


THREE CHOIRS FESTIVAL


HEREFORD 2022
23–30 JULY





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Welcome



Geraint Bowen © Michael Whitefoot

On the shelves in my study I have a set of Three Choirs Festival programmes dating back to the 1920s which I have inherited from my predecessors as organist at Hereford. It is never time wasted to browse through these, particularly when every three years I am confronted with a blank piece of paper with the date of the next Hereford festival at the top.

In 1946 the Three Choirs Festival was revived in Hereford after a gap of seven years during the Second World War. Much of that year's festival was taken over from the fully-planned programme for 1939 which had been cancelled just before the outbreak of war, days before it was due to take place.

So, as we contemplate the shape of a post-Covid world, the theme of the 2022 Hereford festival is one of re-imaginings. The week begins with a rare performance of Dvořák's *Requiem* which was the composer's counter-suggestion when he was invited to set Cardinal Newman's poem *The Dream of Gerontius*, which for some reason did not appeal to him. Fortunately this text was more to Elgar's taste and at the other end of the week we present his masterpiece. Along the way you can hear two strikingly different interpretations of the mediaeval poem *Stabat mater*, by Poulenc and Richard Blackford,

and the universal genius of Bach re-imagined by composers as diverse as Elgar, Stravinsky and Webern. One piece scheduled to be performed at the 1939 festival was the premiere of Finzi's *Dies natalis* and there will be a rare opportunity to hear this work as originally planned, with a soprano rather than tenor soloist. Other highlights include the world premiere of Luke Styles' *Voices of Power*, and Mahler's Fourth Symphony together with the UK premiere of Rolf Martinsson's *Ich denke Dein...*

A major figure in mid 20th-century British musical life was Sir George Dyson and he played a significant role in the post-war re-establishment of the Three Choirs Festival. Another piece planned for performance in 1939 which was first heard in 1946 was his large-scale work *Quo Vadis* and following the success of our performance of his *The Canterbury Pilgrims* in 2012 we are delighted to be reviving this fine piece.

I hope you will enjoy browsing the wide range of events on offer at the 2022 festival and we look forward to welcoming you to Hereford later this year!

Geraint Bowen, Artistic Director

All details, programmes and artists published in this brochure are correct at the time of going to press but may be subject to alteration.

Registered Office The Three Choirs Festival Ltd, 7c College Green, Gloucester GL1 2LX
Registered Company No 00580176 Registered Charity No 204609

Three Choirs Festival

The Three Choirs Festival is a week-long programme of world-class music making featuring choral and orchestral concerts, solo and chamber music recitals, talks, cathedral services, theatre, exhibitions, and walks, rotating each summer between the beautiful English cathedral cities of Hereford, Gloucester, and Worcester. Having celebrated its 300th anniversary in 2015, it is the world's longest-running classical music festival of its kind.

The centrepiece of the festival is a series of spectacular evening concerts in the cathedral, featuring the Three Choirs Festival Chorus or the Cathedral Choirs and the Philharmonia Orchestra (resident at the festival since 2012), alongside internationally recognised soloists. A busy schedule of daytime events is augmented by a growing programme of family events and participation projects, taking place in the run-up to and during the festival. The social heart of the activity is in the Festival Village, where you can be sure of a friendly, welcoming atmosphere.

Each year, the festival nominates charities to receive a share of collections taken at the Opening Service. This year, we are partnering with the Herefordshire Music Fund, which provides bursaries for musical tuition and workshops for children and young people in challenging financial circumstances, and the FirstLight Trust, a charity which helps UK emergency services and armed forces veterans and their families.

The Three Choirs Festival is a registered charity and relies on generous ongoing support from a range of funders to achieve its aim of sharing music making opportunities and the finest musical experiences with the widest possible community.

Orchestra in Residence

The Philharmonia Orchestra creates thrilling performances for a global audience.

Founded chiefly as a recording orchestra in 1945, the Philharmonia continues to work in the studio – recording movie scores and game soundtracks, and a broad range of classical and commercial projects. With a truly international presence, the Philharmonia uses the latest digital technology to connect with audiences beyond the concert hall.

The orchestra's home is Southbank Centre's Royal Festival Hall in London, where it has been Resident Orchestra since 1995. It is also resident at Bedford Corn Exchange, De Montfort Hall in Leicester, The Marlowe in Canterbury, Anvil Arts in Basingstoke, Three Choirs Festival, and Garsington Opera. Central to all its residencies is a Learning & Engagement programme that empowers people to engage with, and participate in, orchestral music.

The Philharmonia is a registered charity and relies on income from a range of sources to deliver its programme. It is proud to be generously supported by Arts Council England.

philharmonia.co.uk



Philharmonia © Benjamin Zalovega

THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who has supported us through these difficult couple of years – everyone who has been to a concert, had a drink in the festival bar, enjoyed an outing, made a donation or become a member, patron or sponsor.

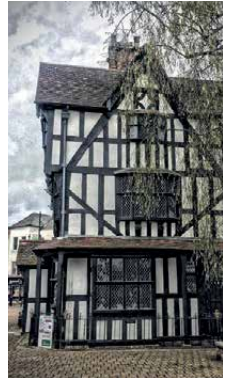
There are so many ways in which people have helped the Three Choirs Festival and we know Hereford 2022 will be as filled with music and fun as ever before.

BLACK & WHITE HOUSE MUSEUM



Discover the history of Hereford City on the ground floor and then explore the rooms which give a glimpse into daily life during the 17th Century.

Enjoy the hands on activities and look out for special family events.



Telephone: 01432 260694

www.blackandwhitehouse.org

herefordmuseums@herefordshire.gov.uk

High Town Hereford HR1 2AA

  [herefordmuseums](https://www.facebook.com/herefordmuseums)

HEREFORD CATHEDRAL MAPPA MUNDI AND CHAINED LIBRARY

Visit our specially curated exhibitions that sit alongside the Mappa Mundi & Chained Library, throughout the year.

The Mappa Mundi and Chained Library is open Monday - Saturday, 10am - 5pm

Admission charges apply

ALL THINGS BRIGHT 24 January to 23 April

Sharing a thousand years of metalwork from cathedral and diocese

STRANGERS 30 April to 3 September

Exploring world views and marginalising the 'Other'



HEREFORD
CATHEDRAL

herefordcathedral.org

EAT SLEEP LIVE HEREFORDSHIRE

Herefordshire



What's On



Staycations



Day Trips



Activities



Eating Out



Experiences

FIND IT ALL HERE eatsleepliveherefordshire.co.uk

HYMN SINGING WEEKEND

Saturday 30th and Sunday 31st July 2022

**Sing favourite classics
from Hymns Ancient
and Modern**

Saturday 10am–5pm

Hymn Singing, with talks
by Professor Dick Watson
and Canon Rosalind Brown

Sunday 11am

BCP Sung Communion

Sunday 4.30pm

BCP Sung Evensong



**Monkland —
The Home of Hymns
Ancient and Modern**

All Saints Church

Monkland nr Leominster
HR6 9DB



THE
PRAYER
BOOK
SOCIETY

Tickets £20 (£25 at door) inc. hymn set, byo lunch
Register at www.ticketsource.co.uk/vintage-hymns
Or by email to vintagehymns@gmail.com
Or on phone Mr and Mrs King **01722 334 337**

Point
camera
at →



Reimaginings

It's an indication of the huge influence some composers have that they are so often quoted and rearranged by those who've produced great music of their own. There's no better example of this than the music of **JS Bach**, and this festival features arrangements by **Webern** (p27), **Stravinsky** (p35) and **Elgar**, whose orchestration of the *Fantasia and Fugue in C minor* was first heard a century ago at the Gloucester Three Choirs Festival (p38). Organist **Henry Fairs** also builds his recital programme around the reimagining of Bach (p28), while in the late-night series we have a chance to hear Bach's works on instruments both familiar to him (**Art of Fugue**, p26) and that he can barely have imagined (**Art of Moog**, p34).

Joining Bach as a source of inspiration is the twelfth-century **Abbess Hildegard of Bingen**, whose music is both seed and companion to contemporary reflections on her work (**Hildegard Transfigured**, p30 and **Megaphones for the Unheard**, p32), in two beautiful and immersive programmes from Voice vocal trio. Meanwhile, Britten takes Purcell as his source material both in **Stuart Jackson's** recital featuring realisations from *Orpheus Britannicus* and the dazzling set of orchestral variations on Purcell's theme that comprise *The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra* (p35).

RVW150

Avid fans of English music may well be looking for news of our celebration of Vaughan Williams' 150th anniversary. When Covid postponed our cycle of festivals, we decided it was important to celebrate Vaughan Williams in Gloucester and the cathedral that was so important to him during his lifetime, so keep your eyes peeled for our 2023 announcements. We've teamed up with the RVW Trust to be part of their 'Year of Vaughan Williams' which will end next year with our Gloucester festival following some exciting projects beginning in October 2022. In the meantime, you can still enjoy some of the composer's smaller choral works: **I Fagiolini** perform *Silence and Music* (p12), **Valkia** include a selection of folk song arrangements (p37) and the Opening Service features the **Te Deum in G** (p8). **Gavin Plumley** explores the story of a home that played a part in Vaughan Williams' Herefordshire folksong recording (p19), while **Mark Bebbington** explores the impressionistic relationships in his piano music (p20). Meanwhile, organist Alana Brook includes his **Three Preludes on Welsh Hymn Tunes** (p24) and the Piatti Quartet showcase the string quartet of one of his unjustifiably neglected pupils, **Ina Boyle** (p29).



New Voices and Nordic Reflections

This year's festival hosts eight premieres and over fifty works from 43 living composers across an exhilarating range of styles, nationalities and generations. Our headline commission for the Three Choirs Festival Youth Choir, *Voices of Power*, features an original text by **Jessica Walker** and music by **Luke Styles**, and explores the world-changing power of words over the centuries (p31).



The Piatti Quartet premiere a new work by **Charlotte Harding** (p29) and Stephen McNeff's chamber opera **Beyond the Garden** makes its UK debut tour (p17). We also introduce important recent work to the festival, including **Richard Blackford**'s 2020 Ivor Novello Award-winning work *Pietà*, the English premiere of **Gareth Churchill**'s *Legacy*, written for the National Youth Orchestra of Wales (p37), and a second performance of *The Comet Stone* by **Jeff Moore**, commissioned for young local string players to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Gloucestershire Academy of Music.

