

THREE CHOIRS FESTIVAL 2025

HEREFORD 26 JUL–2 AUG



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Welcome to the 2025 Three Choirs Festival in Hereford, featuring the festival's own choirs and internationally recognised ensembles and soloists, as well as the world-renowned Philharmonia Orchestra. Experience our flagship evening concerts, laid-back late-nights, daytime recitals, and lively family programme, and see for yourself why so many people come back to us year after year!

Our feast of music opens with a performance of William Mathias' exciting cantata *This Worlde's Joie*. Its early English texts reflect both the seasons and the span of human life. It's a work of strikingly colourful orchestration which we are combining with Dvořák's exuberant *Te Deum* and the overture to Ethel Smyth's opera *The Wreckers*, which she conducted at the 1925 festival.

We mark the 150th anniversary of the birth of Samuel Coleridge-Taylor with a revival of his oratorio *The Atonement*, first performed under the composer's baton at the 1903 festival. Early in Coleridge-Taylor's career, Elgar was generous in recommending him to the organisers of Three Choirs, describing him as 'far and away the cleverest fellow amongst the young men', and his untimely death at the age of 37 robbed the musical world of a distinctive voice.

In 1950 Herbert Howells was persuaded by friends and colleagues to allow the first performance of his *Hymnus Paradisi*, written in the 1930s in an outpouring of grief following the death of his nine-year-old son, Michael. We present this moving work together with a rarely heard piece from earlier in Howells' career, *Paradise Rondel*, first performed in 1925,

and Arthur Bliss' *Mary of Magdala*, commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the composer's death.

The Three Choirs Festival's long history of commissioning and performing new music continues and we are particularly excited about two festival premieres: Richard Blackford's *The Black Lake* and Bob Chilcott's *Mass for Peace and Reconciliation*.

The three cathedral choirs perform Handel's *Alexander's Feast*. This sparkling work was a great success at its premiere and a significant step in Handel's move from writing Italian opera to English oratorio.

The rousing finale is a performance of Mendelssohn's ever-popular *Elijah*. Please read on to see the great variety of other concerts on offer – we look forward to welcoming you to Hereford in the summer!

Geraint Bowen

Artistic Director



Looking for inspiration? We've pulled out some of our most exciting 'top picks' for you here – look out for the gold circles as you read through the brochure.

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

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Hard copy concert programme sheets will be available at the festival for all cathedral concerts and major daytime song recitals for £2, or free to download from the website.

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at **3choirs.org** when booking tickets.

SATURDAY 26 JULY

© Dale Hodgetts

Opening Service

11.15 am – 12.20 pm
Hereford Cathedral
FREE (no ticket required)

Three Choirs Festival Chorus
Hereford Cathedral Choir
Flowers Band
Peter Dyke *organ*
Geraint Bowen *conductor*

Gibbons O clap your hands
Palestrina Jubilate Deo
Stanford Te Deum in B flat

Everyone is welcome to join us as the Festival Chorus and Hereford Cathedral Choir raise the roof with inspirational music at this year's Opening Service.

The civic procession will enter at 10.45 am

Supported by the
D G Albright Charitable Trust

Festival Reception

12.30 – 1.30 pm
Great Hall, Bishop's Palace
£20 to include drinks and canapés

Enjoy drinks with fellow festival-goers and Hereford Chair **Bruce Herriot** to celebrate the start of the 2025 festival.



Arthur Bliss: Standing Out from the Crowd

**2 – 3 pm Ballroom, Green Dragon Hotel
£13**

Bliss had a close relationship with the Three Choirs Festival. It is fifty years since he died so this is a timely opportunity to reconsider his considerable and varied output, especially in relation to the works included in this year's festival. Leading choral director and Bliss expert **Paul Spicer** delivers this fascinating talk.

SATURDAY

Carducci Quartet and Emma Johnson

3.30 – 5.15 pm St Francis Xavier's Church
£35, £30, £15, under 25s FREE

Emma Johnson *clarinet*
Carducci String Quartet

Mozart Clarinet Quintet in A 32'
Shostakovich String Quartet No 4 in D 25'
Bliss Clarinet Quintet 26'

An afternoon of uplifting music for you to enjoy, performed by celebrated musicians Emma Johnson and the Carducci Quartet. The delicate beauty of Mozart's remarkable clarinet quintet comes together with the fiery brilliance of Shostakovich and the serene playfulness of Bliss in a delightful feast for the ears.

