

# Saffron Hall

**Saffron Hall announces stellar first half of its 2021/22 season,  
September 2021 – January 2022**

**Opera superstar Joyce DiDonato's My Favourite Things  
opens a season that includes:**

**Nicolas Altstaedt, Jamie Barton, Lucy Crowe, Jacqui Dankworth,  
Randall Goosby, Jake Heggie, Paul Lewis, Steven Osborne, Courtney  
Pine, András Schiff & Kathryn Tickell**

**BBC Concert & Symphony Orchestras, Britten Sinfonia, il pomo  
d'oro & London Philharmonic Orchestra**

**Harry Christophers, Mark Elder, Edward Gardner & Dalia Stasevska**

## **English Touring Opera, La Serenissima & The Sixteen**

Saffron Hall today announced the first half of its 2021/22 season with a feast of world-class artists and ensembles encompassing classical, jazz and folk in the award-winning concert hall built in the grounds of a state secondary school.

Angela Dixon, Chief Executive of Saffron Hall, said:

*"The past eighteen months have been challenging for everyone, but it's a testament to Saffron Hall's staff and supporters that we are able to announce such a line-up of great artists and ensembles. We have been open throughout the pandemic, but we are looking forward to welcoming our audiences back to the atmosphere and joy of a full hall."*

Opera singers don't come any starrier than American mezzo **Joyce DiDonato** who opens the season with *My Favourite Things*, a selection of baroque arias accompanied by her regular performing and recording partner, the period instrument ensemble **il pomo d'oro** under the direction of conductor/leader **Zefira Valova** [18 September].

Both of Saffron Hall's Resident Orchestras – the **London Philharmonic Orchestra** and **Britten Sinfonia** return to perform twice this autumn. The LPO and its new Principal Conductor **Edward Gardner** perform Lili Boulanger's *D'un matin de printemps* alongside Sibelius'

Symphony No. 2 and Lutosławski's *Cello Concerto* with **Nicolas Altstaedt** [2 October]. **Sir Mark Elder** then conducts Sir James MacMillan's *Christmas Oratorio* with **Lucy Crowe** and **Roderick Williams** the day after the work's UK premiere [5 December]. **Britten Sinfonia** pair Mozart's *Serenade for 13 Wind Instruments* with Mark Simpson's *Geysir*, a 2013 work written as a direct response to Mozart's music [10 October], before returning to perform Handel's *Messiah* with conductor **David Watkin**, leader **Thomas Gould** and the Choir of Jesus College, Cambridge [18 December].

Other visiting orchestras include **BBC Symphony Orchestra** and conductor **Dalia Stasevska** performing William L Dawson's *Negro Folk Symphony* and Samuel Barber's *Violin Concerto* with **Elena Urioste** [19 November], and the **BBC Concert Orchestra** get 2022 off to a celebratory start with their New Year's concert [2 January].

Three star pianists appear at Saffron Hall: **Sir Andrés Schiff** gives a solo recital [10 November], and **Paul Lewis** and **Steven Osborne** present a four-hands recital of French repertoire following their acclaimed recording [28 November].

Violinist **Randall Goosby** performs a Young Artist Concert with pianist **Jonathan Ware** in a programme exploring music written by Black composers such as Samuel Coleridge-Taylor and Florence Price [3 October]. Young Artist, Guitarist **Michael Butten** presents a programme of British works from the two Elizabethan ages [24 October].

Offering a new insight into the work of Beethoven, cellist **Matthew Barley** and pianists **Ivana Gavrić** and **Tim West** improvise in and around Beethoven's sonatas, revealing a different perspective to one of the world's most well-known composers [24 October].

Vocal music remains central to Saffron Hall's programming and highlights include **Jamie Barton's** recital with composer and pianist **Jake Heggie**, which includes works by Schubert, Florence Price, Brahms and Heggie himself [3 December]. Handel's opera *Amadigi* is fully staged by **English Touring Opera** and **The Old Street Band** [30 & 31 October] and his *Coronation Anthems* are performed by **Harry Christophers** and **The Sixteen** [7 November].

Award-winning period instrument ensemble **La Serenissima** and director **Adrian Chandler** present an all-Vivaldi programme alongside soloists **Claire Booth**, **Renata Pokupić** and **Jess Dandy** [23 October].

Local talent is celebrated with performances by the **Saffron Walden Choral Society** performing Brahms *Ein Deutsches Requiem* [13 November] and the **Saffron Walden Symphony Orchestra** who open their new season with the world premiere of *Der Trommler*, a new work by **Jacob Bride** [27 November].

### **Jazz and Folk**

The unchallenged king of British jazz saxophone, **Courtney Pine**, returns to continue Saffron Hall's jazz programming with a celebration of Afro-Caribbean musical heritage, that includes influences from merengue, ska, mento and calypso, inspired by Pine's 2012 hit album *House of Legends* [26 November].

