

CHELTENHAM MUSIC FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES 2022 PROGRAMME OF CONCERTS AND EVENTS OVER NINE DAYS

London Mozart Players, New English Ballet Theatre, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, Tenebrae and The English Concert

Martin James Bartlett, Brodsky Quartet, Ingrid Fliter, Sheku & Isata Kanneh-Mason, Anoushka Shankar and Samuele Telari among this year's line-up

Cheltenham Music Festival continues to champion new music, living composers and engage with new technology through a dynamic range of commissions, performances and events embracing established creatives and emerging talent

8 – 16 July 2022

Cheltenham Music Festival today [8 March] announces nine days of performances and events by leading international artists, new talent and innovators from 8 – 16 July. After last year's socially distanced festival, 2022 will see audiences back to full capacity for the first time since 2019.

For nearly 80 years Cheltenham Music Festival has championed new music and ways of engaging with audiences through quality performances and innovation. The 2022 Cheltenham Music Festival builds on this heritage with concerts from major and emerging musicians, multiple new commissions and a range of events encompassing everything from talks, Composium, walks and mindfulness sessions – all presented in stunning venues across the Cotswolds.

Michael Duffy, Head of Programming at Cheltenham Music Festival, commented:

"It's fantastic to be able to fully welcome back audiences to Cheltenham following two years of disruption. As a newcomer to the Festival, I'm hugely indebted to Camilla King, my predecessor, for putting this year's programme together. I hope that audiences will find a rich variety of the familiar and the new, from orchestral spectacles in Cheltenham Town Hall to more unusual and intimate offerings, international artists and new talent, two new commissions examining the nature of relationships, dance, walks and talks."

Highlights include:

- Leading international artists including **Martin James Bartlett** [13 July], **Brodsky Quartet** [11 July], **Anoushka Shankar** and **Manu Delago** [9 July], **Anna Dennis** [15 July], **Ingrid Fliter** [10 July], and **Sheku and Isata Kanneh-Mason** [8 July].

- **Look Both Ways** on 16 July sees three composers explore the themes of connection and identity. The concert includes two world premieres: Connor Mitchell's settings of correspondence between Benjamin Britten and Peter Pears, and Claire Victoria Roberts' set of miniature works inspired by the letters between Kurt Weill and Lotte Lenya, alongside Bobbie-Jane Gardner's arrangement of Odetta's iconic 1970's song: *Hit or Miss*.

- Other world premieres include works by Andrew Chen [9 July] and participants in the Composer Academy.

- Laura Bowler's *Distance*, a ground-breaking multimedia chamber work, will be performed at Parabola Arts Centre [10 July]. While soprano **Juliet Fraser** performs live in Cheltenham, the **Talea Ensemble** will be livestreamed from New York.

- **New English Ballet Theatre** celebrates the work of six female choreographers [10 July].
- Continuing the Festival's commitment to supporting young talent the **BBC New Generation Artists** recital series is back with four live lunchtime broadcasts [12, 13, 14 & 15 July]. There are four further early evening 'Rush Hour' recitals on the same days, the second of which will showcase a finalist of **BBC Young Musician of the Year 2022**.
- Also returning are **Classical Mixtape** [11 July], **Composium** [15 July] and **Music and Mindfulness** [9 July].

Bringing The Best Of

Opening this year's festival are the **Kanneh-Mason Duo**, siblings **Sheku** and **Isata**, performing pieces for cello and piano by Britten and composers he knew: Frank Bridge and Dmitri Shostakovich [8 July]. The dynamic programming continues with Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto in the Town Hall by **Sergei Dogadin** and the **Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra**, conducted by **Vasily Petrenko** [8 July]. The following day the **Gould Piano Trio**, praised for their "musical fire", will premiere a piece by Andrew Chen amongst a programme of Fauré, Beethoven and Saint-Saëns [9 July].

Steeped in the Indian tradition, **Anoushka Shankar** is celebrated for her sitar playing and as a cross-genre composer exploring the realms of classical, contemporary, acoustic and electronic music. She performs with **Manu Delago** and the strings of the **Britten Sinfonia** [9 July]. Multiple award-winning pianist **Ingrid Fliter** will perform Haydn, Beethoven, Scarlatti and Schumann in a programme demonstrating her famously effortless technique in 18th- and 19th-century repertoire [10 July], before the **Brodsky Quartet** celebrate their 50th anniversary by tackling 20th century pieces including Japanese composer Karen Tanaka's *At the Grave of Beethoven* [11 July].