There are also strong Nordic links this year, from the UK premiere of **Rolf Martinsson**'s *Ich denke Dein...* conducted by Finn Emilia Hoving (p14) to the premiere of a work by **Cheryl Frances-Hoad** for Valkia, a Finnish male voice choir bringing a programme that draws on nature at home and in the UK (p37). The natural world also inspires **David Matthews** in the premiere of *Five Trees* – a reflection on the 'Tree Pieces' of Sibelius as part of a series contemporary companions to his works for violin and piano that includes the concert premiere of **Joe Phibbs**' Violin Sonata (p25). George Parris also considers Sibelius and his relationship to Elgar in both talk (p15) and concert with the Carice Singers (p16), who pair young Finnish composer **Matthew Whittall**'s imaginative Burns settings with the premiere of Scot **Electra Perivolaris**' *If this island...*



Opening Service

11.15 am – 12.25 pm
Hereford Cathedral
FREE (ticket required)

Three Choirs Festival Chorus
 Hereford Cathedral Choir
 Royal Birmingham Conservatoire
 Brass Ensemble
 Peter Dyke *organ*
 Geraint Bowen *conductor*

Schütz Singet dem Herrn ein
 neues Lied
Vaughan Williams Te Deum in G

Supported by the
D G Albright Charitable Trust



© Ashl Mills

HEREFORD GUILD OF GUIDES PRESENT **Historic Hereford** **Walking Tour**

11.30 am – 1 pm Meet at the Elgar
 Statue, Hereford Cathedral Close
£5

An introduction to this ancient border city of Hereford, whose position in the borderland between England and Wales made it strategically important to the Saxons, the Normans and their successors. The location and founding of Hereford will be explored with stories of the cathedral, the castle and the city's medieval defences.

*This walk is repeated daily until
 Saturday 30 July*

Fretwork

2 pm – 3.45 pm Leominster Priory
£32, £26, £12, under 25s FREE

Fretwork

Locke Consort of Fower Parts No 5 9'
Purcell Two Fantazies in four parts 7'
Locke The Flat Consort for My Cousin
 Kemble No 3 10'
Jenkins Two Fantasias in five parts 7'
Locke Consort of Fower Parts No 3 8'
Purcell Two Fantazies in four parts 7'
Jenkins Pavan & Fantasia in five parts 7'
Locke The Little Consort No 8 6'
Purcell Two Fantazies in four parts;
 Fantazia upon one note 10'

Viol consort Fretwork presents a programme of seventeenth-century English music celebrating the 400th anniversary of Matthew Locke. One of the great English composers and teacher of Henry Purcell, Locke wrote some of the most distinguished and distinctive music in an age of eccentric individualism. His music is performed here with Purcell's Fantazies and pieces by John Jenkins.



Coach departs 1 pm;
 returns by approx. 4.30 pm



Fretwork



SATURDAY

James Mayhew: Once Upon a Tune

3 – 4 pm

St John's Methodist Church

£8, under 5s FREE (ideal for ages 5 – 11)

FAMILY
EVENT

Inspiring storyteller and illustrator **James Mayhew** is joined by a live violin and piano duo in a captivating event that brings some of classical music's greatest stories to life on paper right before your eyes! From the furious *Flight of the Bumblebee* to *Scheherezade's* stormy seas, with a quick detour to the *Hall of the Mountain King* and a woodland encounter with *William Tell*, this musical adventure is a delight for music and art lovers young and old.


Callum Alger Organ Recital

4.30 – 5.45 pm Leominster Priory
£15

Callum Alger *organ*

Walton Crown Imperial 10'
JS Bach Passacaglia in C minor BWV582 13'
Hollins Song of Sunshine 5'
Franck Choral No 3 in A minor 13'
Fauré Pavane Op. 50 6'
Widor Allegro vivace from Symphony No 5 in F minor 11'

In the first recital of our series showcasing talented young performers from the Royal College of Organists, **Callum Alger** presents a colourful programme of French and British works alongside Bach's well-known Passacaglia in C minor, an important influence on both nineteenth and twentieth century works.

£10  Coach departs 3.30 pm;
returns by approx. 6.30 pm

Supported by Fr Michael Thomas

Evening Prayer will be said today at
5.30pm in the Cathedral Lady Chapel



Festival Reception

6 – 7 pm Bishop's Palace
£15 (Friends of Hereford Three Choirs
Festival members £12.50)

Celebrate the start of the 2022 festival with drinks and canapés, hosted by the Friends of Hereford Three Choirs Festival in the beautiful surroundings of the Bishop's Palace and gardens.

**Supported by Rob and Pat Watkins
and Juliet Verdin**



Dvořák Requiem

7.30 – 9.40 pm Hereford Cathedral
See following page for more information

I Fagiolini: Draw on, Sweet Night

10.15 – 11.15 pm All Saints Church
£20, £14
(All Saints Bar open from 9.45pm)

I Fagiolini
Robert Hollingworth *director*

A gentle end to the day with the best of John Wilbye's classic Golden Age madrigals as featured on I Fagiolini's latest CD release. Ranging through the English melancholy of 'Draw on, sweet night' and 'Weep, weep, mine eyes' to the sheer pleasure of 'Sweet honey-sucking bees' and 'Adieu, sweet Amaryllis', this concert is also peppered with neglected gems such as 'Cruel, behold'. And who wouldn't give a wry nod at the line 'Ah me, that I were young again...!'

DVOŘÁK REQUIEM

7.30 – 9.40 pm Hereford Cathedral

£60, £55, £36, £25, £15, £10

Anita Watson *soprano*

Catherine Carby *mezzo soprano*

Ruairi Bowen *tenor*

Matthew Brook *bass*

Three Choirs Festival Chorus

Philharmonia Orchestra

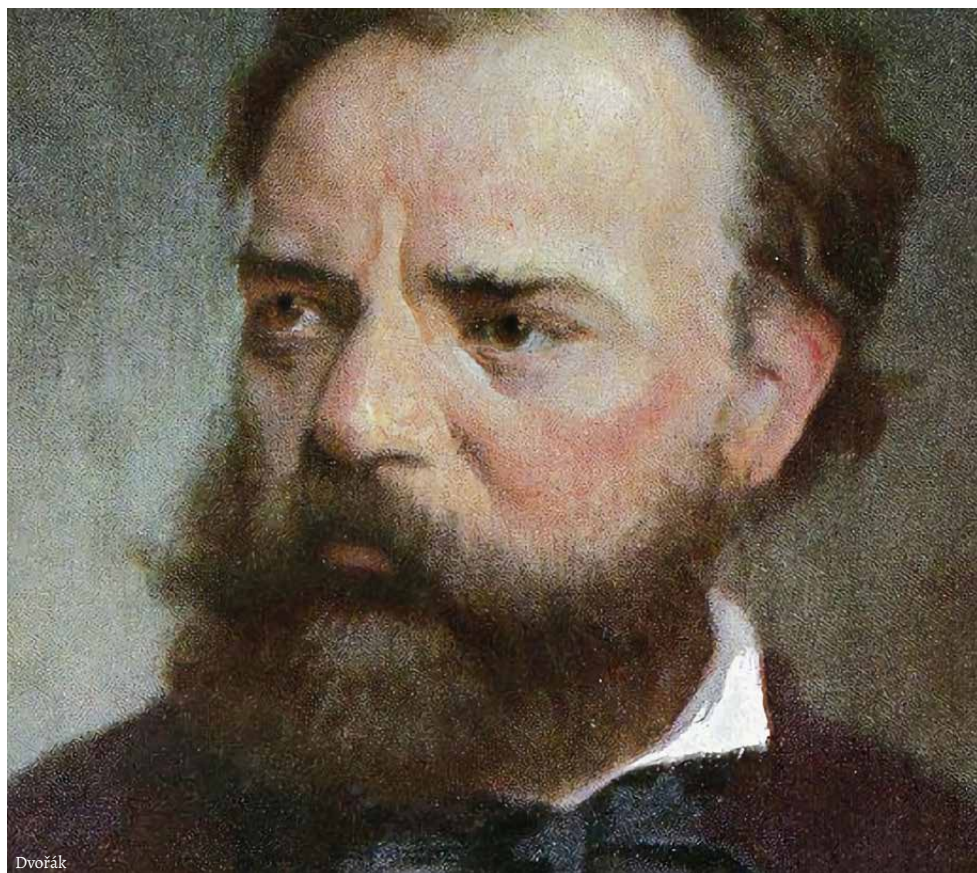
Geraint Bowen *conductor*

Dvořák *Requiem* 95'

When asked to write a piece for the Birmingham Festival, Dvořák had originally considered setting *The Dream of Gerontius*,

but this idea was reimagined into a setting of the Requiem Mass for the dead. A man of deep faith, Dvořák was careful to let the religious text and meaning shine through in his music, and the haunting uncertainty of the strings at the opening of the *Requiem* develops into a fierce Dies Irae and finally the beautiful and reflective Agnus Dei, where the Slavic tones show Dvořák's enduring love for his home country. One of Dvořák's most profound works, his *Requiem* is a powerful and moving imagining of a much-set text.

Supported by the Mumford Memorial Trust



Dvořák

Festival Eucharist

10.30 am – 12.15 pm Hereford Cathedral
FREE (no ticket required)

Hereford Cathedral Choir
Philharmonia Orchestra
Peter Dyke *organ*
Geraint Bowen *conductor*

Haydn Theresienmesse
Mozart Ave verum corpus
Mozart Laudate Dominum

**HEREFORD GUILD OF GUIDES
PRESENT**

Historic Hereford Walking Tour

2.30 – 4 pm Meet at the Elgar Statue,
Hereford Cathedral Close
£5

This walk is repeated daily. See p8
for details.

Terrific Trios!

3.30 – 4.30 pm
St John's Methodist Church
£8, under 5s FREE (ideal for ages 5+)

Join the **Lawson Trio** for an engaging
and interactive concert that introduces
the classic piano trio combination of
violin, cello and piano and the wonderful
world of its chamber music.

**Supported by the Cavatina Chamber
Music Trust**



I Fagiolini

I Fagiolini: Re-Wilding the Waste Land

4 – 5.20 pm Holy Trinity Church
£32, £26

Jessica Walker *narrator*
I Fagiolini
Robert Hollingworth *director*

Victoria O vos omnes 3'
Byrd Deus, venerunt gentes 13'
Ben Rowarth Deus, venerunt gentes 3'
Leighton God's Grandeur 6'
Victoria Caligaverunt oculi mei 7'
Joanna Marsh Geocentric 5'
Vaughan Williams Silence and Music 6'
Victoria Ecce quomodo moritur 6'
Shruthi Rajasekar Gang's Peace 5'
Joanna Marsh The World is Charged 8'

Inspired by TS Eliot's ground-breaking
poem *The Waste Land*, written 100 years
ago in the wake of the catastrophic
upheavals of the First World War and
the 'Spanish Flu', 'Re-Wilding The Waste
Land' explores cycles of renewal in both
creation and creativity. Now reeling
from our own pandemic and mindful
of David Attenborough's 'witness
statement' plea to Re-Wild, I Fagiolini
and their imaginative director Robert
Hollingworth lead us on a journey where
desolation flowers into an outpouring
of music and poetry. Framed by portions
of Victoria's *Tenebrae Responsories*,
music spanning five centuries illustrates
Elliot's text – from the despair of
Byrd's *Deus, venerunt gentes* to Leighton's
rapturous setting of *God's Grandeur*; the
text reflected in a final message of hope
and renewal in Joanna Marsh's *The World
is Charged*.

