

Saffron Hall

**Saffron Hall announces striking Spring season,
7 January – 8 May 2022**

Dazzling concert schedule includes:

**Pierre-Laurent Aimard, Nicola Benedetti, Ian Bostridge, Miloš Karadaglić, Nitin Sawhney,
Abel Selaocoe & Mitsuko Uchida**

**Britten Sinfonia, English Baroque Soloists, Les Arts Florissants, London Philharmonic
Orchestra, Manchester Collective, Nash Ensemble &
National Youth Jazz Orchestra**

William Christie, John Eliot Gardiner, Vladimir Jurowski & James MacMillan

Saffron Hall today announced its Spring 2022 season with a spectacular line-up of world-class artists and ensembles performing classical, jazz, world and dance, in the critically acclaimed venue that continues to provide vibrant, world-class cultural experiences for audiences across the region. Concerts from mid-May to August will be announced in the new year.

Angela Dixon, Chief Executive of Saffron Hall, said:

“We are delighted to welcome back so many wonderful artists to fully open houses, whilst also introducing so many new artists to the Saffron Hall programme of concerts and school & community work. Engagement with the arts is essential for the well-being of our communities as we come out of the pandemic and it also supports the local economy.”

Extraordinary debuts from two of the world’s most celebrated period-instrument ensembles are among the major highlights of the Spring season. **John Eliot Gardiner** and his flagship ensemble, the **English Baroque Soloists**, make their Saffron Hall debut with a rich programme of music by Haydn and Mozart: **Kati Debretzeni** leads the ensemble in Haydn’s *Symphony No. 103 “Drumroll”* and Mozart’s *Symphony No. 39* and takes the solo violin part in the latter’s famous *Sinfonia concertante* with **Fanny Paccoud** as viola soloist [30 April]. **Les Arts Florissants** and its founder/director **William Christie** give a rare performance of Handel’s *L’Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato*, a musical ode based on the poetry of John Milton, in their first ever concert at the Hall [13 March].

Saffron Hall’s Resident Orchestras – the **London Philharmonic** and **Britten Sinfonia** – deepen their partnership with four glittering concerts between them. The **LPO** is conducted by **Vladimir Jurowski** in Beethoven’s *Prometheus Overture* and Bruckner’s *Symphony No. 6*, joined by **Mitsuko Uchida** for Beethoven’s *Concerto No. 4* [10 April]. **Britten Sinfonia** celebrate the 150th anniversary of Vaughan Williams’ birth with a concert featuring his *Lark Ascending* and *Concerto for Oboe and Strings*, directed by **Thomas Gould** with the oboist **Nicholas Daniel** [11 February]. It returns, conducted by

James MacMillan with **Ian Bostridge**, for a programme including Bartók and **MacMillan's** own compositions [16 March], and then again for an all-Russian concert directed by **Gould** with pianist **Mishka Rushdie Momen** and trumpeter **Matilda Lloyd** [24 April].

Demonstrating the depth of the schedule at Saffron Hall and the breadth of its audiences, a number of outstanding boundary-crossing artists and ensembles make their debut this spring. The sensational cellist **Abel Selaocoe** joins forces with **The Manchester Collective** for a joyful mix of music from Mali, South Africa and the Ivory Coast alongside much-loved classical favourites [1 April], while multi-award winning cross-genre cellist and vocalist **Ayanna Witter-Johnson** showcases her stylistic range [7 January]. Cultural pioneer **Nitin Sawhney** brings music from his new album *Immigrants*, together with pieces from his vast back catalogue [25 February].

Among the outstanding recitals are Hall debuts for pianist **Pierre-Laurent Aimard**, who performs Bach's magisterial *Well-Tempered Clavier, Book 2* [20 March], and guitarist **Miloš** with a programme ranging from Albéniz and JS Bach to Villa-Lobos [20 February].

Modern classical musicians rarely achieve the influence of **Nicola Benedetti** by the age of 34, and she returns to lead the **Benedetti Elschenbroich Grynyuk Trio** in performances of Schumann, Rihm and Brahms [26 February].

The **Nash Ensemble** makes a welcome first visit to the Essex venue with a programme including Haydn and Schubert [26 March].

Just months after his triumph at the Leeds International Piano Competition, **Alim Beisembayev** comes to the Hall for the first time for a recital of music by Ligeti, Ravel and Chopin [3 April], in one of a series of Sunday afternoon Young Artist Concerts, which also includes a Hall debut for the accordionist **Samuele Telari** in a concert of Schubert and Saint-Saëns, amongst others [9 January].

And – with Saffron Hall at the heart of its musical community – local ensembles also have the chance to shine. The **Saffron Walden Symphony Orchestra** presents an evening of film music [5 February] before closing the season with Rachmaninov and Tchaikovsky [8 May], the **Saffron Opera Group** perform Mozart's comedy *Così fan tutte* [13 February] and the **Saffron Walden Choral Society** present a programme including Fauré's *Requiem* [19 March]. And Elgar's grand choral work, *The Dream of Gerontius*, is performed by **Barnet & Bishop's Stortford Choral Societies** [9 April].