Tenebrae's 20th anniversary is celebrated with narrator **Juliet Stevenson** in a wide-ranging programme of music and spoken voice, including Poulenc's *Figure Humaine*, composed in response to the occupation of France in World War II [12 July]. This concert will include new commissions from Josephine Stephenson and Roderick Williams, with spoken interludes framing it as a celebration of love and freedom in the face of adversity.

Performing their namesake composer's 'Jeunehomme' 9th piano concerto with **Martin James Bartlett**, the **London Mozart Players** also perform Pärt and Britten with **Ben Goldscheider** and **Ben Johnson** at Cheltenham Town Hall [13 July].

London of the 1720's is vividly brought to life by **The English Concert** and soprano **Anna Dennis** who examine the fierce rivalry between Handel and Bononcini [15 July].

The 2022 Cheltenham Music Festival concludes with Mahler's monumental Symphony No.8, often referred to as the 'Symphony of a Thousand.' Performed in the majesty of Gloucester Cathedral by the **British Sinfonietta**, **Choristers of Gloucester Cathedral**, multiple choirs and soloists conducted by **Adrian Partington** [16 July].

Championing New Music

As part of its continued advocacy of new music, this year's Cheltenham Music Festival will present *Distance*, a ground-breaking multimedia chamber work by **Laura Bowler** [10 July]. While soprano **Juliet Fraser** performs live in Cheltenham, the **Talea Ensemble** will be livestreamed from New York. The work focuses on the psychological distance from Earth's environment when travelling by plane, as well as the psychological impact of air travel on passengers.

On another end of the spectrum, this year will see the world premieres of **Conor Mitchell's** settings of correspondence between Benjamin Britten and his partner Peter Pears, celebrating the universality of love [16 July]. This concert, 'Look Both Ways', will also premiere Claire Victoria Roberts' set of miniature works inspired by the letters between Kurt Weill and Lotte Lenya.

Unique Experiences

Classical Mixtape [11 July] tears up the concert-going rule-book, with audiences asked to pay whatever they can for their tickets and encouraged to stand, sit or lie down to experience music in the stunning setting of Gloucester Cathedral. Artists including the **Manchester Collective**, the **Choir of Merton College, Oxford**, accordionist **Samuele Telari** and organist **Jonathan Hope** will perform on separate stages dotted around the Cathedral, each short piece followed seamlessly by another. Leaving the concert-hall behind altogether, **In The Footsteps of Ralph Vaughan Williams** offers a guided tour around Down Ampney and the countryside where he grew up [11 July].

Committed to providing a unique festival experience, Cheltenham are offering 'Music and Mindfulness' hosted by **Will Crawford** [9 July]. This session will link meditation and the power of music through breathing exercises, and help to manage stress by using specially composed and recorded pieces. Later in the day guests can enjoy champagne afternoon tea in The Daffodil as they watch contralto **Hilary Summers** and pianist **Andrew West** take a romp through the wild world of opera where absurd plots, gender fluidity and voice categorisation all come under light-hearted scrutiny in 'What's So Great About Opera?' [9 July].

This year's edition of 'Composium' will explore the dynamics of the composer-performer relationship in the wake of two years of disrupted music-making during the pandemic, with first performances of works by the **Composer Academy** participants played by musicians including harpsichordist **Mahan Esfahani** [15 July].

Further adding to the variety on offer at Cheltenham this year, the **New English Ballet Theatre** brings six inspired choreographies by female choreographers [10 July].

Talent Development

Talent development has long been a focus of the Festival, and this year it continues its partnership with the **BBC Radio 3's New Generation Artists** with four lunchtime recitals, all broadcast live on BBC Radio 3. This year's artists include mezzo-soprano **Helen Charlston** [12 July], pianist **Tom Borrow** and **Quatuor Arod** [13 July], violinist **Johan Dalene** [14 July] and pianist **Alexander Gadjiev** [15 July].

Audiences will also get the chance to attend four 'Rush Hour' recitals in St Gregory's Church featuring accordionist **Samuele Telari** [12 July] and cellist **Leo Popplewell** [15 July] as well as a finalist of **BBC Young Musician of the Year 2022** and the winners of the **2022 Gloucestershire Young Musician Competition** and **Keith Nutland Award**, both of which will be announced at a later date.