**Supported by Jeremy Wilding and
Sue Vaughan**



Coach departs 3.20 pm;
returns by approx. 5.45 pm

Choral Evensong

5.30 – 6.15 pm Hereford Cathedral
FREE (no ticket required)

Hereford Cathedral Voluntary Choir
François Cloete *organ*
Peter Dyke *conductor*

Michael Walsh Responses
Neil Cox Gloucester Service
Tomkins O sing unto the Lord

Mahler Symphony No 4

7.30 – 9.30 pm Hereford Cathedral

See following page for more information

An Evening with the Lay Clerks

10.15 – 11.15 pm All Saints Church
£20, £14
(*All Saints bar open from 9.45 pm*)

A relaxing hour to unwind at the end of the day. Recalling the foundation of the festival (allegedly) in the Black Lion, Hereford, the **Lay Clerks of Hereford Cathedral** offer a heady mix of songs – some mild and light, others dark but not bitter.



MAHLER SYMPHONY NO 4

7.30 – 9.30 pm Hereford Cathedral

£55, £50, £35, £25, £15, £10

Elizabeth Llewellyn *soprano*

Philharmonia Orchestra

Emilia Hoving *conductor*

Rolf Martinsson Ich denke Dein... 30'

(UK premiere)

G Mahler Symphony No 4 55'

'There's no music at all on the Earth which
can ever compare with ours'

– *The Heavenly Life*

Mahler's expressive Fourth Symphony
centres around the poem *Das himmlische Leben*

(*The Heavenly Life*), a child's vision of heaven,
and the music is at times joyful, at times
uneasy, ending in a beautiful and serene
soprano solo describing the music of the
angels. The first half of the concert features
the UK premiere of Rolf Martinsson's *Ich
denke Dein...* a song cycle for soprano and
orchestra, exploring the theme of love
through five German poems. The soprano
voice soars over the lush orchestration,
bringing to life the passion of the verses.

Emilia Hoving supported by Pamela White

**Mahler Symphony No 4 supported by
Gabb's Solicitors**



Elizabeth Llewellyn

Members' Outing: Hellens

**£25 to include travel,
tea and cake**

Festival members can enjoy a wonderful trip to Hellens, a Tudor/Jacobean home with an incredible tapestry of stories, art and gardens and a history dating back to 1057. Attractions include heirlooms of Anne Boleyn and Mary Tudor, the panelled Music Room with its English Renaissance frieze, paintings by Gainsborough and Van Dyke, a rare octagonal dovecote and wildflower meadows.



Coach departs 9 am;
returns approx. 1 pm



Hellens

Listening with Elgar and Sibelius

9.30 – 10.30 am
St John's Methodist Church
£12 (add coffee and pastry for £3)

Elgar and Sibelius, working at the same period in history but in completely different settings, are both famous for capturing the sounds of nature in their music. In advance of this afternoon's performance, conductor of the acclaimed Carice Singers **George Parris** explores the details and nuances of this, using examples from choral works by each composer to illustrate his remarks.

MEMBER
EVENT

HEREFORD GUILD OF GUIDES
PRESENT

Musical Walking Tour

10.45 am – 12 noon Meet at the Elgar
Statue, Hereford Cathedral Close
£5

Discover Elgar's links to the city of Hereford, and to the Three Choirs Festival. This walk will be illustrated with brief extracts of the music Elgar wrote during his Hereford years and put this period of his life in the context of his career from humble origins to become one of Britain's most famous composers.

This walk is repeated daily

HEREFORD GUILD OF GUIDES
PRESENT

Historic Hereford Walking Tour

11.30 am – 1 pm Meet at the Elgar Statue,
Hereford Cathedral Close
£5

This walk is repeated daily. See p8
for details.



Jean Sibelius in his tree root chair in the border
area of the Ainola grounds, 1940-1945, Järvenpää

Gloria! 40 Years of Gloucestershire Academy of Music

11.30 am – 12.45 pm Tewkesbury Abbey
£26, £20, £15

Cheltenham Youth Choir
Gloucestershire Boys Choir
GAM Big String Project
Glyn Oxley, Ben Sawyer *conductors*

Programme to include:

Jeff Moore The Comet Stone 12'

Jon Trim Celtic Fantasia 5'

Vivaldi Gloria 30'

This year Gloucestershire Academy of Music celebrates four decades of delivering incredible musical opportunities for young people across the county. Established in 2015, 'The Big String' is one of their most successful projects, bringing together over 100 players aged 6 to 18 (ranging from beginners to advanced players) for a joyful massed performance each spring. This celebratory concert features a special birthday commission from Jeff Moore and sees the Big String players join forces with the county's young singers for Vivaldi's most popular choral work.



Coach departs 10 am;
returns by approx. 2 pm



Carice Singers

Ferdinand the Bull and Other Surprises!

2.30 – 3.30 pm Powell Theatre
£8, under 5s FREE (ideal for ages 5+)

The musicians of **Gemini** invite you to come hear a clarinet, a violin and percussion play strange and wonderful music – some never heard before, some very old indeed, some in between. Join in some of the music and make sure mum and dad do too! Ian (clarinet), Caroline (violin) and Joby (percussion) from Gemini look forward to meeting you.

Nordic Reflections

3 – 4.30 pm Hereford Cathedral
£32, £26, £20, £15, £10

The Carice Singers
George Parris *conductor*

Elgar There is Sweet Music 5'

Sibelius Min rasras raataa (What the thrush toils); Saarella palaa (A fire on the island); Rakastava (The lover) 10'

Elgar Evening Scene; The Fountain 7'

Sibelius Venematka (The boat journey); Sydämeni laulu (Song of my heart) 4'

Elgar Owls (An Epitaph); O Wild West Wind! 7'

Electra Perivolaris If this island... (premiere) 10'

Matthew Whittall Songs of Travel 33'

The concert travels between the British Isles and Finnish forests with choral songs by Elgar and Sibelius, two world-famous contemporaries who, despite coming from opposite ends of Europe, share many similarities in their music. The second half features the premiere of Scottish composer Electra Perivolaris' *If this island...*, a piece influenced by the Hebridean Waulking Song tradition, followed by Finnish Matthew Whittall's evocative choral song-cycle which sets familiar poems by Robert Louis Stevenson.



Choral Evensong

5.30 – 6.15 pm Hereford Cathedral
FREE (no ticket required)

Three Cathedral Choirs
Peter Dyke *organ*
Geraint Bowen *conductor*

Sumsion Responses
Leighton Second Service
Howells Like as the hart

A Lyrical Masterpiece: Dyson's Quo Vadis

5.30 – 6.30 pm St John's Methodist Church
£14

Paul Spicer discusses Dyson's largest-scale choral work, talking about its Hereford connections, and bringing to life one of the most enigmatic but remarkable musicians on the English musical scene in the last century.

Quo Vadis

7.30 – 9.40 pm Hereford Cathedral

See following page for more information

Beyond the Garden

10.15 – 11.15 pm All Saints Church
£20, £14
(All Saints Bar open from 9.45pm)

Alison Rose *soprano (Klara)*
Susan Bickley *mezzo soprano (Ottilia)*
Gemini *ensemble*
Dominic Wheeler *conductor*

Stephen McNeff Beyond the Garden 60'

When the past is not how you want to remember it... This new chamber opera by Stephen McNeff with libretto by Aoife Mannix is a ghost story loosely based on the relationship between Alma Mahler and her daughter, Manon Gropius, who died at the age of 18. It explores relationships between parents and children, and also ideas of loss and memory. When we create a story for ourselves, what is true – and what is ghostly illusion?

Supported by The Elmley Foundation



QUO VADIS

7.30 – 9.40 pm Hereford Cathedral

£55, £50, £35, £25, £15, £10

Rebecca Hardwick *soprano*

Jess Dandy *contralto*

James Oxley *tenor*

Alex Ashworth *bass*

Three Choirs Festival Chorus

Philharmonia Orchestra

Adrian Partington *conductor*

Dyson *Quo Vadis* 100'

'Holy is the True Light, and passing
wonderful' – *George Herbert Palmer*

Setting a patchwork of English poems,
including Blake, Wordsworth and Shelley,

as well as biblical texts, Dyson's *Quo Vadis* explores the nature of life and thoughts about what follows death. Deeply affected by his experiences in the First World War, Dyson writes with feeling and meaning in this thought-provoking work. Originally written for the Hereford Three Choirs Festival in 1939, its performance was cancelled because of the outbreak of war. The first complete performance finally took place in Hereford in 1946 when the festival resumed after the war.

**We gratefully acknowledge the
Three Choirs Festival Patrons and
supporters of the Tercentenary Appeal**



Jess Dandy © Clare Park

A Home for all Seasons

9.30 – 10.30 am

St John's Methodist Church

£12 (add coffee and pastry for £3)

Art, music and literature are woven together through the story of a timber-framed house in the Herefordshire countryside. Cultural historian **Gavin Plumley** discusses folk music, Vaughan Williams, and the history of his home throughout the centuries, drawing on his new book *A Home for all Seasons*.



Gavin Plumley © Theresa Pewal

HEREFORD GUILD OF GUIDES
PRESENT

Musical Walking Tour

10.45 am – 12 noon Meet at the Elgar

Statue, Hereford Cathedral Close

£5

This walk is repeated daily. See p15 for details.

HEREFORD CHAMBER CHOIR
PRESENTS

Two Souls in One

11.00 am – 12.10 pm Belmont Abbey

£22

Tim Bannerman, Hilary Markland
narrators

Hereford Chamber Choir

Anwen Thomas, Esther Beyer, Olivia

Jageurs, Anne Denholm *harps*

Sam Bayliss *organ*

Simon Harper *conductor*

Robert Peate *Two Souls in One* 65'

Inspired by carvings in nearby Dore Abbey, *Two Souls in One* is a musical narrative which combines the stories of Hypatia of Alexandria, an extraordinary woman who was greatly respected in the ancient world, and Saint Katherine, whose story reflects Hypatia's. Although set in antiquity, the themes of the narrative turn Alexandria into a symbol for our world today and give a message of contemplation, understanding and respect over fundamentalism and mob-rule.