Supported by anonymous donors

This performance is in memory of Richard Hall, long-time supporter of chamber music at the Three Choirs Festival

Two-by-Two

3.30 – 4.30 pm
Ballroom, Green Dragon Hotel
£10 adults, under 25s FREE

**Ideal for babies, toddlers,
and young children**

Explore a world of musical opposites in this relaxed event with the friendly Lilliput Duo: loud and soft, fast and slow, happy and sad, high and low... Join in with the singing, dancing, and clapping – and don't forget to try out the tiny violins at the end! The perfect introduction to live music-making for little ones.

TOP
PICK

FAMILY
EVENT

Evening Prayer will be said today
at 5.30 pm in Hereford Cathedral

This Worlde's Joie

7.30 – 9.30 pm Hereford Cathedral
£65, £60, £38, £25, £15, £10

Eleanor Dennis *soprano*
James Oxley *tenor*
Malachy Frame *baritone*
Three Choirs Festival Chorus
Hereford Cathedral Choristers
Philharmonia Orchestra
Geraint Bowen *conductor*

Smyth Overture to *The Wreckers* 10'
Dvořák *Te Deum* 20'
Mathias *This Worlde's Joie* 50'

Mathias' glorious *This Worlde's Joie* is the highlight of the festival's opening evening concert. Joyful and exuberant, this colourful work, full of uplifting voices and chiming bells, is paired with Dvořák's *Te Deum*, an electrifying and ecstatic hymn of praise. Capturing the majestic energy of seafaring England, Ethel Smyth's overture to her greatest opera *The Wreckers* begins this opening concert in dramatic style.

Supported by David and Patricia Ball

Ledbury Link concert transport is available



Coach departs Ledbury War Memorial 6.15 pm; returns by approx. 10.30 pm

Ethel Smyth: Grasp the Nettle

10 – 11 pm Ballroom, Green Dragon Hotel
£22

Lucy Stevens *contralto*
Elizabeth Marcus *piano*

Ethel Smyth, celebrated British composer, writer, and suffragette, is brought to life in this fascinating one-woman theatre show. Discover the thoughts, passions, music, and indomitable spirit of this extraordinary woman through her own compositions, personal letters, and autobiographies.

Festival Eucharist

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

Lucy Bowen *soprano*
Martha McLorinan *alto*
James Oxley *tenor*
Malachy Frame *bass*
Hereford Cathedral Choir
Peter Dyke *organ*
Geraint Bowen *conductor*

Haydn Schöpfungsmesse
Mozart Laudate Dominum
Mozart Ave verum corpus

All are welcome to attend this special service. A chance to hear a Haydn mass with full orchestra in its true liturgical setting, complemented by two of Mozart's most famous and much-loved works.

Members' Lunch

12.30 – 2 pm
Green Dragon Hotel
£36

Enjoy a delicious lunch with fellow festival members in the company of **David Francis**, the new Chief Executive of the Three Choirs Festival. Get to know David and his vision for the future as we approach the 300th festival in 2028.

MEMBER
EVENT

Guided Walk: Historic Hereford

2.30 – 4 pm Meet at the Elgar Statue,
Hereford Cathedral Close
£7.50 adults, £1 under 18s

Discover how Hereford's location on the border with Wales made it strategically important to the Romans, the Saxons, the Normans, and their successors. Learn about the cathedral close, the Norman motte and bailey castle, and the city's medieval defences and later developments in High Town, and enjoy tales of some of its best-known inhabitants with a trained leader from the Hereford Guild of Guides.

This walk takes place daily come rain or shine, so be sure to dress appropriately!

Roderick Williams and VocalEssence

3.15 – 4.30 pm Leominster Priory
£32, £26, £12

Roderick Williams *baritone*
VocalEssence
Philip Brunelle *conductor*

Programme to include:

Grieg Four Psalms 24'

Eric Whitacre Leonardo Dreams of his
Flying Machine 8'

Copland Lark 5'

Vaughan Williams The Turtle Dove 4'

World-renowned soloist Roderick Williams and American choir VocalEssence present this entrancing hour-long recital which promises to inspire and uplift. Dreams, prayers, and a gospel thread are woven together through sublime music, while Grieg's final work *Four Psalms* forms the cornerstone of the recital: a passionate contemplation of life and the joys of heaven.

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

**Roderick Williams supported by
Pamela White**



Coach departs 2.15 pm;
returns by approx. 5.30 pm

Emma Johnson's Instrument Stories

3.30 – 4.30 pm St Peter's Church
£10 adults, £8 under 18s, under 5s FREE
Ideal for ages 6-9

Discover different musical instruments through stories and games with world-famous clarinettist Emma Johnson. Hear how Finn plays his cello to make his grandad feel better, Kimi gains confidence through playing in a band, and Jamal's loud trumpet playing annoys the neighbours but saves his grandmother's life! What instrument will you be inspired to play?

