

Welcome to the 2024-25 Shropshire Music Trust season

The 2024-25 Shropshire Music Trust season features a variety of distinguished artists and ensembles.

We are delighted to welcome back Ex Cathedra for their Christmas and 'Summer Music by Candlelight' concerts. Hailed as 'one of Britain's very best choirs' (*NY Times*), Ex Cathedra leads the choral sector in the fields of performance, learning and wellbeing.

We are also thrilled to see the return of the Dante String Quartet, led by acclaimed violinist (and Shrewsbury resident) Zoë Beyers.

And we are excited to welcome back the Carducci Quartet, performing with the charismatic clarinetist Julian Bliss.

The International Piano Recital series continues to attract top performers. This season, we are delighted to host the winner of the 2021 Leeds Piano Competition (and BBC New Generation Artist) Alim Beisembayev. Later on, world-famous Georgian pianist Mariam Batsashvili performs for the first time in Shropshire. Mariam won First Prize in the 10th Franz Liszt Competition in 2014.

'Archangel – A Foray into Gabriel Fauré', a centenary tribute to the composer, will include narration by Jessica Duchon, performing alongside violinist Fenella Humphries and pianist Viv Maclean. We are also excited to present a celebrity song recital by German baritone Benjamin Appl and pianist James Baillieu.

Jazz fans will be pleased to welcome Hejira, fronted by Hattie Whitehead, to celebrate the music of Joni Mitchell. Also on the programme is the Julian Bliss Septet, widely known for their inspiring jazz-fuelled shows.

Finally, SMT is actively supporting music outside of Shrewsbury this year, including a performance in Market Drayton by the Royal Harpist, Alis Huws, as well as concerts detailed below.

SMT welcomes Duo Arpeggi to Shropshire

Duo Arpeggi consists of Nathalie Mengual (classical guitarist) and François Ragot (cellist), both from the Pyrénées-Orientales (basically French-Catalan territory), whose music is replete with Spanish influences. François is a cellist, teacher and conductor who also runs music series and festivals in the region. The duo have released two albums, 'Arpeggiata', and, more recently, 'Piccola Romanza'. In Shropshire their programmes will feature largely Latin American and Spanish repertoire, much of it specially arranged for the duo.

Please visit our website, www.shropshiremusictrust.co.uk, for venue and programme details as well as booking information.

How to book

Tickets are available from **TicketSource**, either online or by phone.



Online:

Visit www.ticketsource.co.uk/smt and you will be sent directly to the website, which has a list of SMT events and ticket prices.

Tickets can be sent by email for you to print out or directly to your smartphone. Tickets can be posted, but they must be ordered at least three working days in advance of the performance.

By Phone:

Call 0333 666 3366 for the TicketSource box office. Open 9am to 5pm Monday to Saturday. Closed on Sundays, but there is a callback facility. Again, please allow three working days for postal delivery.

On the Door:

There will be tickets for sale on the door if they are available. Payment by cash or card.

Discounts – A discount of 10% will be given by TicketSource for bookings for five to eight events made at the same time. A discount of 15% will be given for bookings of nine concerts or more. Children and students receive half-price tickets. Groups of 10 or more are eligible for a 10% discount.

Support us

Concerts featuring classical music rarely cover their costs – we receive no public funding and we rely on support from you to be able to continue. Please help us by becoming a Patron or Friend of SMT! There are full details of how to do this on our website, which we keep updated with detailed information about our activities, photographs of the artists and news of any changes to our programmes.

Join our email list to be kept in regular touch with our news – you can do this by following the mailing list link on our website:

www.shropshiremusictrust.co.uk



Shropshire Music Trust is a registered charity in England and Wales (no 515026).



Programme 2024-25

Friday, 20 September 2024 The Dante Quartet

Known for its imaginative programming, the Dante Quartet has received international awards for its many recordings and impassioned performances. Formed in 1995, it is led by Shrewsbury violinist Zoë Beyers. Also featuring: Ian Watson – Violin; Carole Ella – Viola; Richard Jenkinson – Cello.

Programme: J. Haydn: String Quartet Op. 76 No. 2 'Fifths'

L. Janáček: String Quartet No. 1 'Kreutzer Sonata'

Judith Weir: String Quartet (1990)

W. Walton: String Quartet No. 2 in A minor

Venue: St Alkmund's Church, Shrewsbury, at 7.30pm

Tickets: £18/£9

Sunday, 20 October 2024 International Piano Recital – Alim Beisembayev

Programme: J. Haydn: Variations in F minor Hob.XVII:6

Beethoven: Sonata No.7 in D major, Op.10 No.3

J. Haydn: Sonata in E Flat major Hob.XVI:52

R. Schumann: *Kinderszenen* Op.15, 'Scenes from Childhood'

Brahms: Paganini Variations, Op. 35, Book 1

Venue: The Maidment Building, Shrewsbury School, at 3pm

Tickets: £18/£9

Friday, 15 November 2024 Archangel – A Foray into Gabriel Fauré Fauré Centenary Programme

Jessica Duchén – Narrator & author

Fenella Humphries – violin; Viv Maclean – Piano

This recital marks the centenary of Fauré's death with a breathtaking musical love story. Drawing on Fauré's letters to his fiancée, Marianne Viardot, and on Turgenev's novella *The Song of Triumphant Love*, it has rarely been told before. Words and music in alternation build the narrative together, while the concert spotlights Fenella in some of the most thrilling French virtuoso violin works of the *fin-de-siècle* era.