Coach departs 10.20 am;

returns by approx. 12.35 pm



Catherine of Alexandria

HEREFORD GUILD OF GUIDES
PRESENT
Historic Hereford Walking Tour

11.30 am – 1 pm Meet at the Elgar Statue,
Hereford Cathedral Close
£5

This walk is repeated daily. See p8
for details.

Members' Lunch

12.30 – 2.30 pm
Hedley Lodge, Belmont Abbey
£30

MEMBER
EVENT

Festival members can enjoy a delicious
lunch at Hedley Lodge, with guest speaker
Adrian Williams telling the story of the early
life of his son, distinguished baritone and
Society President Roderick Williams. Come
along to what is sure to be a unique and
enjoyable event!



Coach departs 12.10 pm;
returns by approx. 2.50 pm

FESTIVAL PLAYERS PRESENT
A Midsummer Night's Dream

1.30 – 3.30 pm Bishop's Palace Gardens
£17 adults £10 children

Shakespeare's wonderful fantasy comedy
has always been a firm favourite for open-air
productions. As in the Bard's day, Festival
Players International will be performing with
an all-male company of skilled professional
actors, and invite you to share in the colour,
poetry, and magical mayhem of this unique
and amazing play. A summer treat for the
whole family.

*Please note this is an outdoor performance. It will
be relocated only in the event of severely adverse
weather conditions.*

Mark Bebbington: Piano Portraits

3 – 4.45 pm Holy Trinity Church
£26, £20

Mark Bebbington *piano*

Alwyn Sonata alla Toccata 12'

Vaughan Williams The Lake in the
Mountains 6'

Delius Three Preludes 5'

Ravel Sonatine 11'

Vaughan Williams Hymn-tune Prelude on
'Song 13' by Orlando Gibbons 5'

Ireland Sarnia – An Island Sequence 20'

Poulenc Improvisation No XV 'Hommage
à Edith Piaf' 4'

Poulenc Suite Napoli 10'

Mark Bebbington delivers a wonderful
programme of English and French
impressionism, taking as a starting point
some of Vaughan Williams' less commonly
heard but beautiful miniatures for piano.
Pieces by Ravel and Poulenc sit perfectly
alongside these, showing the influence
these composers had on Vaughan Williams.
Poulenc's whimsical *Suite Napoli* brings the
recital to a fiery finish.



Coach departs 2.20pm;
returns by approx. 5.10pm



Mark Bebbington

TUESDAY

Choral Evensong

5.30 – 6.15 pm Hereford Cathedral
FREE (no ticket required)

Academia Musica
Robert Green *organ*
Jon Weller *conductor*

Philip Stopford Truro Service
Stainer I saw the Lord
Leighton Responses

From Darkness to Light: Creation Journeys

5.30 – 6.30 pm St John's Methodist Church
£14

Paul Ellison explores the many journeys connected with Haydn's *The Creation*, setting the scene for our evening performance: Haydn's London journey and encounter with Handel's oratorios, the libretto's journey – it was originally offered to Handel – and *The Creation's* own journey at the Three Choirs Festival. He will challenge us to recapture the awe and astonishment originally experienced in 1798 when Haydn conjured the sublime in that primal journey from darkness to light.

The Creation

7.30 – 9.50 pm Hereford Cathedral

See following page for more information

Amy Dickson: Solo Sessions

10.30 – 11.40 pm All Saints Church
£20, £14
(All Saints bar open from 10 pm)

Trad She moved thro' the fair 3'
Sir James MacMillan From Galloway 4'
Debussy Syrinx 3'
CPE Bach Sonata 10'
Ross Edwards Crow Dance 5'
Stuart Greenbaum (Carry me) across the water 5'
Katia Beaugeais Re-emerging 7'
Ivan Moody Bird in Space 5'
Toby Young Ralph 4'
Matthew Hindson Heroes 4'

At the start of the pandemic, **Amy Dickson** asked her composer friends whether they would like to write a short piece for solo saxophone, to reflect upon their feelings at that time. By the end of the project, she had recorded 29 new works for solo saxophone alongside interviews with the composers. This recital showcases some of these exciting new works in a programme celebrating the colours and mood of the solo saxophone.

TUESDAY



THE CREATION

7.30 – 9.50 pm Hereford Cathedral

£50, £45, £32, £25, £15, £10

Joanne Lunn *soprano*

Gwilym Bowen *tenor*

David Stout *baritone*

Three Cathedral Choirs

Musical and Amicable Society

Geraint Bowen *conductor*

Haydn *The Creation* 110'

Haydn's joyful oratorio brings to life the biblical story of the creation. From the

threatening orchestral representation of chaos to the glorious choral coming of light, from the clever musical depictions of animals such as the roaring lion and the creeping worm to the intimate love expressed between Adam and Eve, *The Creation* is a colourful celebration of the world and one of Haydn's masterpieces.

**Supported by the Friends of Hereford
Three Choirs Festival in memory of
Elizabeth Bennett**



Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden by Johann Wenzeslaus Peter

THE WULSTAN ATKINS LECTURE **Alfred Watkins: A Century of Ley Lines**

9.30 – 10.30 am

**St John's Methodist Church
£12 (add coffee and pastry for £3)**

In 1922 the Hereford inventor, antiquarian and businessman Alfred Watkins self-published the first account of his controversial and eccentric theory of ley lines. In the 100 years since this little book appeared the idea of a vanished network of arrow straight trackways crisscrossing the landscape has been popularised, dismissed and discredited, but above all mythologised

into something potentially magical and supernatural. **Joe Kerr** explores Watkins' work and the process of myth making that has accompanied his idea from the very moment he revealed it a century ago.

**Supported by Katharine O'Carroll
and Robert and Sherill Atkins**

**HEREFORD GUILD OF GUIDES
PRESENT**

Musical Walking Tour

**10.45 am – 12 noon Meet at the Elgar
Statue, Hereford Cathedral Close
£5**

This walk is repeated daily. See p15
for details.



Alfred Watkins

Alana Brook Organ Recital

11 am – 12.15 pm Belmont Abbey
£15

Alana Brook organ

JS Bach Prelude and Fugue in
C BWV547 10'

Judith Weir The Tree of Peace 6'

Kerensa Briggs Light in darkness 5'

Vaughan Williams Three Preludes on
Welsh Hymn Tunes 12'

Boulay Three Pieces 14'

Philip Wilby Ripon Misericords 7'

Graeme Koehne To his servant Bach God
grants a final gift: the Morning Star 5'

Reger Dankpsalm 9'

In the second recital of our series showcasing talented young performers from the Royal College of Organists, **Alana Brook** presents an exciting mix of new and old works.

Featuring movements from the colourful *Ripon Misericords* suite, including The Bagpipe Gaudete for the dancing Pigs, atmospheric pieces by Kerensa Briggs and Judith Weir, and Vaughan Williams's beloved *Three Preludes on Welsh Hymn Tunes*, this recital is full of musical imagery.



Coach departs 10.20 am;
returns by approx. 12.40 pm



Alana Brook

HEREFORD GUILD OF GUIDES
PRESENT

Historic Hereford Walking Tour

11.30 am – 1 pm Meet at the Elgar Statue,
Hereford Cathedral Close
£5

This walk is repeated daily. See p8 for details.

THOMAS BISSE MYSTERY BUS TOUR Bisse, Bliss and Elgar!

12.30 pm – 5.15 pm
Departs from Broad Street
£27 including coach and cream tea

In 1724, at a Three Choirs Stewards' meeting, Anglican divine Thomas Bisse successfully argued the festival should take on a charitable aim. We travel Herefordshire's country lanes to learn of his life and motives and visit two of his churches, one of which composer Arthur Bliss knew well. We stop to partake of Styre Cider punch and, later, a full Herefordshire cream tea. We cross the bridge where Edward Elgar wrote the violin concerto, visit the village where Elgar's mother Ann was born, and find the parish where *The Dream of Gerontius* was written. Some walking is involved at both churches.

FESTIVAL PLAYERS PRESENT A Midsummer Night's Dream

1 pm – 3 pm Bishop's Palace Gardens
£17 adults £10 children

Shakespeare's wonderful fantasy comedy has always been a firm favourite for open-air productions. As in the Bard's day, Festival Players International will be performing with an all-male company of skilled professional actors, and invite you to share in the colour, poetry, and magical mayhem of this unique and amazing play. A summer treat for the whole family.

*Please note this is an outdoor performance.
It will be relocated only in the event of
severely adverse weather conditions.*

Sibelius Reflected

1 pm – 2.45 pm Holy Trinity Church
£32, £26, under 25s FREE

Fenella Humphreys *violin*
Joseph Tong *piano*

Joseph Phibbs Sonata 15'
(concert premiere)

Sibelius Five Pieces 'The Trees' Op. 75 11'

David Matthews Five Trees 12'
(festival co-commission, premiere)

Rautavaara Summer Thoughts 5'

Cheryl Frances-Hoad Sonatina 17'

Sibelius Five Pieces Op. 81 15'

British and Finnish forests are linked through evocative works by Sibelius and the premiere of *Five Trees* by David Matthews, conceived whilst in Finland. Fenella Humphreys and Joseph Tong present pieces by Sibelius and a selection of contemporary composers who capture the same vivid colour and expression in their writing.



Coach departs 12.20 pm;
returns by approx. 3.10 pm

Choral Evensong

4 – 5 pm Hereford Cathedral
FREE (no ticket required)

Three Cathedral Choirs
Peter Dyke *organ*
Geraint Bowen *conductor*

Radcliffe Responses

Lloyd Eternal Light, shine into our hearts

Dyson Service in D

Dobrinka Tabakova Praise

*This concert will be broadcast live on
BBC Radio 3. Please be seated by 3.45 pm*

BBC
RADIO

3

HEREFORD FRIENDS' GARDEN PARTY The Three Deans' Croquet Match

5.15 – 6.45 pm Bishop's Palace Garden
£15 including refreshments
(Friends of Hereford Three Choirs Festival
members £12.50)

The Friends of the Hereford Three Choirs Festival invite you to join them for a garden party with high tea and the festival's renowned sporting fixture. An opportunity for Hereford's new Dean to pit her croquet skills against those of her neighbouring cathedrals' clergy for the first time.

WEDNESDAY



FILM SCREENING

Organ Stops: Saving the King of Instruments

5.30 – 6.40 pm Powell Theatre
 (See p32 for additional screening times)
 £10

Organ Stops is a heart-warming elegy to a disappearing musical world. Martin Renshaw has spent his life playing and building pipe organs; nowadays he spends all his time rescuing them. 'It's a real crisis. There are around fifty churches [in the UK] closing every year and half the organs in them are worth saving.' Filmmaker James Dawson's film follows Martin's struggle and looks at the work of a diverse range of organ lovers in their inspirational journey to preserve these threatened instruments.