FAMILY
EVENT

Evensong

5.30 – 6.20 pm Hereford Cathedral
FREE (no ticket required)

Hereford Cathedral Voluntary Choir
Jake Buckton *organ*
Peter Dyke *conductor*

Introit – new work *premiere*

Smith Preces and Responses

Howells Magnificat and Nunc dimittis
in G

Gibbons The eyes of all wait upon thee,
O Lord

The music at this evening's timeless service includes the premiere of the winning piece from Hereford Cathedral Voluntary Choir's composition competition.

The Black Lake

7.30 – 9.45 pm Hereford Cathedral
£60, £55, £38, £25, £15, £10

Elizabeth Watts *soprano*
Betsan Llwyd *narrator*
Steffan Rhodri *narrator*
Three Choirs Festival Chorus
BBC National Orchestra of Wales
David Hill *conductor*

Arvo Pärt Cantus in memoriam
Benjamin Britten 6'

Elgar Introduction and Allegro 14'

Britten Les Illuminations 23'

Richard Blackford The Black Lake 45'
festival commission, premiere

Inspired by the great Welsh novel *One Moonlit Night*, Richard Blackford's soaring yet poignant work *The Black Lake*, for full orchestra, chorus, narrators, and soloists, tells the story of a boy's passage to adulthood whilst growing up in a remote village in North Wales. Blackford's music captures the beauty, sorrows, elements, and mysteries that surround this community who unite through music and song in times of sadness and joy. For our standout festival commission, prepare to be moved by true musical storytelling and the mystery of the Black Lake ...

**Performance of *The Black Lake*
supported by the Three Choirs Festival
Commissioning Circle**

TOP
PICK

Time Stands Still: Drake and Dowland

10.15 – 11.15 pm St Peter's Church
£22

Lotte Betts-Dean *mezzo-soprano*
Dimitris Soukaras *guitar*

Two acclaimed English singer-songwriters from across the ages meet in this contemplative recital for voice and guitar. The timeless beauty of Renaissance songs by John Dowland meet their twentieth-century counterpart in the songs of Nick Drake. Drake's legacy 'throbs with an aching beauty' (*Rolling Stone*) – a quote which could easily be applied to John Dowland, who wrote some 400 years earlier. A peaceful way to end another special day at the Three Choirs Festival.

SUNDAY

Constance Radcliffe Cooke: A Life Uncovered

9.30 – 10.30 am
Ballroom, Green Dragon Hotel
£16 to include coffee and croissant

The festival's opening day featured composer Ethel Smyth, an influential member of the suffragette movement. In this talk, local author **Clare Wichbold** explores the life of another remarkable suffragette, socialist, and reformer, Constance Radcliffe Cooke. Take an intimate look at her years in Herefordshire and uncover many surprising connections along the way.

BREAKFAST
TALK

Guided Walk: In the Footsteps of Elgar

10.30 am – 12 noon Meet at the Elgar Statue, Hereford Cathedral Close
£7.50 adults, £1 under 18s

Edward Elgar spent many happy and fruitful years living and writing music in the city of Hereford. This guided walk with a trained leader from the Hereford Guild of Guides features people and places associated with him, including Dan the dog, who provided the inspiration for Elgar's eleventh *Enigma* Variation. Excerpts from Elgar's repertoire will be played to accompany the walk.

This walk takes place daily come rain or shine, so be sure to dress appropriately!



Guided Walk: Historic Hereford

11.30 am – 1 pm; 2.30 – 4 pm

£7.50 adults, £1 under 18s

See p11 for details.

Bliss and Debussy with Mark Bebbington

11.15 am – 1 pm Holy Trinity Church

£32, £26, under 25s FREE

Mark Bebbington *piano*

Irene Loh *piano*

Bliss *Masks* 10'

Poulenc *Sonata for Piano Four Hands* 7'

Ireland *Three Pastels* 11'

Bliss *Fun and Games* (for three hands)

from *Adam Zero* 8' *premiere*

Bliss *Triptych* 14'

Debussy *La cathédrale engloutie*, *Ce qu'a vu le vent d'Ouest*, *Général Lavine* – *eccentric*, *Feux d'artifice*, *Minstrels* from *Préludes* 25'

Take a moment to close your eyes and let images swirl across your mind as Mark Bebbington paints a musical picture during this evocative recital. Feel the wind's fury, hear frenzied fireworks and glimpse a mystical drowned cathedral in Debussy's *Préludes*, and enjoy moments of quiet reflection and vivid brilliance in Bliss' powerful *Triptych*.



