

Please visit **cambridgephilharmonic.com/join-us** to find out more.





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As a Philharmonic Friend you will support our cherished ambition of keeping top quality music at the heart of our wonderful and vibrant community. You will hear all the 'behind the scenes' news of current and future projects, enjoy 10% discount on the season's concert tickets, and have opportunities to meet our conductors, principal players and guest artists at pre-concert and social events.

Most of all, as a Philharmonic Friend, you will be joining our musical family, comprising a range of instrumentalists and singers of all ages and walks of life. For an investment of just £50 per season you will receive the following benefits...

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- Acknowledgement as a Friend in programmes and on the website
- A regular newsletter about the Phil and upcoming concerts
- Invitations to concert receptions
- Opportunities to meet conductors, soloists, players and singers from the Phil and fellow Friends
- Pre-concert talks

A WARM WELCOME AWAITS...

FURTHER INFORMATION: https://cambridgephilharmonic.com/support-us/