The Three Choirs and the Reformation

5.30 – 6.30 pm St John's Methodist Church
 £14

Between 1509 when Henry VIII ascended the throne and 1558 when Elizabeth became queen, the three great churches at Hereford, Worcester and Gloucester

underwent profound change. In this illustrated talk, **Richard Fisher** will compare the different ways the three cathedrals were organised, how their liturgy and choral manpower had evolved and how this was affected by the Reformation initiated by the Tudors.

Pietà

7.30 – 9.40 pm Hereford Cathedral

See following page for more information

The Art of Fugue

10.15 – 11.15 pm All Saints Church
£20, £14, under 25s FREE
 (All Saints bar open from 9.45pm)

Variously described as pinnacle, apotheosis, monumental edifice, even mystical masterpiece, JS Bach's *The Art of Fugue* demonstrates one man's astonishing ingenuity in transforming, over and over again, one musical theme. In an absorbing and intimate performance, **The Musical and Amicable Society** perform in the round on instruments that Bach would himself have known, weaving Jan Zwicky's poem of the same title gently between movements and illuminating an intricate interplay of voices in poetry and music.



PIETÀ

7.30 – 9.40 pm Hereford Cathedral

£50, £45, £32, £25, £15, £10

Jess Dandy *contralto*

Roderick Williams *baritone*

Amy Dickson *saxophone*

Philharmonia Orchestra

Three Choirs Festival Chorus

Worcester Cathedral Choristers

Samuel Hudson *conductor*

JS Bach arr. Webern *Ricercare* 8'

R Strauss *Metamorphosen* 30'

Richard Blackford *Pietà* 44'

The *Stabat Mater*, a text depicting Mary's suffering as Christ's mother during his crucifixion, has been set to music many

times. In his poignant reimagining *Pietà*, Richard Blackford combines the text of the *Stabat Mater* with poems from the *Requiem* cycle by Anna Akhmatova, written when she believed that her son, like her husband, had been taken away for execution during Russia's 'Great Purge'. The piece, awarded the 2020 Ivor Novello Composer Award for choral music, moves from darkness, anger and grief to end with the hope of salvation. The first half of the concert includes Strauss's mournful *Metamorphosen*, written during the last days of the Second World War and a lament for the Germany he had known which had been destroyed.

Supported by The Elmley Foundation



Michelangelo's Pietà Sculpture

Hard Work – but Glorious

9.30 – 10.30 am

St John's Methodist Church

£12 (add coffee and pastry for £3)

The story of the women's franchise campaign in Herefordshire is unlike many other parts of the country. Remarkable cooperation took place between the suffragettes and suffragists who were ranged against the anti-suffragists. Their stories are told through newspaper stories, photographs and original documents as author **Clare Wichbold** discusses her fascinating research.



Clare Wichbold

Celebrity Organ Recital: Henry Fairs

10 – 11.15 am **Hereford Cathedral**
£22

Henry Fairs *organ*

JS Bach arr. Reger Prelude and Fugue
in B flat minor BWV867 7'

R Schumann III. Mit sanften Stimmen,
IV. Mäßig, doch nicht zu langsam V.
Lebhaft *from* Six Fugues on the name
BACH Op. 60 11'

Reger Invokation from Second Sonata
Op. 60 7'

Whitlock Fanfare *from* Four
Extemporisations 8'

Elgar arr. Brewer Chanson de matin 5'

Elgar Sonata in G Op. 28 25'

Loosely based around the idea that Birmingham, under Elgar, was to become an 'English Leipzig', organist Henry Fairs presents an exciting programme of works, some originally written for organ and others reimagined for the instrument. Reimaginings of Bach are at the heart of the recital, with Reger's *Invokation* featuring Bach's chorale 'Vom Himmel hoch' in its closing passages. The Whitlock and Elgar arrangement provide the perfect prelude to Elgar's majestic Sonata in G.

HEREFORD GUILD OF GUIDES PRESENT

Musical Walking Tour

10.45 am – 12 noon **Meet at the Elgar
Statue, Hereford Cathedral Close**
£5

This walk is repeated daily. See p15
for details.

Wish You Were Here!

11.30 am – 12.15 pm

St John's Methodist Church

£5 adults, children FREE

(ideal for babies, toddlers and siblings)

Join the Lilliput Duo for a series of musical postcards from around the world and beyond, conjuring up far away places and imaginary lands... Come along for a tuneful violin adventure to write home about!



**FAMILY
EVENT**

HEREFORD GUILD OF GUIDES
PRESENT
Historic Hereford Walking Tour

11.30 am – 1 pm Meet at the Elgar Statue,
Hereford Cathedral Close
£5

This walk is repeated daily. See p8 for details.

ELGAR SOCIETY PRESENTS
Annual Lecture and Lunch

11.45 am – 12.45 pm Powell Theatre
£14 Lecture

1.15 – 3 pm Green Dragon Ballroom
£25 Lunch

Distinguished conductor **Nicholas Cleobury** gives the Elgar Society's annual lecture on the theme 'Elgar the Master Orchestrator'. Following the talk, enjoy a delicious two-course lunch in the beautifully refurbished ballroom at the Green Dragon hotel (additional ticket required). A bar will be available.

Piatti Quartet

2.30 – 4.15 pm Holy Trinity Church
£32, £26, under 25s FREE

Piatti Quartet

Boyle String Quartet 20'
Joseph Phibbs String Quartet No 1 24'
Charlotte Harding new work
(festival co commission, premiere) 5'
Dvořák String Quartet in F Op. 96
'American' 26'

The prizewinning Piatti Quartet gives a recital of expressive chamber music, including a new commission from Charlotte Harding and Ina Boyle's beautiful but underperformed String Quartet in E minor. Dvořák's well-loved *American Quartet*, written while he was living in the United States, forms the second half of the programme.

Supported by Katharine Wedgbury



Coach departs 1.50pm;
returns by approx. 4.40pm



Piatti Quartet

Transaction fees apply, see page 48 for details 29

Choral Evensong

5.30 – 6.15 pm Hereford Cathedral
FREE (no ticket required)

Three Cathedral Choirs
Peter Dyke *organ*
Adrian Partington *conductor*

Rose Responses
Wood Service in E
Walker I will lift up mine eyes

In Conversation with Luke Styles and Jessica Walker

5.30 – 6.30 pm Powell Theatre
£10

This year's commissioned composer Luke Styles and singer/writer Jessica Walker discuss their work and the inspirations behind their new piece, *Voices of Power*, which will be premiered by the Three Choirs Festival Youth Choir in tonight's concert.

Voices of Power

7.45 – 9.45 pm Hereford Cathedral

See following page for more information

Hildegard Transfigured

10.15 – 11.15 pm All Saints Church
£20, £14
(All Saints Bar open from 9.45 pm)

Hildegard Transfigured is a hauntingly beautiful collaborative piece of concert-theatre by vocal trio Voice, visual artist Innerstrings, and composer Laura Moody that celebrates St Hildegard of Bingen in an immersive sensory experience inspired by this 12th-century Abbess's intense visions. Woven amongst Hildegard's own timeless music, modern composers draw upon her *Symphonia armonie celestium revelationum* (The Symphony of the Harmony of the Celestial Revelations) to pay homage to this great twelfth-century spiritual leader, theologian, mystic, scientist and composer in an evening of exquisite beauty and reflection.



VOICES OF POWER

7.45 – 9.45 pm Hereford Cathedral

£50, £45, £32, £25, £15, £10

Hilary Summers *contralto*

Three Choirs Festival Youth Choir

Philharmonia Orchestra

Samuel Hudson *conductor*

Judith Weir All the ends of the earth 12'

Sarah Kirkland Snider If you bring forth what is within 18' (UK premiere)

Peruchona Cessate tympana, cessate praelia 6'

Luke Styles Voices of Power

(festival co-commission, premiere) 40'

'When the whole world is silent, even one voice becomes powerful' – *Malala Yousafzai*

The Three Choirs Festival Youth Choir premieres an exciting new commission by Luke Styles. What is the power of the voice, and how has it changed over time? In this new cantata, composer Luke Styles and

writer Jessica Walker explore the shifting sands of power, from the Empress of the Icení tribe to Hillary Clinton, via Catherine the Great and Eleanor Roosevelt, through the extraordinary vocal and physical presence of contralto Hilary Summers. The first half of the programme includes a beautiful piece by Maria Peruchona, a nun and composer in seventeenth-century Italy and a forgotten voice of this earlier time. There is also a UK premiere from innovative American composer Sarah Kirkland Snider, whose fusing of indie rock and classical chamber music has led critics to praise her music as part of the burgeoning indie-classical movement.

Three Choirs Festival Youth Choir
supported by Fr Michael Thomas

Voices of Power supported by the
Three Choirs Commissioning Circle



Three Choirs Festival Youth Choir © Michael Whitefoot

Dweller in Shadows: A Life of Ivor Gurney

9.30 – 10.30 am

St John's Methodist Church

£12 (add coffee and pastry for £3)

Acclaimed biographer **Kate Kennedy** discusses Ivor Gurney, the extraordinary English poet and composer whose life was haunted by the trauma of war and mental illness. Her biography sets Gurney's life and work against the backdrop of the war and his institutionalisation, probing the links between madness, suffering and creativity.

HEREFORD GUILD OF GUIDES
PRESENT

Musical Walking Tour

10.45 am – 12 noon Meet at the Elgar
Statue, Hereford Cathedral Close
£5

This walk is repeated daily. See p15
for details.

FILM SCREENING

Organ Stops: Saving the King of Instruments

11 am – 12.10 pm & 5.45 – 6.55 pm
Powell Theatre

Organ Stops is a heart-warming elegy to a disappearing musical world. Martin Renshaw has spent his life playing and building pipe organs; nowadays he spends all his time rescuing them. 'It's a real crisis. There are around fifty churches [in the UK] closing every year and half the organs in them are worth saving.' Filmmaker James Dawson's film follows Martin's struggle and looks at the work of a diverse range of organ lovers in their inspirational journey to preserve these threatened instruments.