Jazz, world and more

The **National Youth Jazz Orchestra** perform a powerful tribute to an especially famous alumna, Amy Winehouse, in a concert that promises to be both poignant and thrilling [14 January]. Ahead of their concert, the Jazz Orchestra will be working with secondary school pupils in Saffron Walden, inspiring them towards a musical future, demonstrating how visiting artists can bring enriching work beyond the concert setting.

Kodō debut at Saffron Hall this season [18 February], bringing their primal power as part of their 40th-anniversary season. Gershwin gets a reimagining, with **Ronnie Scott's** presenting *Rhapsody in Blue*, a *Porgy and Bess* medley and the overture to *An American in Paris* [12 March].

Also appearing for the first time is the brass ensemble, the **Black Dyke Band**, famous for their broad appeal across classical, jazz and film music [19 February].

Dance

The two dance events at Saffron Hall this spring have infectious kinetic energy. The **Alexander Whitley Dance Company** will perform *Overflow* to a new score by Rival Consoles [5 March]. Known

for his innovative use of technology, choreographer Alexander Whitley's performance will feature a light sculpture by Children of the Light. And **Far From the Norm** will present a hip-hop dance, *BLKDOG*, choreographed by **Botis Seva**, exploring what it means to be young in today's rapidly changing world [7 May].

Talk

A regular on BBC Radio 4's *Gardener's Question Time*, **Bob Flowerdew** will give a talk on efficient gardening, teaching how to ensure maximum produce with minimal effort [1 May].

Foyer Club

Saffron Hall continues its programme of informal club nights with table seating, bar and street food in the foyer. From the folk band **Camus** [21 January] to the jazz ensemble **Gabriel Latchin Trio** [13 May], these events offer an alternative musical experience to the traditional concert hall.

Education

Saffron Hall is also setting new standards in musical and educational work for its local communities. It is delivering a series of primary school workshops, building on the programme Saffron Sounds Earworms, and continues to develop online learning resources that stimulate music-making and creativity in schools.

The Hall also continues its pioneering initiative Together in Sound, which uses music therapy to improve the lives of those living with dementia and their companions. In partnership with the Cambridge Institute for Music Therapy Research at Anglia Ruskin University, the programme focuses on group music-making, supporting communication and relationships, and will soon be expanding further afield.

The Come Together project continues this spring too, bridging generations from across Uttlesford and enabling them to connect using music, words, movement and theatre.

For more information and to book tickets please visit the [Saffron Hall website](#).

**For further press information, please contact Edward Christian-Hare at Premier
Edward.christian-hare@premiercomms.com | +44(0) 7870 859633**

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 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

Friday 7 January, 8pm

Ayanna Witter-Johnson, cello and vocals

Sunday 9 January, 3pm

Young Artist Concert

Samuele Telari, accordion

César Franck: Choral No. 2 in B minor

Bruno Mantovani: *8'20" chrono*

Franz Schubert: '*Andante con moto*' from *Quartet No. 14 D.810 "Death and the Maiden"*

Sofia Gubaidulina: *De Profundis*

Camille Saint-Saëns: *Danse Macabre*

Friday 14 January, 7.30pm

National Youth Jazz Orchestra celebrate Amy Winehouse

Saturday 5 February, 7.30pm

Saffron Walden Symphony Orchestra

Richard Hull, conductor

Programme to include a selection of film music

Friday 11 February, 7.30pm

Vaughan Williams 150th Anniversary Concert

Britten Sinfonia

Thomas Gould, director/violin

Nicholas Daniel, oboe

Grace Williams: *Sea Sketches*

Jean Sibelius: *Scene with Cranes*

Ralph Vaughan Williams: *Concerto for Oboe and Strings*

Ralph Vaughan Williams: *The Lark Ascending*

Frank Bridge: *There is a Willow Grows Aslant a Brook*

Gustav Holst: *St Paul's Suite*

Sunday 13 February, 3pm

Così fan tutte

Saffron Opera Group

Michael Thorne, conductor

Jessica Cale, Fiordiligi

Rebecca Afonwy-Jones, Dorabella

Marcus Farnsworth, Guglielmo

Frederick Jones, Ferrando

Fflur Wyn, Despina

Richard Burkhard, Don Alfonso

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart: *Così fan tutte*

Friday 18 February, 7.30pm

Kodō

Saturday 19 February, 7.30pm

Black Dyke Band

Sunday 20 February, 3pm

Miloš

Miloš Karadaglić, guitar

Programme includes:

Fernando Sor: *Variations on a Theme by Mozart, Op. 9*

Johann Sebastian Bach: *Chaconne*

Isaac Albéniz: Excerpts from *Suite española, Op. 47*

Heitor Villa-Lobos: *Five Preludes*

Saturday 25 February, 8pm

Nitin Sawhney

Saturday 26 February, 7.30pm

Benedetti Elschenbroich Grynyuk Trio

Nicola Benedetti, violin

Leonard Elschenbroich, cello

Alexei Grynyuk, piano

Robert Schumann: *Trio No. 1, Op. 63*

Wolfgang Rihm: *Fremde Szene III*

Johannes Brahms: *Trio No. 1, Op. 8*

Saturday 5 March, 7.30pm

Overflow

Alexander Whitley Dance Company

Saturday 12 March, 7.30pm

Rhapsody in Blue: A Jazz Portrait of George Gershwin

Ronnie Scott's

Sunday 13 March, 7pm

Les Arts Florissants

William Christie, musical director

Rachel Redmond, soprano

Rory Carver, tenor

Sreten Manojlović, bass-baritone

George Frideric Handel: *L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato*

Wednesday 16 March, 7.30pm

Britten Sinfonia with Ian Bostridge

James MacMillan*, conductor

Jacqueline Shave, director/violin

Ian Bostridge, tenor

Béla Bartók: *Romanian Dances*

James MacMillan: *Í (A Meditation on Iona)*

Benjamin Britten: *Selection of Folk Songs*

Percy Grainger: *Molly on the Shore; Irish Tune from County Derry*

Béla Bartók arr. Jacqueline Shave: *Burlesque from String Quartet No. 6*

Trad. Danish: *Sønderho Bridal Trilogy*

Sir James MacMillan*: *Three Scottish Songs* (world premiere of arrangement)

Saturday 19 March, 7.30pm

Fauré Requiem

Saffron Walden Choral Society

Chameleon Arts Orchestra

Janet Wheeler, conductor

Grace Davidson, soprano

Edmund Saddington, baritone

Gabriel Fauré: *Requiem*

Ralph Vaughan Williams: *Fantasia on Greensleeves*

Janet Wheeler: *The Measure of a Tree* (world premiere)

Sunday 20 March, 3pm

Pierre-Laurent Aimard, piano

Johann Sebastian Bach: *The Well-Tempered Clavier, Book 2*

Saturday 26 March, 7.30pm

The Nash Ensemble

Joseph Haydn: *Piano Trio in G, Hob: XV/25*

Gabriel Fauré: *Piano Quartet in G Minor Op. 45*

Franz Schubert: *Piano Quintet in A, D. 667 "The Trout"*

Friday 1 April, 8pm

The Oracle

Manchester Collective

Abel Selaocoe, cello

Programme includes:

Abel Selaocoe: *New Work*

Traditional: Music from South Africa, Mali and the Ivory Coast

Sunday 3 April, 3pm

Young Artist Concert

Alim Beisembayev, piano

Muzio Clementi: *Sonata in F sharp minor Op. 25 No. 5*

György Ligeti: *Étude No. 2 "Cordes à vide", Étude No. 10 "Der Zauberlehrling", Étude No. 13 "L'Escalier du diable"*

Maurice Ravel: *"Oiseaux Tristes" and "Une Barque sur l'océan" from Miroirs*

Frédéric Chopin: *Barcarolle, Op. 60*

Igor Stravinsky arr. Guido Agosti: *Three movements from The Firebird*

Saturday 9 April, 7.30pm

The Dream of Gerontius

Barnet & Bishop's Stortford Choral Societies

Forest Philharmonic

Richard Brain, conductor

Daniel Norman, tenor

Madeleine Shaw, mezzo-soprano

Edward Grint, bass

Edward Elgar: *The Dream of Gerontius*

Sunday 10 April, 7pm

London Philharmonic Orchestra with Mitsuko Uchida

Vladimir Jurowski, conductor

Mitsuko Uchida, piano

Ludwig van Beethoven: *Prometheus Overture*

Ludwig van Beethoven: *Piano Concerto No. 4*

Anton Bruckner: *Symphony No. 6*

Sunday 24 April, 4pm

Russian Spring

Britten Sinfonia

Thomas Gould, director/violin

Mishka Rushdie Momen, piano

Matilda Lloyd, trumpet

Alissa Firsova: *New Work for Trumpet and Strings*

Dmitri Shostakovich: *Concerto for Piano, Trumpet & Strings*

Sergei Prokofiev arr. Rudolf Barshai: *Visions fugitives* (alternating with solo piano originals)

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky: *Serenade for Strings*

Saturday 30 April, 7.30pm

English Baroque Soloists & John Eliot Gardiner

John Eliot Gardiner, conductor

Kati Debretzeni, leader/violin

Fanny Paccoud, viola

Joseph Haydn: *Symphony No. 103 in E-flat major "Drumroll"*

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart: *Sinfonia concertante, K. 364*

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart: *Symphony No. 39 in E-flat major, K. 543*

Sunday 1 May, 3pm

No Work Gardening

Bob Flowerdew

Saturday 7 May, 7.30pm

Botis Seva's BLKDOG

Far From the Norm

Sunday 8 May, 3pm

Saffron Walden Symphony Orchestra

Richard Hull, conductor

Jérôme Sadler, piano

Lewis Edmunds: *New Work*

Sergei Rachmaninov: *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini*

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky: *Symphony No. 2 "Little Russian"*