Reaching out to younger audiences too, school children across Gloucestershire will visit Cheltenham Town Hall during the Festival to participate in **Concert for Schools**, an interactive concert presented by **Musicate** musicians to inspire young people's enthusiasm for classical music. Added to this, the Festival's first ever **Relaxed Concert for Schools** is an adapted performance, devised to welcome children, young people and their teachers from the SEND (Special Educational Need and Disability) sector.

And the **Composer Academy**, part of the festival's Spotlight Talent Development Programme, returns this year from 11 – 15 July. The scheme supports early-career composers (aged 18+), offering them professional advice and mentoring. This year will see six composers work with Composer Academy Director **Daniel Kidane** to workshop, perform and record their works with artists including renowned harpsichordist **Mahan Esfahani**. The composers will also have access to industry professionals in a series of panel talks discussing craft and contemporary aesthetics along with career development. The final day of Composer Academy will run alongside and as part of 'Composium', where all six compositions will be premiered.

Full festival details can be found at www.cheltenhamfestivals.com/music

Members Priority Booking opens on 25 March 2022

General public sale opens on 1 April 2022

Images are available [here](#)

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Notes to Editor

Cheltenham Music Festival

Cheltenham Music Festival is one of the UK's leading classical music festivals, renowned for presenting world-class ensembles and soloists in magnificent venues. The festival is a long-standing champion for British contemporary music and supports new talent and music education. Cheltenham Music Festival started in 1945.

Cheltenham Music Festival is part of Cheltenham Festivals, a charity that co-creates experiences which bring joy, spark curiosity, connect communities and inspire change. Its year-round learning and participation and talent development programmes culminate in four world-class Jazz, Science, Music and Literature Festivals, offering everyone an opportunity to explore and create culture. Over 225,000 visitors a year are inspired by its Literature, Science, Jazz and Music Festivals.

The Festival takes place in the following venues: Cheltenham Town Hall, Pittville Pump Room, Everyman Theatre, The Daffodil, Gloucester Cathedral, Tewkesbury Abbey, St Gregory's Church, Parabola Arts Centre and Cheltenham College Chapel.

#cheltmusicfest @cheltfestivals www.cheltenhamfestivals.com/music



Cheltenham Festivals is an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation

Cheltenham Festivals is a PRS Foundation Talent Development Partner and has signed up to the Keychange programme which aims for a 50:50 gender balance across the Festival line-up.

Major Partners: Cheltenham BID, Cheltenham Music Festival Society, Make Music Gloucestershire, Thirty Percy

Festival Partners: The Big Give, Oldham Foundation, Reed Foundation, William A Cadbury Charitable Trust

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Programme of events

8 July | Pitville Pump Room | 11:15-12:30

Kanneh-Mason Duo

Sheku Kanneh-Mason *cello*

Isata Kanneh-Mason *piano*

Benjamin Britten: *Cello Sonata, Op. 65*

Frank Bridge: *Spring Song, H. 104, No. 2*

Frank Bridge: *Melodie for Cello and Piano in C-Sharp minor, H. 99*

Frank Bridge: *Scherzo, H. 19a*

Dmitri Shostakovich: *Sonata in D minor for Cello and Piano, Op. 40*

8 July | Cheltenham College Chapel | 17:30-18:15

Festival Evensong

Cheltenham College Chapel Choir

David McKee *director*

Introit: Ralph Vaughan Williams *O Taste and See*

Responses: Bernard Rose

Psalm: 8th Evening

Canticles: Herbert Howells *Gloucester Service*

Anthem: Ralph Vaughan Williams *Lord Thou Hast Been Our Refuge*

Te Deum: Ralph Vaughan Williams *Morning Service in G*

8 July | Cheltenham Town Hall | 19:30-21:30

Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra

Vasily Petrenko *conductor*

Sergei Dogadin *violin*

Anatoly Lyadov: *Baba-Yaga, Op. 56*

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky: *Violin Concerto in D major, Op. 35*

Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov: *Scheherazade, Op. 35*

9 July | Cheltenham Town Hall, Drawing Room | 09:00-10:30

Music and Mindfulness

Session run by Will Crawford

9 July | Pittville Pump Room | 11:15-12:30

Gould Piano Trio

Gabriel Fauré: *Piano Trio in D minor, Op. 120*

Andrew Chen: *New work (world premiere)*

Ludwig van Beethoven: *Variations in G major, Op. 121a 'Kakadu'*

Camille Saint-Saëns: *Piano Trio No. 2 in E minor, Op. 92*

9 July | The Daffodil | 14:00-16:00

What's So Great About Opera?