Voice

Megaphones for the Unheard

11 am – 12 noon Hereford Cathedral
£26, £20, £15, £12, £10

Voice vocal trio

Programme to include:

Hildegard of Bingen Responsorium:
O clarissima mater 7'

Marcus Davidson Angelica the
Doorkeeper 5'

Hildegard of Bingen Favus distillans 7'
Stevie Wishart Azeruz trium vocum 6'

Marcus Davidson O Wonder 3'

Ayanna Witter-Johnson Prayers My
Grandmother Taught Me 8'

At the heart of this programme is a poem by Jasmine Ann Cooray, *How a Caged Bird Sings*, which pays tribute to both Hildegard and the Iranian musician, poet, and political activist Gissoo Shakeri. Around this poetic centrepiece vocal trio Voice lend their exquisite sound to an exploration of women's voices, melding new work written specifically for Voice in response to this poem with the beautiful chant of twelfth-century Abbess St Hildegard of Bingen. This hour-long programme features repertoire by acclaimed British composers Helen Chadwick, Ayanna Witter-Johnson, Stevie Wishart, and Marcus Davidson.

HEREFORD GUILD OF GUIDES
PRESENT
Historic Hereford Walking Tour

11.30 am – 1 pm Meet at the Elgar Statue,
Hereford Cathedral Close
£5

This walk is repeated daily. See p8
for details.

**Till Earth Outwears:
A Celebration of English Song**


1 – 2.50 pm Holy Trinity Church
£26, £20

Stuart Jackson *tenor*
Jocelyn Freeman *piano*

Purcell / Britten Realisations from
Orpheus Britannicus 8'
Gurney Five Elizabethan Songs 13'
Bax Youth 3'
Parry Love is a bable 2'
Howells King David 6'
Britten Canticle 1 Op. 40 8'
Finzi Let Us Garlands Bring Op. 18 15'
Finzi Till Earth Outwears Op. 19a 16'

Wigmore Hall prizewinning tenor Stuart Jackson and pianist Jocelyn Freeman present an exquisite recital of English song. The programme comprises songs that have largely undergone a significant transformation from their original source of inspiration over time: from Britten's realisations of Purcell; Gurney and Finzi setting Shakespeare; Francis Quarles' paraphrasing the Song of Songs; and Finzi's publishers constructing the title of the Hardy cycle, *Till Earth Outwears*.

**Supported by the Richard Hall
Charitable Trust**

 Coach departs 12.20 pm;
returns by approx. 3.15 pm

**Michael Stephens-Jones
Organ Recital**

4 – 5.15 pm Holy Trinity Church
£15

Michael Stephens-Jones *organ*

JS Bach Prelude and Fugue in B minor
BWV544 12'


The Hovingham Sketches: a selection of
miniatures by **Darke, Thiman, Thalben-Ball,
F Jackson, W Lloyd Webber, Pritchard, Rose
and Howells** 22'

Toon Hagen Vater unser im Himmelreich
(koraal en 4 variaties); Psalm 150 13'

Sweelinck Onder een Linde groen 6'

Guy Bovet Salamanca 7'

In the third recital of our series showcasing talented young performers from the Royal College of Organists, **Michael Stephens-Jones** presents a varied programme including the playful *Hovingham Sketches* – a series of miniatures featuring many composers whose names are synonymous with the Three Choirs Festival.

 Coach departs 3.20 pm;
returns by approx. 5.40 pm



Stuart Jackson © Gerard Collett

Choral Evensong

5.30 – 6.15 pm Hereford Cathedral
FREE (no ticket required)

Three Cathedral Choirs
 Peter Dyke *organ*
 Samuel Hudson *conductor*

Philip Moore Responses (Set III)
Bob Chilcott Three Choirs Service
Judith Weir I love all beauteous things

A Shared Vision? Gerald Finzi and Thomas Traherne

5.30 – 6.30 pm St John's Methodist Church
£14

Richard Willmott, Chairman of the Traherne Association, examines Finzi's use of Traherne's lyrical verse and prose in his entrancing cantata, *Dies Natalis*. In particular, he compares Traherne's understanding of childhood innocence with Finzi's as suggested both by the latter's selections from Traherne and by his choice of Wordsworth and Hardy as writers to set in some of his other works.

Transformations

7.30 – 9.45 pm Hereford Cathedral
 See following page for more information

Preludes and Moogs

10.15 – 11.15 pm All Saints Church
£20, £14, under 25s FREE
(All Saints Bar open from 9.45pm)

Art of Moog plays the music of baroque composer J S Bach on cutting edge analogue and digital synths, sequencers and vocoders. Looking more like a Kraftwerk gig than a classical concert, they create scintillating soundscapes and atmospheres undreamt of 300 years ago. In *Preludes and Moogs* the band shines new light on some of Bach's most vibrant works: the dramatic and iconic Toccata and Fugue in D minor, *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring*, the *Goldberg Variations* and the concerto for two violins, as well as sparkling, lesser-known works from *The Well-tempered Clavier* and Bach's cantatas.



TRANSFORMATIONS

7.30 – 9.45 pm Hereford Cathedral
£55, £50, £35, £25, £15, £10

Elizabeth Watts *soprano*
Three Choirs Festival Chorus
Philharmonia Orchestra
Adrian Partington *conductor*

JS Bach arr. Stravinsky Variations on
'Vom Himmel hoch' 11'

Finzi *Dies Natalis* 24'

Britten *The Young Person's Guide to*
the Orchestra 17'

Poulenc *Stabat Mater* 32'

Following the death of a close friend, Poulenc channelled his emotions into his *Stabat Mater*, a text depicting Mary's suffering as Christ's mother during his crucifixion. The anguish of Mary gave Poulenc an image of

human contact with both death and the divine. Finzi's *Dies Natalis* (Day of Birth), an exploration of the wonder of a soul coming into being, was written for the 1939 Hereford festival but cancelled because of the outbreak of war, with the first Three Choirs performance in Hereford in 1946. The piece is sung here as it was originally intended for soprano, which is rarely heard. It sits in the first half of the programme with Stravinsky's reimagining of Bach's Variations on 'Vom Himmel hoch' for chorus and orchestra and Britten's *Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra*, a reimagining of a theme by Purcell.

Supported by the Chairman's Circle

Dies Natalis supported by Mr & Mrs David Ball

Elizabeth Watts supported by Joanna Brickell



Three Choirs Festival Chorus © Michael Whitefoot

Amy Dickson: Breathing Well

9.30 – 10.30 am

St John's Methodist Church

£12 (add coffee and pastry for £3)

Saxophonist **Amy Dickson** talks about the development of her ground-breaking *Take a Breath* schools programme, established in 2015 to help children combat stress and anxiety through the learning of relaxed breathing techniques while introducing them to classical music. Amy will discuss her collaboration with specialists to validate the medical underpinnings of the programme and some of the positive outcomes she has observed through her work.



HEREFORD GUILD OF GUIDES
PRESENT

Musical Walking Tour

10.45 am – 12 noon & 2.30 – 3.45 pm

Meet at the Elgar Statue, Hereford
Cathedral Close

£5

This walk is repeated daily. See p15
for details.

Valkia: A House of Light

11 am – 12.30 pm Holy Trinity Church

£26, £20

Sami Junnonen *flute*

Valkia

Saara Aittakumpu *conductor*

Sibelius Venematka (Boat trip);

Sortunut ääni (Broken voice); Terve,
kuuu (Hail, o Moon) 7'

Tormis Kaksikpühendus (Double
dedication - Diptych) 4'

Rautavaara Four Songs from the
opera Aleksis Kivi 12'

Vaughan Williams Linden Lea;
Vagabond; Bushes and Briars 8'

Jaakko Mäntyjärvi Two by four
Shakespeare songs 6'30

Cheryl Frances-Hoad A House of
Light - The Ballad of Eddystone
(premiere) 20'

International prizewinning Finnish male voice chamber choir, Valkia, are joined by virtuoso flautist Sami Junnonen for the premiere of a new ballad by English composer Cheryl Frances-Hoad, inspired by wild sea landscapes and the tumultuous history of Cornwall's Eddystone lighthouse. In the remainder of the programme, songs draw on the natural world and the rhythms of daily life, from the contrasts of Rautavaara's opera suite that includes songs on both 'The Squirrel' and 'The Glory of Beer' to Vaughan Williams deft arrangements of folksongs from the English countryside.



Coach departs 10.20 am;
returns by approx. 1 pm



Take a Breath Family Workshop

11.15 am – 12 noon

St John's Methodist Church

£8, under 5s FREE (ideal for ages 5+)

Join saxophonist **Amy Dickson** for a practical workshop giving a taster of her transformative *Take a Breath* schools programme, which has helped hundreds of pupils after moving online during the pandemic. Designed for people of all ages, the session will teach the technique of Relaxed Breathing, which is particularly useful as a tool of resilience to stress and anxiety. The workshop also explores the relationship between breathing, emotional wellbeing and music, with Amy performing some pieces for solo saxophone.



HEREFORD GUILD OF GUIDES
PRESENT

Historic Hereford Walking Tour

11.30 am – 1 pm Meet at the Elgar Statue,
Hereford Cathedral Close
£5

This walk is repeated daily. See p8
for details.

A further Historic Hereford Walking Tour is
available on Sunday 31 July, departing 2.30pm
(ends approx. 4pm)

FAMILY
EVENT

National Youth Orchestra of Wales

3 – 5 pm Hereford Cathedral

£40, £35, £26, £22, £15, £10

tbc violin

National Youth Orchestra of Wales

Kwamé Ryan conductor

Gareth Churchill Legacy (English premiere) 8'

Korngold Violin Concerto 24'

Rimsky-Korsakov Scheherazade 42'

Celebrating their 75th anniversary year, the National Youth Orchestra of Wales and Canadian conductor Kwamé Ryan present a kaleidoscope of orchestral works. Following an anniversary commission from Welsh composer Gareth Churchill, Korngold's timeless Violin Concerto, dedicated to Alma Mahler and peppered with themes from his popular film scores, sets the scene for perhaps one of the most vivid pieces of musical storytelling for orchestra, Rimsky-Korsakov's exhilarating symphonic suite *Scheherazade*.

**Supported by the American Friends
of the Three Choirs Festival**

Evening Prayer will be said today at
5.30 pm in the Cathedral Lady Chapel

The Dream of Gerontius

7.30 – 9.50 pm Hereford Cathedral

See following page for more information



National Youth Orchestra of Wales

Transaction fees apply, see page 48 for details 37

THE DREAM OF GERONTIUS

7.30 – 9.50 pm Hereford Cathedral

£60, £55, £36, £25, £15, £10

Dame Sarah Connolly *mezzo soprano*

Nicky Spence *tenor*

Neal Davies *bass*

Three Choirs Festival Chorus

Philharmonia Orchestra

Geraint Bowen *conductor*

JS Bach arr. Elgar Fantasia and Fugue
in C minor 9'

Elgar The Dream of Gerontius 100'

'Go forth upon thy journey, Christian soul'

– John Henry Newman

Elgar's incredible *The Dream of Gerontius*, considered by many to be his greatest work, ends our festival week. A setting of a poem by John Henry Newman, the work tells the story of a soul's journey through death, glimpsing God in judgement and settling into Purgatory, with a final blessing and promise of a re-awakening to glory. Deeply felt and highly moving, Elgar's beautiful music is full of love, compassion and serenity. Of the piece, he wrote: 'This is the best of me ... this I saw and knew ... this is worth your memory'.