Programme: Pauline Viardot: *6 Morceaux* – No.1 'Romance'

Camille Saint-Saëns: *Danse macabre*

Gabriel Fauré: Violin Sonata in A major, Op. 13

Gabriel Fauré: *Après un rêve*

Ernest Chausson: *Poème*

Maurice Ravel: *Berceuse sur le nom de Gabriel Fauré*

Maurice Ravel: *Tzigane*

Venue: St Chad's Church, Shrewsbury, at 7.30pm

Tickets: £18/£9

Friday, 6 December 2024

Ex Cathedra – Christmas Music by Candlelight

We're delighted to welcome back the world-class vocal ensemble Ex Cathedra with their very popular 'Christmas Music by Candlelight' concert, which has been at the heart of the choir's year for almost 40 years. Enjoy an evocative mix of Christmas repertoire in the beautiful setting of St Chad's Church under the baton of director and founder Jeffrey Skidmore.

Venue: St Chad's Church, Shrewsbury, at 7pm

Tickets: £25/£12.50 ground floor, £22/£11 gallery

Sunday, 19 January 2025

International Piano Recital – Mariam Batsashvili

The Georgian maestro **Mariam Batsashvili** has become world famous since winning First Prize in the 10th Franz Liszt Competition in 2014. She has played in over 30 countries around the world. We are privileged to welcome her to Shropshire for the first time.

Programme: Haydn: Sonata in D major Hob. 37

Beethoven: *Rondo a capriccio*, Op. 129. 'Rage Over a Lost Penny'

Brahms: Six Pieces for Piano, Op. 118

Schubert: Impromptu Op. 142 Nos. 2 and 4

Liszt: Hungarian Rhapsody Nos. 12 and 13

Venue: St Chad's Church, Shrewsbury, at 2.30pm

Tickets: £18/£9

Sunday, 23 February 2025

The Dante Quartet

Zoë Beyers and Ian Watson – Violin;

Carole Ella – Viola; Richard Jenkinson – Cello

Programme: Britten, Three Divertimenti for String Quartet (1936)

Shostakovich, String Quartet No. 8, Op. 110

Elizabeth Maconchy, String Quartet No. 13 'Quartetto Corto' (1984)

Brahms, String Quartet No. 1 in C minor, Op. 51 No. 1

Venue: The Maidment Auditorium, Shrewsbury School, at 3pm

Tickets: £18/£9

Friday, 7 March 2025

Homage to Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau

Celebrity Song Recital with Benjamin Appl and James Baillieu

Benjamin Appl is a German-British lyric baritone, a classical singer who has appeared worldwide in opera houses and concert halls, particularly known as a *Lieder* singer. Benjamin is a former BBC Radio 3 New Generation artist and Gramophone Young Artist of the Year. He collaborates with the leading song and chamber music pianist James Baillieu, Senior Professor of Ensemble Piano at the Royal Academy of Music.

Programme: Songs by Schubert, Richard Strauss, Brahms, Mozart, J.S. Bach and others

Venue: St Chad's Church, Shrewsbury, at 7.30pm

Tickets: £22/£11

Sunday, 23 March 2025

Alis Huws – Official Royal Harpist

Alis performed at King Charles' coronation in Westminster Abbey and has toured Europe, the USA, the Near East and the Far East. She has broadcast on BBC Radio and all major UK television channels, and she is on this year's Classic FM list of 30 under-30 Rising Stars.

Programme: Alis will play Debussy, Britten and Bach, alongside works by contemporary composers.

Venue: Festival Drayton Centre, Market Drayton, at 3pm

Tickets: £15/£12.50/Under 21s £1

Tickets available at festivaldraytoncentre.com. Shropshire Music Trust is pleased to support this concert in the Festival Drayton Centre classical music series.

Friday, 4 April 2025

Carducci Quartet with Julian Bliss and guests

Programme: Mozart: Clarinet Quintet in A major, K 581

Schubert: Octet in F major, D. 803

Venue: St Alkmund's Church, Shrewsbury, at 7.30pm

Tickets: £20/£10

Friday, 25 April 2025

Hejira – Celebrating the music of Joni Mitchell

Joni Mitchell's seventh album, *Hejira*, was released in 1976 and signalled a change in style. Hejira is a British jazz band that celebrates this jazz period of Joni's career. The group was created by Pete Oxley of The Spin jazz club in Oxford for a one-off Joni Mitchell Christmas special concert in 2022, and has since carried on touring and performing.

Venue: Barnes Theatre, Shrewsbury School, at 7.30pm

Tickets: £20/£10

Friday, 9 May 2025

Julian Bliss Septet

Formed in 2010, the Julian Bliss Septet quickly became widely known for their trademark inspiring jazz-fuelled shows which have captivated audiences across the globe. Their dazzling virtuosity, extraordinary musicianship and charming humour shine through their programmes of swing, Latin American and jazz music.

Programme: Music by Gershwin and Benny Goodman and from the great American musicals

Venue: Blackburn Theatre, Prestfelde School, Shrewsbury, at 7.30pm

Tickets: £20/£10

Friday, 6 June 2025

Ex Cathedra – Summer Music by Candlelight

As daylight fades and candles glow in the twilight, we invite you to unwind and enjoy an evening of enchanting music and readings. Expect choral classics, a sprinkle of surprises, and some fun from one of Britain's best choral ensembles, under the baton of founder Jeffrey Skidmore.

Venue: St Chad's Church, Shrewsbury, at 7.30pm

Tickets: £22/£11

Book your tickets at www.ticketsource.co.uk/smt or call 0333 666 3366. Further details overleaf.

For more information about all these programmes: www.shropshiremusictrust.co.uk