



CAMBRIDGE PHILHARMONIC

2025–2026 SEASON



**Berlioz • Britten
Creith • Debussy
Duruflé • Dvořák
Ireland • Respighi
Shostakovich
Smyth • Strauss
Vaughan Williams
Family Concerts**



www.cambridgephilharmonic.com

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.

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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



Saturday 18 October 2025 at 5pm

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)

BOOK NOW:



Downing Place United Reformed Church, Cambridge CB2 3EL

Sunday 9 November 2025 at 7.30pm

Respighi's *Roman Trilogy*

Guirne Creith *Violin Concerto*

Ottorino Respighi *Roman Trilogy*

Fountains of Rome • Pines of Rome • Roman Festivals

Cambridge Philharmonic Orchestra

Harry Sever *conductor*

Freya Goldmark *violin*

Step into a world of dazzling orchestral fireworks. Guirne Creith's *Violin Concerto* is a lyrical and virtuosic gem that sings with 20th-century Romanticism. Celebrated young violinist Freya Goldmark returns to the orchestra to tackle this beautiful and forgotten masterpiece.

Respighi's epic *Roman Trilogy* then brings the Eternal City to life in sweeping technicolour: from the ancient echoes of *Pines* to the sparkling dawn of *Fountains*, and the explosive energy of *Festivals*. A night of cinematic grandeur and musical rediscovery.

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

Pre-bookable programme £2

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Phone: 0333 666 3366 (fee applies)

BOOK NOW:



West Road Concert Hall, Cambridge CB3 9DP



Saturday 20 December 2025 at 4pm

L'Enfance du Christ

Hector Berlioz

Cambridge Philharmonic Orchestra

Cambridge Philharmonic Chorus

Harry Sever *conductor*

Frances Gregory *mezzo-soprano*

James Way *tenor*

Jolyon Loy *baritone*

Jihoon Kim *bass*

Alistair Miles *bass*

Berlioz's *L'Enfance du Christ* is a work of profound humanity. This sacred oratorio charts the Holy Family's flight into Egypt with music of tenderness, grace and dramatic intensity.

Radiant choral writing and intimate orchestration create a timeless meditation on exile and hope – a poignant masterpiece from one of music's great storytellers.

Tickets: from £15

(concessions and free carers' tickets available)

Pre-bookable programme £2

Book online: www.cambridgephilharmonic.com

Phone: 0333 666 3366 (fee applies)

BOOK NOW:



West Road Concert Hall, Cambridge CB3 9DP

Saturday 17 January 2026 at 2pm & 4pm

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)

BOOK NOW:



West Road Concert Hall, Cambridge CB3 9DP



Saturday 14 March 2026 at 4pm

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.

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Pre-bookable programme £2

Book online: www.cambridgephilharmonic.com

Phone: 0333 666 3366 (fee applies)

West Road Concert Hall, Cambridge CB3 9DP

Saturday 23 May 2025 at 4pm

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.

BOOK NOW:



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

Pre-bookable programme £2

Book online: www.cambridgephilharmonic.com

Phone: 0333 666 3366 (fee applies)

West Road Concert Hall, Cambridge CB3 9DP



Sunday 5 July 2025 at 4pm

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:



Saffron Hall, Saffron Walden CB11 4UH

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



FIND OUT MORE:



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.

FIND OUT MORE:



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- Pre-concert talks

A WARM WELCOME AWAITS...

FURTHER INFORMATION:

<https://cambridgephilharmonic.com/support-us/>