Concert supported by the Perry Family Trust

***The Dream of Gerontius* supported in memory of Terry Moore**



J. M. W. Turner, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

SUPPORT THE THREE CHOIRS FESTIVAL AND MAKE THE MOST OF PRIORITY BOOKING!

Membership and Patronage are wonderful ways to support the festival, which means so much to so many people. Members enjoy benefits including priority booking and social events, and Patrons benefit from earlier priority booking and also enjoy exclusive behind-the-scenes access to the festival.

Prices for Membership start from £40 and Patronage from £500.

Find out more at 3choirs.org/support-us



Saturday 23 July

James Mayhew: Once Upon a Tune

3 – 4 pm

St John's Methodist Church

£8, under 5s FREE (ideal for ages 5 – 11)

Inspiring storyteller and illustrator **James Mayhew** is joined by a live piano and violin duo in a captivating event that brings some of classical music's greatest stories to life on paper right before your eyes! From the furious *Flight of the Bumblebee* to *Scheherazade's* stormy seas, with a quick detour to the *Hall of the Mountain King* and a woodland encounter with *William Tell*, this musical adventure is a delight for music and art lovers young and old.



James Mayhew: Once Upon a Tune

Sunday 24 July

Terrific Trios!

3.30 – 4.30 pm

St John's Methodist Church

£8, under 5s FREE (ideal for ages 5+)

Join the **Lawson Trio** for an engaging and interactive concert that introduces the classic piano trio combination of violin, cello and piano and the wonderful world of its chamber music.

Supported by the Cavatina Chamber Music Trust



Lawson Trio

Monday 25 July

Ferdinand the Bull and Other Surprises!

2.30 – 3.30 pm Powell Theatre

£8, under 5s FREE (ideal for ages 5+)

The musicians of **Gemini** invite you to come hear a clarinet, a violin and percussion play strange and wonderful music – some never heard before, some very old indeed, some in between. Join in some of the music and make sure mum and dad do too! Ian (clarinet), Caroline (violin) and Joby (percussion) from Gemini look forward to meeting you.



Saturday 30 July

Take a Breath Family Workshop

11.15 am – 12 noon

St John's Methodist Church

£8, under 5s FREE (ideal for ages 5+)

Join saxophonist **Amy Dickson** for a practical workshop giving a taster of her transformative *Take a Breath* schools programme, which has helped hundreds of pupils after moving online during the pandemic. Designed for people of all ages, the session will teach the technique of Relaxed Breathing, which is particularly useful as a tool of resilience to stress and anxiety. The workshop also explores the relationship between breathing, emotional wellbeing and music, with Amy performing some pieces for solo saxophone.

Thursday 28 July

Wish You Were Here!

11.30 am – 12.15 pm

St John's Methodist Church

£5 adults, children FREE

(ideal for babies, toddlers and siblings)

Join the **Lilliput Duo** for a series of musical postcards from around the world and beyond, conjuring up far away places and imaginary lands... Come along for a tuneful violin adventure to write home about!

DID YOU KNOW?

Anyone under 25 can book free tickets to our chamber music concerts thanks to the support of the Cavatina Chamber Music Trust. See pages 9, 25, 26, 29 & 34 for event details.

MULTIBUY OFFER

Book three or more family events and get 20% off your tickets.



**Family Arts
Standards**

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Visit [GWR.com/nectar](https://www.gwr.com/nectar) for full booking terms and conditions.

Collect 2 Nectar points for every £1 you spend when you book online at [GWR.com](https://www.gwr.com) or via our mobile app.



Great
Western
Railway



Whether you're completely new to the festival or want to get more involved, there are plenty of ways to explore the festival from a different perspective.

Three Choirs Festival Youth Choir

There's no better way to get closer to the action than standing on our stage! If you're a keen singer aged 14-25, why not join our Youth Choir for a chance to perform with the world-renowned Philharmonia Orchestra in Hereford Cathedral on Thursday 28 July? There is no charge to participate, and the time commitment is around five days, with rehearsals beginning on Thursday 21 July. You can find full details of what to expect and how to apply at 3choirs.org/youth-choir



Community Bandstand

At the heart of the Festival Village is the Community Bandstand, a platform on which we celebrate music making and creativity in our host city. We are looking for local performers of any age and any discipline. Whether you are a solo act, a small ensemble, a dance group, or a choir, everyone is welcome! If you would be interested in performing or would like further information, please contact us at bandstand@3choirs.org

Volunteer

Each year, our team of dedicated volunteers plays a crucial role in the running of the festival and there are many different ways to get involved. Whether you want to support a festival you love, are looking to start a career in arts administration, event management or stage production, or are simply passionate about music, we would love to hear from you. If you're friendly, self-motivated and enthusiastic, find out more and register your interest at 3choirs.org/volunteer



Festival Village

The social heart of the festival lies in the Festival Village. Open all day and evening, and situated adjacent to the cathedral, the village is the perfect place to relax, meet with friends and get to know other people who also love the festival. Full information is available on our website.

Community Bandstand

Enjoy free, al fresco music and entertainment from a range of local groups on our community bandstand as you relax between concerts.

Guilds of Craftsmen

Members of the Herefordshire, Cotswold and Worcester Guilds will be exhibiting their latest collection of work – the perfect opportunity to buy a festival gift from a highly skilled maker working within the Three Counties.

Art Exhibition

Sports Hall 11 am – 6 pm

Discover beautiful work from 30 local artists exhibiting a wide range of styles.

Quiet Room

Ground Floor of No 1 10 am – 7.30 pm

The Quiet Room will be a space in which to unwind, perfect for those who want time to relax between concerts, away from the lively comings and goings around the cathedral.

Please visit 3choirs.org/your-visit nearer the festival for full information and timings.



© Michael Whitefoot



© Ash Mills

Ticket Office, Shop and Information

Open daily from 10 am until the start of the evening concert

The information hub of the festival, including the ticket office and shop, will be located in the Old Deanery. The ticket office team and our friendly volunteers will be happy to help with any enquiries or needs you may have.

Cathedral Rehearsals

Are you interested to see what happens during a rehearsal, or to try out some new music? You can dip into cathedral rehearsals for free and get a flavour of life behind the scenes at the festival, staying for as long or as short a time as you would like. Full details of rehearsal and cathedral opening times will be online at 3choirs.org/your-visit nearer the festival.

Eating and Drinking

Zimmerman Café

Bottom floor of the Zimmerman Building

9.30 am – 6 pm

The Friends will be serving light refreshments including sandwiches, cakes, teas and coffees, and soft drinks to eat in or takeaway.

Sports Hall Café

Hereford Cathedral School 11 am – 7.30 pm

The Friends will be serving buffet lunches and teas, as well as wine, teas and coffees, and cakes.

Festival Bar

Open daily

Take advantage of our fully stocked festival bar with a fine selection of gin, wine, cask ales and local ciders, courtesy of our friends at Wardington's Original Ludlow Gin.

Pre-concert Dining

Hereford Cathedral School Dining Hall 6pm daily

Pre-book a two-course dinner, served in the Dining Hall at 6pm on every evening of the festival. Priced at £27 per person, all menus include a main course and dessert, a glass of wine (except on Monday, price reduced to £24) or soft drink, and tea or coffee. Please inform the ticket office of any special dietary requirements when booking.



© Delish Photography

Pre-concert Dinner Menu

Saturday 23 July

- Chicken tikka masala or vegetable tikka masala (v) with pilau rice, onion bhaji, naan bread, mango chutney & mint yoghurt

Sunday 24 July

- Slow cooked crispy pork belly with apple compote or stuffed portobello mushrooms (v) with a stilton crumb with roast potatoes, seasonal vegetables & gravy

Monday 25 July

- Homemade steak & ale pie or sweet potato, spinach & goats cheese pie (v) with roast potatoes, seasonal vegetables & gravy

Tuesday 26 July

- Pan fried chicken breast or plant-based chicken pieces (v) served in a tarragon, white wine & wild mushroom cream sauce with lyonnaise potatoes & seasonal vegetables

Wednesday 27 July

- Local pork or vegetarian (v) sausages & onion gravy with mashed potatoes & seasonal vegetables

Thursday 28 July

- Beef or vegetable (v) lasagne & garlic bread with green salad, coleslaw, & tomato salad

Friday 29 July

- Hand battered fish & homemade tartare sauce & chips with mushy peas or beef tomato, mozzarella & basil tart (v)

Saturday 30 July

- Slow-braised feather blade of beef, crispy onions & horseradish mash or wild mushroom risotto (v) with seasonal vegetables

For full menu details, please go to 3choirs.org

Festival Village

1. Bishop's Palace
2. Bishop's Palace Garden
3. Ticket Office, Shop & Information Point
4. Festival Bar
5. Bandstand
6. Guild of Craftsmen
7. Zimmerman Café
8. Powell Theatre