Hilary Summers *contralto*

Andrew West *piano*

Programme to include:

An introduction to Baroque Opera

I'm a Puccini Heroine addict

Thoroughly Modern Hilly

Dido's Lament (Purcell), Carmen's Seguidilla (Bizet), and culminating in the acclaimed Summers/West Productions' – The Essential Magic Flute a one woman, 25 minute reduction of Mozart's masterpiece.

9 July | Cheltenham Town Hall | 19:30-21:30

Anoushka Shankar and Manu Delago in Concert

Anoushka Shankar *sitar*

Manu Delago *hang & percussion*

The Strings of the Britten Sinfonia

10 July | Pittville Pump Room | 11:15-12:30

Ingrid Filter *piano*

Joseph Haydn: *Piano Sonata in E minor, Hob. XVI:34*

Ludwig van Beethoven: *Piano Sonata No. 18 in Eb major, "The Hunt", Op. 31, No. 3*

Domenico Scarlatti: *Keyboard Sonata in C-sharp minor, K. 247*

Robert Schumann: *Symphonic Etudes, Op. 13*

10 July | Parabola Arts Centre | 17:30-18:30

Distance

Juliet Fraser *soprano*

Talea Ensemble

Laura Bowler: *Distance*

10 July | Everyman Theatre | 19:30-21:00

New English Ballet Theatre

Domino Choreography by Ruth Brill, music Ryuichi Sakamoto

Nocturne Choreography by Daniela Cardim, music Frédéric Chopin Nocturne No. 13 in C minor, Op. 48 No. 1

Rosamunde Choreography by Morgann Runacre-Temple, music Franz Schubert & Tom Lane

New Work Choreography by Georgie Rose, music Kate Amrine, Ezio Bosso

I Can't Dance Choreography by Kristen McNally, music Genesis

'Summer' and 'Winter' from The Four Seasons Choreography by Jenna Lee, music Antonio Vivaldi recomposed by Max Richter The Four Seasons

11 July | Pittville Pump Room | 11:15-12:30

Brodsky Quartet

Karen Tanaka: *At the Grave of Beethoven*

Benjamin Britten: *String Quartet No. 3, Op. 94*

Dmitri Shostakovich: *String Quartet No. 9, Op. 117*

11 July | Walking tour around Down Ampney | 15:00-17:00

In the footsteps of Ralph Vaughan Williams

11 July | Gloucester Cathedral | 20:00-22:00

Classical Mixtape featuring:

Manchester Collective

Choir of Merton College, Oxford

Benjamin Nicholas *director*

Samuele Telari *accordion*

Jonathan Hope *organ*

12 July | Pittville Pump Room | 13:00-14:00

BBC New Generation Artists I

Helen Charlston *mezzo-soprano*

Kunal Lahiry *piano*

Works by Benjamin Britten, Madeleine Dring, Gustav Mahler, Olivier Messiaen, Henry Purcell and Judith Weir

12 July | St Gregory's Church | 17:00-18:00

Rush Hour Recital 1

Samuele Telari *accordion*

César Franck: *Chorale No. 2 in B minor*

Bruno Mantovani: *8'20" chrono*

Franz Schubert: *'Andante con moto' from String Quartet, D. 810 "Death and the Maiden"*

Sofia Gubaidulina: *De Profundis*

Camille Saint-Saëns (transcribed by Yuri Shishkin): *Danse Macabre, Op. 40*

12 July | Tewkesbury Abbey | 19:30-21:30

Humanity and Liberty: Tenebrae at 20

Tenebrae Choir

Nigel Short *director*

Juliet Stevenson *speaker*

Roderick Williams: *Lucis Creator Optime*

Philip Moore: *Three Prayers of Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

Josephine Stephenson: *Into the Wreck*

Rudolf Mauersberger: *Wie liegt die Stadt so wust*

Roderick Williams: *Lucis Creator Optime Postlude*

Francis Poulenc: *Figure Humaine*

13 July | Pittville Pump Room | 13:00 – 14:00

BBC New Generation Artists II

Tom Borrow *piano*

Quatuor Arod

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart: *Divertimento in F major KV138*