The jazz orchestra and Big Band sound is set to ring round the Hall as **Jacqui Dankworth & Her Orchestra** present numbers inspired by the music of the stage and silver screen [1 October], while the **Glenn Miller Orchestra** delights with original Miller arrangements from the 1940s [21 November]. The **BBC Big Band** brings 'A Swinging Christmas' conducted by **Barry Forgie** with singer **Emer McParland** [11 December].

Folk musician **Kathryn Tickell** is joined by **The Darkening** for a programme rooted in the tales and melody of Northumberland [16 October].

### **Thoughts & Talks**

Saffron Hall's insightful 'Thoughts & Talks' series continues this season, opening with **Amanda Owen**, shepherdess and bestselling author. Sharing stories from her book *Adventures of the Yorkshire Shepherdess*, audiences will get a unique insight into Owen's life [17 October]. **Michael Portillo** – broadcaster, writer and political commentator – takes to the stage to share anecdotes and unrivalled insights [21 October].

### **Family Christmas Show**

This year Saffron Hall will present their first ever pantomime. Families will be able to enjoy a magical Christmas production of **The Wizard of Oz** with a live band and professional cast [22-29 December].

### **Take Part**

There are plenty of opportunities to get involved this Autumn. Highlights include **The Benedetti Sessions** – with sessions for local primary schools, as well as opportunities for over 200 young string players. **Together in Sound**, offering music therapy for people with dementia and their companions in partnership with Cambridge Institute of Music Therapy Research at Anglia Ruskin University, resumes face to face sessions following 18 months of online activity. Saffron Hall's creative community, **Come Together**, will collaborate with visiting artists and Saffron Walden Museum to unlock local stories through music, movement, words and performance.

**Booking for autumn 2021/22 events opens Monday 23 August at 10:30am. For more information and to book tickets please visit the [Saffron Hall website](#).**

**For further press information, please contact Jennifer Long at Premier  
[Jennifer.long@premiercomms.com](mailto:Jennifer.long@premiercomms.com)**

### **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 35,000 participants and sold over 190,000 tickets, with 21% of audiences traveling 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

#### **Saturday 18 September, 7.30pm**

My Favourite Things

#### **il pomo d'oro**

**Joyce DiDonato**, mezzo-soprano

**Zefira Valova**, conductor/leader

Programme includes:

George Frideric Handel: *Piangerò la sorte mia* from Giulio Cesare

John Dowland: *Come again, sweet love*

Claudio Monteverdi: *Si dolce è il tormento*

#### **Friday 1 October, 7.30pm**

#### **Jacqui Dankworth & Her Orchestra**

Gershwin jazz standards and 1960s film themes including:

Leslie Bricusse: *Pure Imagination*

Michel Legrand: *The Windmills of My Mind*

Donny Hathaway: *Someday We'll All Be Free*

Marvin Hamlisch: *What I Did For Love*

Claude-Michel Schönberg: *On My Own*

#### **Saturday 2 October, 7.30pm**

#### **London Philharmonic Orchestra**

**Edward Gardner**, conductor

**Nicolas Altstaedt**, cello

Lili Boulanger: *D'un matin de printemps*

Witold Lutosławski: *Cello Concerto*

Jean Sibelius: *Symphony No.2*

#### **Sunday 3 October, 3pm**

**Randall Goosby**, violin

**Jonathan Ware**, piano

Programme includes:

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor: *Suite for violin and piano*

Florence Price: *Adoration*

Coleridge-Taylor Perkinson: *Blue/s Forms for Solo Violin*

William Grant Still: *Suite for violin and piano*

#### **Sunday 10 October, 7.30pm**

#### **Britten Sinfonia**

## **Mozart Winds**

Mark Simpson: *Geysir*

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart: *Serenade for 13 Wind Instruments*

**Saturday 16 October, 7.30pm**

**Kathryn Tickell & The Darkening**

**Sunday 17 October, 3pm**

**Amanda Owen:** *The Yorkshire Shepherdess*

**Thursday 21 October, 7.30pm**

**Michael Portillo** – *Life: A Game of Two Halves*

**Saturday 23 October, 7.30pm**

**La Serenissima**

**Adrian Chandler**, director/violin

**Claire Booth**, soprano

**Renata Pokupić**, mezzo-soprano

**Jess Dandy**, contralto

Antonio Vivaldi: *Motet Nulla in mundo pax sincera*. RV 630

Antonio Vivaldi: *Concerto for Viola d'amore in D minor*, RV 394

Antonio Vivaldi: *Concerto for Violin and Organ in D minor*, RV 541

**Sunday 24 October, 11am**

**Michael Butten**, guitar

Programme includes:

