

# Saffron Hall

## **Saffron Hall reveals Autumn season filled with classical, contemporary and jazz performances by world-class artists 11 September 2022 – 2 January 2023**

**Major soloists and conductors including Karina Canellakis, Sir Mark Elder, Edward Gardner, Jess Gillam, Isata Kanneh-Mason, Courtney Pine, Zoe Rahman and Anoushka Shankar**

**Return of the Hall's Resident Orchestras – Britten Sinfonia and London Philharmonic Orchestra – in addition to Dunedin Consort, English Touring Opera, Hallé Orchestra, Tenebrae and The Sixteen**

**Launch of brand-new boundary-challenging *Saffron Sessions* and the return of *Saffron Foyer* informal nights**

Saffron Hall today [6 May] announced its Autumn 2022 season featuring a diverse programme of classical, contemporary, folk and jazz performances by many of today's leading artists. Alongside its main concert series, the Hall announces *Saffron Sessions*, a series of boundary-challenging performances, in addition to continuing its popular *Saffron Foyer* events. Throughout the season the Hall will continue to host a programme of engaging cultural events for its audience both in Saffron Walden and the wider region.

Angela Dixon, Chief Executive of Saffron Hall, said:

*"Our 22/23 season represents the high quality and diversity that the communities in this region deserve. The integration of world-class performers into our schools and community programmes continues to be a matter of pride and we hope that all of our work will proceed without interruption. With artists and audiences eager to be back live there is much to look forward to."*

*As the pandemic recedes, we are advocating for culture to sit at the heart of local recovery strategies. Culture is a powerful tool that can unlock potential in a range of areas, from health and wellbeing and education to tourism and placemaking."*

### **Classical and contemporary**

A wide array of leading soloists will perform at Saffron Hall in the Autumn including **Isata Kanneh-Mason** who makes her solo debut at the Hall in a programme centred around the theme of

childhood with music by Fanny Mendelssohn, Claude Debussy and more [7 October]. After an important year in her career during which she received an MBE, **Jess Gillam** returns to the Hall with her ensemble to perform a selection of Christmas classics such as a medley from *The Nutcracker* [16 December]. Pianist **Pavel Kolesnikov** joins **Sir Mark Elder** and the **Hallé Orchestra** for a performance of Rachmaninov's *Piano Concerto No.3* [8 October] and later that month **English Touring Opera** make a welcome return with fully-staged performances of Handel's *Agrippina* [28 October] and *Tamerlano* [29 October].

Multi-Grammy-nominated composer and sitar player **Anoushka Shankar** performs with the Hall's Resident Orchestra **Britten Sinfonia**, **Jules Buckley** and handpan and drum player **Manu Delago** in a performance featuring works and arrangements by Roxanna Panufnik, Delago and Buckley as well as Shankar herself [16 October]. The Hall's other Resident Orchestra – the **London Philharmonic Orchestra** – returns with their Principal Guest Conductor **Karina Canellakis** and soloist **Johan Dalene** to perform Sibelius's Violin Concerto and Beethoven's mighty *Eroica* [23 October], before returning with their Principal Conductor **Edward Gardner** for Tippett's grand oratorio, *A Child of our Time* [27 November].

Three leading vocal ensembles are due to perform at the Hall in the autumn, starting with Scotland's **Dunedin Consort** who celebrate their 25th anniversary season with a performance of Mozart's *Great Mass in C minor* [19 November]. **Nigel Short** and **Tenebrae** return to the Hall to bring a festive programme including Britten's popular *Ceremony of Carols* in addition to Joanna Marsh's *In Winter's House*, a piece written for the group in 2019 [10 December]. **Harry Christophers** and **The Sixteen** continue the Christmas programme with a performance of Handel's *Messiah* [18 December].

Other highlights of the Autumn season include a performance by French string quartet **Quatuor Agate** [30 October], a first public performance of **A4 Brass**, a new group comprising principal players from some of the UK's top brass bands [6 November], and the Hall debut of **Cory Band** from the Welsh Valleys [3 December], fresh from their recent victory at the European Brass Band Championships.

### **Saffron Sessions and Saffron Foyer**

This autumn the Hall launches *Saffron Sessions*, a new programme of creative boundary-challenging performances. The series will include performances by American pianist and composer **Chad Lawson**, **Manchester Collective** and **Pekka Kuusisto**, among others. The Hall's informal *Saffron Foyer* nights return in September with jazz and folk artists including **Katriona Taylor**, **Django's Tiger** and the **Dan Forshaw Quartet**. More details of *Saffron Sessions* and *Saffron Foyer* line-up will be revealed in due course.

### **Jazz**

Audiences will have the opportunity to revisit the jazz music of the 1920s and 1930s with the **Pasadena Roof Orchestra** [15 October] before celebrating the big band era of the 1940s with the **Glenn Miller Orchestra** [11 December]. Other jazz highlights include **Courtney Pine** performing with jazz pianist **Zoe Rahman** as part of his Spirituality Tour [25 November]. South African male vocal group **Ladysmith Black Mambazo** take to the stage with jazz guitarist and singer **Muntu Valdo** as part of their much-anticipated return to the UK [22 October].