9. Sports Hall Café & Exhibition
10. Dining Room
11. Quiet Room
12. Green Dragon Hotel

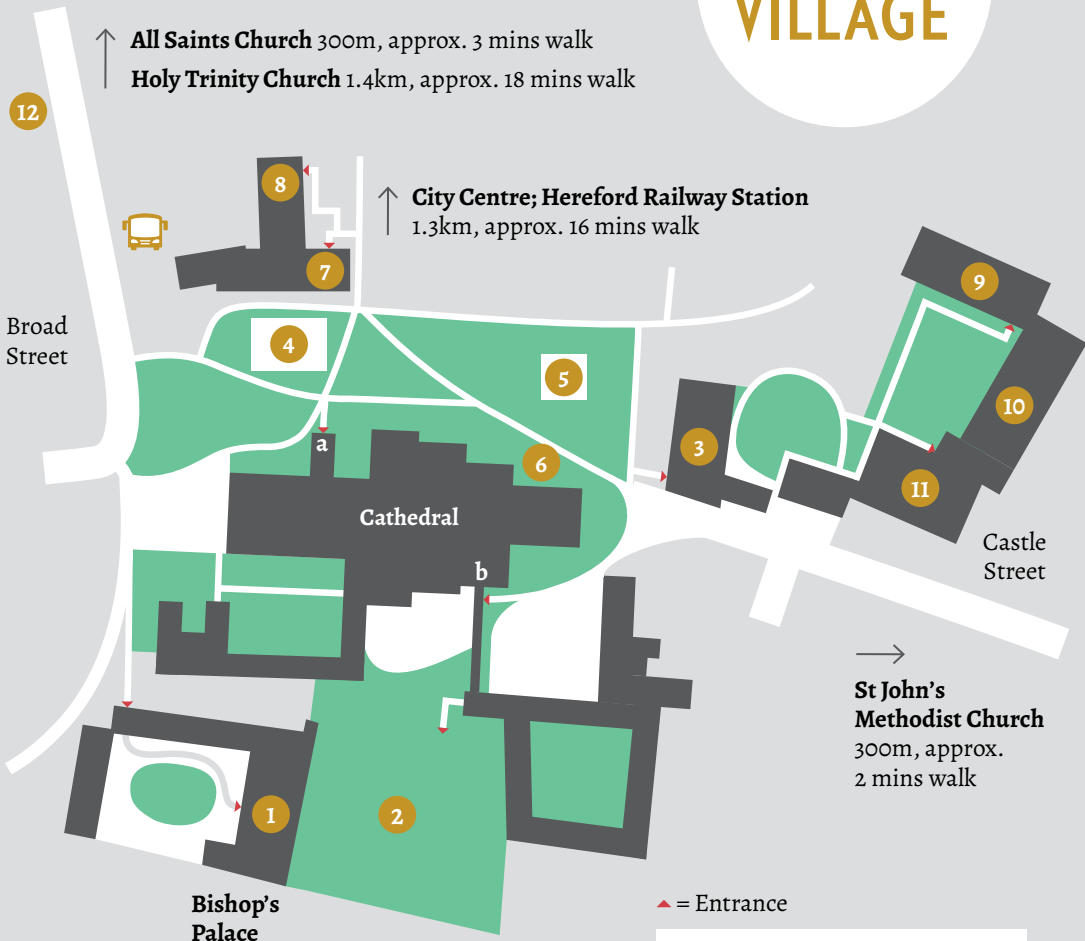
Cathedral Entrances

- a. North Door
- b. St John's Door



Coaches to outlying venues will collect from and return to Broad Street

FESTIVAL VILLAGE



what3words information giving precise door and venue locations can be found on the website

Hereford City Venues

Full details of seating areas and venue accessibility can be found online at 3choirs.org/your-visit



Coaches to outlying venues will collect from and return to Broad Street



1. Hereford Cathedral
HR1 2NG

2. Hereford Cathedral School HR1 2NG

3. Bishop's Palace & Gardens HR1 2NG

4. All Saints Church
HR4 9AA

5. Holy Trinity Church
HR4 ODU

6. Belmont Abbey
HR2 9RZ

7. St John's Methodist Church HR1 2PR

8. Leominster Priory HR6 8NH

9. Tewkesbury Abbey
GL20 5RZ

How to Book

Online: 3choirs.org

By Phone: 01452 768 928

Monday – Friday, 10 am – 4 pm

On-site ticket office:

Monday 18 – Saturday 30 July

The Old Deanery
Cathedral Close
Hereford HR1 2NG

During the festival, the ticket office will be open daily from 10am until the start of each evening concert.

Booking Fees and Dispatch

A £2.50 transaction fee applies to each order. You can opt to have your tickets emailed to you to show on the door from a smart phone or tablet or print them off at home. Alternatively, tickets can be posted out for 50p. All postal ticket orders will be dispatched by 8 July. If you have not received your tickets by then, please contact the ticket office.

Please do use the e-ticket option wherever possible to help reduce the amount we print.

Visit 3choirs.org/booking-information for full details regarding the ticket concessions we offer.

Transport

We're working with Herefordshire County Council to support sustainable local travel and work towards our pledge to become a carbon neutral organisation. As well as offering coaches to all our venues outside the city centre, you can find out more about transport options across the city by visiting 3choirs.org or asking our ticket office team for more details.

Accessibility

We welcome all visitors to the festival and are happy to help with access requirements wherever possible. A separate fact sheet is available, giving full details of access to all venues.

If you have any access requirements, please contact the ticket office directly, prior to booking your tickets. Once we have set up your access needs on our box office system, you will then be able to book online or over the phone. A very limited number of car parking spaces are available for drivers with a blue badge, which will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

For detailed information and to download the fact sheet, please visit 3choirs.org/accessibility

Souvenir Programme Book

This beautifully produced publication contains full details of every concert programme alongside song texts, notes, articles and much more: a great memento of your festival visit.

Pre-order your programme book at a discounted rate of £15 (£18 if purchased during the festival) and you can opt to receive an electronic preview copy to browse before the festival. You can also pre-order day programmes at a price of £5 each (£6 if purchased during the festival).



Hereford Cathedral © Ash Mills

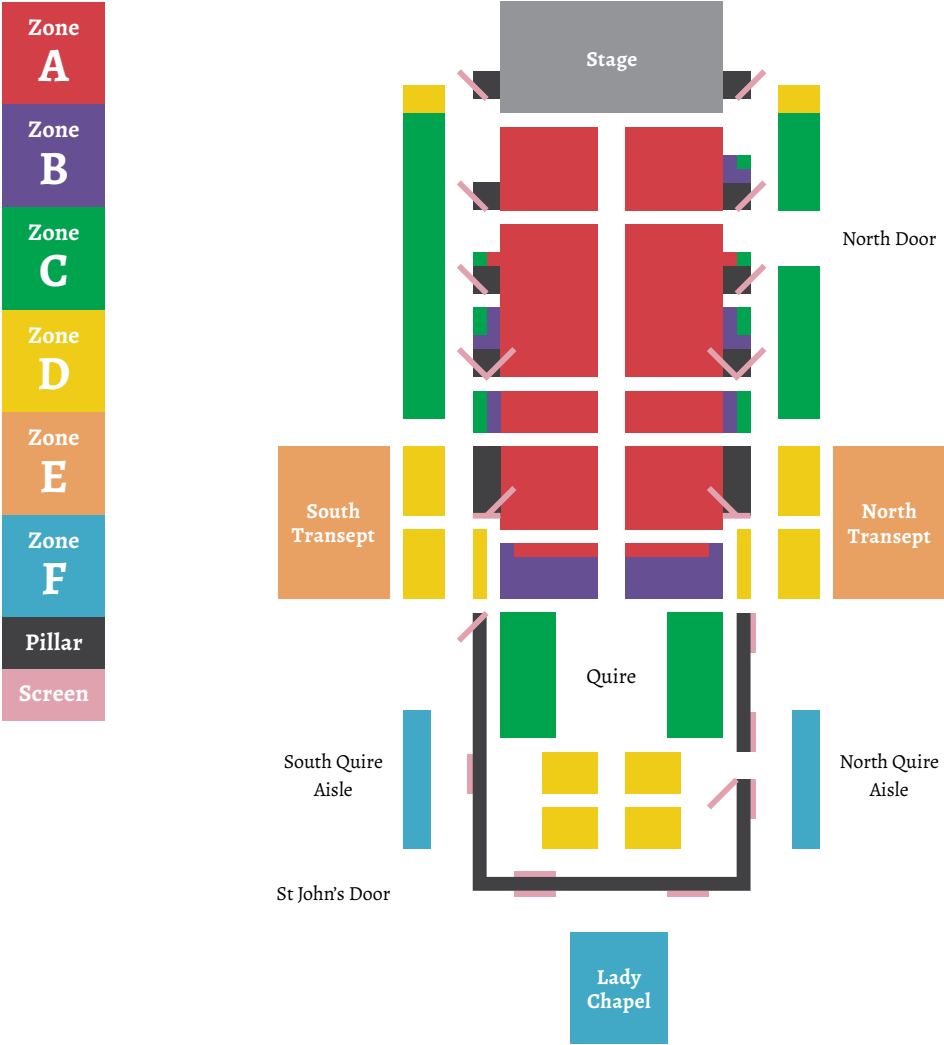
Seating Plans

You can view seating plans and select your own seat for all reserved venues by booking online. Please note that zone B seats are likely to have small areas of the stage obscured. Seats in zone C will have a restricted view of the stage. In the cathedral, zones D and E have no view of the stage, but a TV relay system is in place for those seated in zones C, D and E.

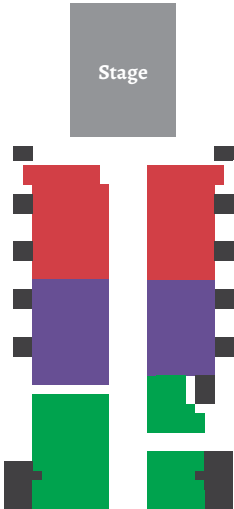
No audio enhancement is in place in any part of the cathedral. Please pay attention to the door indicated on your ticket as this will provide the easiest route to your seat.

Full details of venue accessibility can be found at 3choirs.org/accessibility or please contact our ticket office for more information.

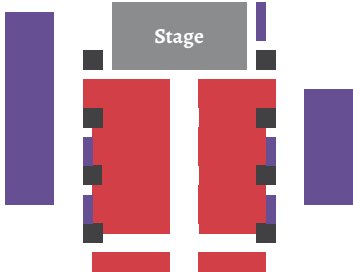
Hereford Cathedral



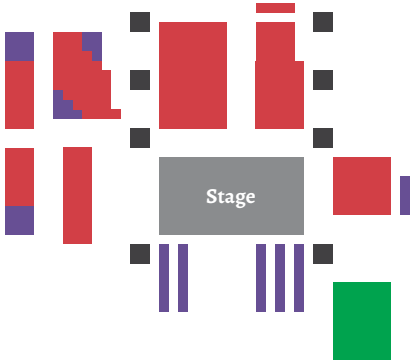
Tewkesbury Abbey



Holy Trinity









Leominster Priory



Sponsors and Supporters

The Three Choirs Festival is grateful to the following organisations and individuals for their generous support:

Public Bodies	  Leominster Town Council
In Partnership	    the bookshop Philharmonia
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Chairman's Circle	Joanna Brickell ♦ Diana Cawdell & John Trew ♦ Lady Curtis ♦ Hilary Elgar Ruth Ellis ♦ David Green ♦ Edward Harley ♦ Mr & Mrs J Herriot Michael Hurst ♦ Mr & Mrs Martin Lee-Browne ♦ Dr & Mrs W Maxwell Sir Andrew & Lady McFarlane ♦ Penny Moore ♦ Katharine O'Carroll Mr & Mrs D Parker ♦ Sir Michael & Lady Perry ♦ Sarah Friday Julia Savage ♦ David & Susan Snaith ♦ Sir Roy Strong Katharine Wedgbury ♦ David Williams

There are a number of ways you can support the work of the Three Choirs Festival. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact our Development Manager, Rachael Hall:
rachael.hall@3choirs.org | 01452 768933

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MORNING

AFTERNOON

EVENING