John Dowland: *Lachrimae Pavane*

John McLeod: *Fantasy on Themes from Britten's 'Gloriana'*

John Dowland: *Can She Excuse My Wrongs*

Malcolm Arnold: *Fantasy*

**Sunday 24 October, 4pm**

Ludwig: *Composer and Improviser*

**Matthew Barley**, cello

**Ivana Gavrić**, piano

**Tim West**, piano

Improvisations and discussions around Beethoven's cello sonatas

**Saturday 30 October, 7.30pm & Sunday 31 October, 3pm**

**English Touring Opera**

**The Old Street Band**

**James Conway**, director

**Jonathan Peter Kenny**, conductor

George Frideric Handel: *Amadigi*

**Sunday 7 November, 7pm**

**The Sixteen**

**Harry Christopher**

George Frideric Handel: *Arrival of the Queen of Sheba* from Solomon

George Frideric Handel: *My heart is inditing*

George Frideric Handel: *Organ Concerto in F major* Op.4 No.4 (original version), concluding with the 'Hallelujah' chorus

George Frideric Handel: *Zadok the Priest*

George Frideric Handel: *Worthy is the Lamb/Amen* from Messiah

**Wednesday 10 November, 7.30pm**

**Sir András Schiff**, piano

Works by Johann Sebastian Bach, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Ludwig van Beethoven

**Saturday 13 November, 7.30pm**

**Saffron Walden Choral Society**

**Janet Wheeler**, conductor

**Miriam Allan**, soprano

**Felix Kemp**, baritone

**Richard Carr**, piano

**Simon Howat**, piano

**Craig Apps**, timpani

Johannes Brahms: *Ein Deutsches Requiem*

**Friday 19 November, 7.30pm**

**BBC Symphony Orchestra**

**Dalia Stasevska**, conductor

**Elena Urioste**, violin

Programme includes:

Samuel Barber: *Violin Concerto*

William L Dawson: *Negro Folk Symphony*

**Sunday 21 November, 3pm**

**Glenn Miller Orchestra**

Songs including *American Patrol*, *A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square*, *Pennsylvania 6-5000* and *Moonlight Serenade*

**Friday 26 November, 8pm**

House of Legends

**Courtney Pine**, soprano saxophone/ewi

**Dominic Grant**, guitar

**Chris Cobbson**, guitar

**Rio Kai**, double bass  
**Samuel Dubois**, steel pan  
**Robert Fordjour**, drums/dube

**Saturday 27 November, 7.30pm**  
**Saffron Walden Symphony Orchestra**  
**Richard Hull**, conductor  
**Stephen Smithers**, piano  
Jacob Bride: *Der Trommler* (world premiere)  
Sergei Rachmaninov: Piano Concerto No.2  
Philip Glass: Symphony No. 4 "Heroes"

**Sunday 28 November, 3pm**  
**Paul Lewis**, piano  
**Steven Osborne**, piano  
Gabriel Fauré: *Dolly Suite*  
Francis Poulenc: *Sonata for Piano Four Hands*  
Claude Debussy: *Six Épigraphe Antique*  
Claude Debussy: *Petite Suite*  
Igor Stravinsky: *Trois pièces faciles*  
Maurice Ravel: *Ma mère l'Oye*

**Friday 3 December, 7.30pm (tbc)**  
**Jamie Barton**, mezzo-soprano  
**Jake Heggie**, piano  
Programme includes:  
Henry Purcell, arr. Benjamin Britten: *Music for a while*  
Franz Schubert: *An die Musik*  
Florence Price: *Hold Fast to Dreams*  
Johannes Brahms: *Meine Liebe ist Grün*  
Jake Heggie: *Iconic Legacies: First Ladies at the Smithsonian*

**Sunday 5 December, 3pm**  
**London Philharmonic Orchestra**  
**Sir Mark Elder**, conductor  
**Lucy Crowe**, soprano  
**Roderick Williams**, baritone  
Sir James MacMillan: *Christmas Oratorio*

**Saturday 11 December, 7.30pm**  
A Swinging Christmas  
**BBC Big Band**  
**Barry Forgie**, conductor

**Emer McParland**, vocalist

Christmas Carols and popular yuletide songs

**Saturday 18 December, 7.30pm**

**Britten Sinfonia**

**Choir of Jesus College Cambridge**

**David Watkin**, conductor

**Thomas Gould**, leader

**Harriet Eyley**, soprano

**Jess Dandy**, contralto

**Stuart Jackson**, tenor

**James Newby**, baritone

George Frideric Handel: *Messiah*

**Wednesday 22 to Wednesday 29 December**

Family Christmas Show

*The Wizard of Oz*

**Sunday 2 January, 4pm**

New Year's Celebration

**BBC Concert Orchestra**

**Michael Seal**, conductor

**Soraya Mafi**, soprano

**Louis Schwizgebel**, piano

Programme includes:

Camille Saint-Saëns: *Danse Macabre*

Maurice Ravel: *Piano Concerto in G*

Leonard Bernstein: *Glitter & Be Gay* from *Candide*

Johann Strauss II: *The Blue Danube*