### **Talk**

Bringing a totally different kind of performance to the Hall, restaurant critic and *MasterChef* judge **Jay Rayner** explores our most beloved food in a new show about our fascination behind last meals [20 October].

### **Local talent**

Nurturing local talent as ever, the Autumn season opens with **Saffron Opera Group** performing Wagner's *Tannhäuser* [11 September] with acclaimed tenor **Peter Auty** conducted by **Michael Thorne**. This dynamic programming of large-scale work reflects Saffron Hall's ambition as a venue, something which is emphasised by **Saffron Walden Choral Society** performing Haydn's *Creation* with **Chameleon Arts Orchestra** [12 November]. The **Saffron Walden Symphony Orchestra** return with violinist **Alex Redington** for a programme including Korngold's Violin Concerto and Shostakovich's *Symphony No.12* commemorating the 1917 revolution [4 December].

### **Education**

Saffron Hall continues breaking new ground in their education initiatives. This includes launching the second iteration of Saffron Sounds this autumn. The Saffron Sounds online resource hub, including filmed performances and demonstrations from the Jess Gillam ensemble, will be available to all primary schools, and will be the starting point for a programme of workshops and live performances offered to schools across Essex and beyond. Artists from across the programme, including A4 Brass, will visit local primary schools for performances. This autumn will also see the introduction of 'A morning with...' events for secondary schools, featuring performances, masterclasses and Q&A's from artists including Isata Kanneh-Mason. And Saffron Hall Trust continues to deliver Together in Sound - its pioneering music therapy programme for those living with dementia and their carers in Saffron Walden. Together in Sound is delivered in partnership with the Cambridge Institute for Music Therapy Research at Anglia Ruskin University, and a pilot programme is now also underway in Braintree in partnership with Braintree District Museum. Further events and projects as part of the Hall's learning series will be announced in due course.

**For more information and to book tickets please visit the [Saffron Hall website](#).**  
General sale opens on 6 May (early access for members from 28 April)

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### **About Saffron Hall Trust**

Saffron Hall is a 740-seat concert hall that opened in 2013 and is a uniquely sustainable model of arts and community outreach. Cited in the grounds of Saffron Walden County High School, a comprehensive school in North Essex, Saffron Hall's world class programme runs alongside an extensive Schools and Community programme. Since opening Saffron Hall has engaged with over 40,000 participants and sold over 205,000 tickets, with 21% of audiences travelling 30 miles or more. 10% of tickets sold were to under 18s. Saffron Hall is a registered charity and receives no regular funding from the local authority or Arts Council England. It is solely reliant on donations from individuals, trusts and foundations and ticket sales.

### **Listings**

**Sunday 11 September, 2.30pm**

**Saffron Opera Group: Tannhäuser**  
**Saffron Opera Group Orchestra & Chorus**  
**Michael Thorne**, conductor  
**Peter Auty**, Tannhäuser  
**Samantha Crawford**, Elizabeth  
**Elaine McKrill**, Venus  
**Richard Burkhard**, Wolfram  
**Richard Wiegold**, Landgraf  
**Paul Carey Jones**, Biterolf  
**Brian Smith Walters**, Walther  
**Ben Thapa**, Heinrich  
**Pauls Putnins**, Reinmar  
Richard Wagner: *Tannhäuser*

**Friday 16 September, 8pm**  
**Foyer Jazz: Katriona Taylor**

**Friday 23 September, 8pm**  
**Foyer Folk**

**Sunday 25 September, 3pm**  
**Spooky Stories: Once Upon a Tune**  
**James Mayhew & Antonio Reche-Martinez**, narration & illustration  
**Saffron Walden Symphony Orchestra**  
**Richard Hull**, conductor  
Programme to include:  
Paul Dukas: *The Sorcerer's Apprentice*  
Camille Saint-Saëns: *Danse Macabre*  
Jean Sibelius: *The Swan of Tuonela*  
Richard Wagner: Overture to *The Flying Dutchman*

**Friday 7 October, 7.30pm**  
**Isata Kanneh-Mason**, piano  
Programme to include:  
Fanny Mendelssohn: *Easter Sonata*  
Claude Debussy: *Children's Corner L. 113*  
Clara Schumann: *Scherzo No. 2 in C minor, Op. 14*  
Frédéric Chopin: *Ballade No. 2 in F major, Op. 38*  
Robert Schumann: *Kinderszenen, Op. 15*

**Saturday 8 October, 4pm**  
**Hallé Orchestra**  
**Mark Elder**, conductor  
**Pavel Kolesnikov**, piano  
Sergei Rachmaninov: *Piano Concerto No. 3 in D minor, Op. 30*  
Bedřich Smetana: *Má Vlast: Vltava*  
Jean Sibelius: *Symphony No. 3 in C major, Op. 52*