Antonín Dvořák: *Quintet No. 2 in A major, op 81*

13 July | St Gregory's Church | 17:00-18:00

Rush Hour Recital 2

Finalist from BBC Young Musician 2022 TBA

13 July | Cheltenham Town Hall | 17:00-18:00

London Mozart Players

Martin James Bartlett *piano*

Ben Goldscheider *French horn*

Ben Johnson *tenor*

Arvo Pärt: *Cantus in Memoriam Benjamin Britten*

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart: *Piano Concerto No. 9 in E flat major*

Benjamin Britten: *Young Apollo, Op. 16*

Benjamin Britten: *Serenade for Tenor, Horn and Strings, Op. 31*

14 July | Pittville Pump Room | 13:00-14:00

BBC New Generation Artist III

Johan Dalene *violin*

Charles Owen *piano*

Francis Poulenc: *Violin Sonata*

Lili Boulanger: *D'un Matin de Printemps*

Edvard Grieg: *Violin Sonata No. 3 in C minor, Op. 45*

14 July | St Gregory's Church | 17:00-18:00

Rush Hour Recital 3

Winners of 2022 Gloucestershire Young Musician Competition and the Keith Nutland Award

14 July | Pittville Pump Room | 19:30-21:00

Mahan Esfahani *harpsichord*

J.S.Bach *The Art of Fugue, BWV 1080*

15 July | Parabola Arts Centre | 10:30-17:00

Composium

Facilitated by Katy Hamilton

15 July | Pittville Pump Room | 13:00-14:00

BBC New Generation Artists IV

Alexander Gadjiev *piano*

Claude Debussy: *Études Pour les arpèges composés e pour les octaves*

Claude Debussy: *Two Préludes "Terrasse de audience de clair de lune" and "Voiles"*

Alexander Scriabin: *Five Preludes, op. 16*

Alexander Scriabin: *Vers la flamme*

Igor Stravinsky: *Three movements from Petrushka*

15 July | St Gregory's Church | 17:00-18:00

Rush Hour Recital 4

Leo Popplewell *cello*

Trad. arr. Sally Beamish: *El Cant dels Ocells*

Johann Sebastian Bach: *Cello Suite No. 5 in C minor, BWV 1011*

Benjamin Britten: *Cello Suite No. 1, Op. 72*

15 July | Cheltenham Town Hall | 19:30-21:30

The English Concert

Tom Foster *director*

Anna Dennis *soprano*

George Frideric Handel: *Concerto in A minor op. 6 no. 4 HWV 322*

Giovanni Bononcini: *Sinfonia in F major Op. 3 no. 1*

Giovanni Bononcini: *Cantata Ecco Dorinda il giorno*

George Frideric Handel: *Sonata à5 HWV 288*

George Frideric Handel: *Cantata Crudel tiranno Amor HWV 97*
Giovanni Bononcini: *Concerto in Bb major op. no. 7 HWV 325*
Plus a selection of operatic arias by Bononcini and Handel

16 July | Pittville Pump Room | 11:15-12:30

Lucy Crowe *soprano*

Anna Tilbrook *piano*

Programme to include music by:

Clara Schumann

Robert Schumann

Fanny Mendelssohn

Felix Mendelssohn

Alban Berg *Seven Early Songs*

William Walton *A Song for the Lord Mayor's Table*

16 July | Pittville Pump Room | 17:00-18:00

Look Both Ways

Wild Plum Arts

Musicians from Psappha

Vocalists to be announced

Conor Mitchell: *Look Both Ways (world premiere)*

Claire Victoria Roberts: *Miniatures for Piano Trio*

Odetta (arranged by Bobbie-Jane Gardner): *Hit or Miss*

16 July | Gloucester Cathedral Lady Chapel | 18:30-19:15

Pre-concert Talk

16 July | Gloucester Cathedral | 19:30-21:00

Mahler: Symphony of a Thousand

Gweneth Ann Rand *soprano*

Katherine Broderick *soprano*

Robyn Allegra Parton *soprano*

Claire Barnett-Jones *mezzo-soprano*

Hilary Summers *contralto*

Thomas Elwin *tenor*

Benedict Nelson *baritone*

James Platt *bass*

British Sinfonietta

South Cotswold Big Sing Group

Choristers of Gloucester Cathedral

Adrian Partington *conductor*

Gustav Mahler: *Symphony No. 8*