

Saffron Hall

BBC
RADIO



12 February 2019

BBC Radio 3 Big Chamber Weekend returns to Saffron Hall for series of top-level broadcast concerts with Mark Simpson and friends

26 & 27 April 2019

Saffron Hall and **BBC Radio 3** present a weekend of chamber music featuring composer and virtuoso clarinettist **Mark Simpson**. Former BBC Young Musician of the Year and BBC New Generation Artist, Simpson is now established as a major voice on the international stage as both a performer and a composer. Few young British composers are as colourful and original: “The bravura, the assurance and the sheer generosity of this music is unarguable” wrote *The Spectator* last year – and his virtuoso performances are enjoyed in major venues all over the world.

In partnership with BBC Radio 3, he takes up residence at Saffron Hall for three major concerts this April, introducing his own music (including a brand-new work) and bringing together a host of friends – some of the brightest rising stars in the classical music world - in the music he loves best: from the poetry of Schumann and Brahms to the exuberance of Bernstein and Gershwin.

In the first concert he is joined by leading cellist **Leonard Elschenbroich** and pianist **Richard Uttley** for a programme including Beethoven’s Piano Trio Op. 11 and music by Janacek, Schumann and Kurtág. **The Navarra Quartet** and violist **Adam Newman** join them for a FREE early-evening concert on the Saturday featuring an all-English programme including music by Ireland, Maxwell Davies and Howells. The weekend culminates with an American-tinged programme which includes an arrangement of Barber’s much-loved *Adagio for Strings* and Antheil’s hugely exciting Trumpet Sonata, for which Simpson and friends are joined by current BBC New Generation Artist **Simon Höfele**.

This rich mix of chamber music is **broadcast on BBC Radio 3** every day from 30 April to 03 May at 1pm and will be available on BBC Sounds.

The early-evening concert on Saturday is free to all and under 18s can attend any of the three concerts for free.

For booking and further information, please visit the [Saffron Hall website](#).

Performances:

Friday 26 April 2019

[BBC Radio 3 Big Chamber Weekend](#)

Tickets: £10

Saturday 27 April 2019, 5pm

[BBC Radio 3 Big Chamber Weekend](#)

Tickets: Free (booking required)

Saturday 27 April 2019, 7:30pm

[BBC Radio 3 Big Chamber Weekend](#)

Tickets: £10

-Ends-

**For further press information or images please contact Tessa Deterding at Premier:
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Notes to Editors

BBC Radio 3

Since it launched in 1946, the Third Programme/ BBC Radio 3 has been a bold pioneer in the cultural world. It is one of the world's foremost presenters, creators, commissioners and curators across classical, folk, world, jazz and contemporary music as well as drama, philosophy and ideas. The station has always nurtured extraordinary artistic talents, provided a platform for important scientific and political debates/announcements, and broadcast ground-breaking experimental drama – always while delivering its core aim of connecting audiences with pioneering music and culture. The station is also the most significant commissioner of new and contemporary music in the UK, with 35 new works commissioned annually and broadcasts over 600 concerts a year, including live broadcasts from the greatest classical music festival in the world (BBC Proms). Radio 3's In Concert programme alone reaches the equivalent of 250 packed concert halls a week, and the BBC Orchestras and Choirs give around 400 concerts a year in over 60 UK locations.

Saffron Hall

Saffron Hall is an award-winning 740-seat performance space built in the grounds of Saffron Walden County High School, just minutes away from Saffron Walden's historic town centre.

The hall's critically acclaimed acoustic and state-of-the-art facilities surpass many of the world's more established venues and since the hall opened in November 2013, artists including the London Symphony Orchestra, Czech National Philharmonic Orchestra, Sir Antonio Pappano, Hugh Masekela, Marin Alsop, Nicola Benedetti, Sir András Schiff, Madeleine Peyroux and The Sixteen have performed on its stage.

Saffron Hall is a vibrant cultural centre for the region, offering outstanding artistic encounters in an expanding programme that weaves international artists together with local performance groups and learning & participation activities. The Hall's location within the County High allows it to be deeply involved in the life of the school, and to work closely both with its students and children from the surrounding schools.

Major visiting artists more than ever offer not just world-class performances but crucial opportunities for the people of the region to get involved in their work.

Full listings and booking information: <https://saffronhall.com>

Twitter: @SaffronHallSW / @BBCRadio3