**Friday 14 October, 8pm**  
**Foyer Jazz: Django's Tiger**

**Saturday 15 October, 7.30pm**  
**Pasadena Roof Orchestra**

**Sunday 16 October, 7pm**  
**Britten Sinfonia & Anoushka Shankar with Manu Delago**  
**Anoushka Shankar**, sitar  
**Manu Delago**, handpan/drums  
**Jules Buckley**, conductor  
Programme to include:  
Roxanna Panufnik: *Indian Summer* from *Four World Seasons*  
Manu Delago: A selection of works  
Anoushka Shankar: A selection of works

**Thursday 20 October, 7.30pm**  
**My Last Supper: One Meal a lifetime in the making with Jay Rayner**

**Friday 21 October, 8pm**  
**Foyer Folk**

**Saturday 22 October, 7.30pm**  
**Ladysmith Black Mambazo & Muntu Valdo**

**Sunday 23 October, 7pm**  
**London Philharmonic Orchestra**  
**Karina Canellakis**, conductor  
**Johan Dalene**, violin  
Jean Sibelius: *Violin Concerto in D minor*  
Ludwig van Beethoven: *Symphony No. 3 "Eroica"*

**Friday 28 October, 7pm**  
Agrippina  
**English Touring Opera**  
**The Old Street Band**  
George Frideric Handel: *Agrippina*

**Saturday 29 October, 7pm**  
Tamerlano  
**English Touring Opera**  
**The Old Street Band**  
George Frideric Handel: *Tamerlano*

**Sunday 30 October, 4pm**  
**Young Artist Coffee Concert: Quatuor Agate**  
Luigi Boccherini: *String Quartet in G minor, Op. 32 No. 5*  
Johannes Brahms: *String Quartet No. 3 in B flat major, Op. 67*

**Sunday 6 November, 4pm**  
**Young Artist Coffee Concert: A4 Brass**

**Saturday 12 November, 7.30pm**  
**Haydn: The Creation**  
**Saffron Walden Choral Society**  
**Chameleon Arts Orchestra**  
**Quintin Beer**, conductor  
**Rebecca Bottone**, soprano  
**Bradley Smith**, tenor  
**Morgan Pearse**, baritone  
Joseph Haydn: *The Creation*

**Saturday 19 November, 7.30pm**  
**Dunedin Consort: Mozart Mass in C Minor**  
**Dunedin Consort**  
**Anna Dennis**, soprano  
**Lucy Crowe**, soprano  
**Benjamin Hulett**, tenor  
**Robert Davies**, bass  
Joseph Haydn: *Symphony No. 80 in D minor*  
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart: *Great Mass in C minor*

**Friday 25 November, 7.30pm**  
**Spirituality Tour**  
**Courtney Pine**, bass clarinet  
**Zoe Rahman**, piano  
**Guest string quartet**

**Sunday 27 November, 3pm**  
**A Child of Our Time**  
**London Philharmonic Orchestra**  
**Edward Gardner**, conductor  
Michael Tippett: *A Child of Our Time*

**Friday 2 December, 8pm**  
**Foyer Jazz: Dan Forshaw Quartet**

**Saturday 3 December, 7.30pm**  
**Cory Band**

**Sunday 4 December, 3pm**  
**Saffron Walden Symphony Orchestra**  
**Richard Hull**, conductor  
**Alex Redington**, violin  
Ralph Vaughan Williams: *In the Fen Country*  
Erich Wolfgang Korngold: *Violin Concerto*

Dmitri Shostakovich: *Symphony No. 12*

**Saturday 10 December, 7.30pm**

**Tenebrae at Christmas**

**Nigel Short**, conductor

Programme to include:

Benjamin Britten: *A Ceremony of Carols*

Gustav Holst: *In the Bleak Midwinter*

Joanna Marsh: *In Winter's House*

Herbert Howells: *A Spotless Rose*

**Sunday 11 December, 4pm**

**Glenn Miller Orchestra**

**Ray McVay**, musical director

**Friday 16 December, 7.30pm**

**Jess Gillam Ensemble at Christmas**

Jess Gillam Ensemble

Programme to include:

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky: *Nutcracker Medley*

John Lennon and Yoko Ono: *Happy Xmas (War is Over)*

*Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas*

*Auld Lang Syne*

**Sunday 18 December, 4.30pm**

**Handel's Messiah**

**The Sixteen**

**Harry Christophers**, conductor

George Frideric Handel: *Messiah*

**Thursday 22 – Thursday 29 December**

**Robin Hood**

The popular pantomime returns to Saffron Hall brimming with comedy, dance and spectacular sets.

**Monday 2 January, 4pm**

**A New Year's Celebration**

**BBC Concert Orchestra**

**Emma Johnson**, clarinet

Programme to include:

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart: *Clarinet Concerto K.622*