Coach departs 10.45 am;
returns by approx. 1.30 pm

Stile Antico

2.30 – 4.15 pm Hereford Cathedral

£35, £30, £25, £10

Programme to include:

Palestrina *Surge propera amica mea* 2'

Byrd *This Sweet and Merry Month of May* 3'

Lassus *Veni in hortum meum* 3'

Praetorius *Tota pulchra es* 5'

Monteverdi *Ecco mormorar l'onde* 3'

Gibbons *The Silver Swan* 2'

Huw Watkins *The Phoenix and the Turtle* 6'

Travel back in time to a Renaissance garden of delights in this sumptuous recital by vocal ensemble and early-music masters Stile Antico. Discover the sounds that echoed through the Sistine Chapel and the great churches of Rome in an afternoon of beauty and tranquillity, set against the backdrop of the magnificent Hereford Cathedral.

TOP
PICK

MONDAY

Marsyas Trio: Musical Waterways and Amazing Engineers

FAMILY
EVENT

3.30 – 4.30 pm St John's Methodist Church
£10, under 25s FREE
Ideal for ages 7-12

To inspire those who will shape our future... Join the Marsyas Trio on a journey of invention and discovery in an age of steam and water power. Meet the brilliant engineers John Smeaton, Sarah Guppy, and Mr and Mrs Parsons on their pioneering mission to design England's bridges, canals, and steam turbines; learn how musical instruments make their sound; and perform alongside these fabulous musicians.

Evensong

5.30 – 6.20 pm Hereford Cathedral
FREE (no ticket required)

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

Radcliffe Preces and Responses
Day Magnificat and Nunc dimittis in B flat
Cheryl Frances-Hoad Earth puts her colours by

Commissioned by the Elmley Foundation in 2021, Cheryl Frances-Hoad's beautiful anthem sits at the centre of this evening's reflective service.

MONDAY

Choral Masters: Chilcott, Bach and Tavener

7.30 – 9.25 pm Hereford Cathedral
£60, £55, £38, £25, £15, £10

Helen Charlston *mezzo-soprano*

Flowers Band

Three Choirs Festival Youth Choir

Nicholas Freestone *organ*

Samuel Hudson *conductor*

Tavener *Funeral Ikos* 7'

JS Bach *Prelude and Fugue in B minor,*
BWV544 12'

JS Bach *Jesu, meine Freude* 20'

Bob Chilcott *Mass for Peace and*
Reconciliation 35' *premiere*

Listen as the glorious interior of Hereford Cathedral resounds with thrilling music from the choral masters: Chilcott, Bach, and Tavener. Chilcott's *Mass for Peace and Reconciliation*, an expressive, contemplative work by one of the UK's leading living composers, couples moments of peace and prayerfulness with outbursts of vital energy. This powerful premiere is presented alongside the achingly beautiful *Funeral Ikos*, a profound work of deep faith and conviction, and *Jesu, meine Freude*, one of the best-loved works from incomparable choral master JS Bach.

**Supported by the Three Choirs Festival
Chair's Circle**

**Three Choirs Festival Youth Choir
supported by Fr Michael Thomas and
Peter and Gillian Kendal**

Brandenburg Concertos

10 – 10.50 pm

St Francis Xavier's Church
£22

Musical and Amicable Society

JS Bach *Brandenburg Concertos*
Nos 3, 4 & 6 45'

Round off your day with a late-night treat – some of the liveliest and most colourful works from musical genius JS Bach. Experience a whistle-stop tour of the orchestral ensemble with the different combinations of instruments in each concerto, and marvel at Bach's skill in creating these magical masterpieces.

TOP
PICK

MONDAY

TUESDAY 29 JULY

THE WULSTAN ATKINS
LECTURE

**Three Choirs Festival:
Back in Time**

9.30 – 10.30 am

Ballroom, Green Dragon Hotel
£16 to include coffee and croissant

How do you organise a Three Choirs Festival? *Alexander's Feast* in 1777 required three choirs, as well as soloists and instrumentalists from all over the country, in an age before telephones and cars. Researcher **Martin Perkins** explores how festival musicians were brought together in eighteenth-century Britain.

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

BREAKFAST
TALK

**Guided Walk: In the
Footsteps of Elgar**

£7.50 adults, £1 under 18s

See p14 for details.

Celebrity Organ Recital: Olivier Latry

11 am – 12.15 pm Hereford Cathedral
£22

Olivier Latry *organ*

Guilmant Final: Allegro assai *from* Organ
Sonata No 1 in D minor 8'

Falla trans. **Latry** Ritual Fire Dance
from El amor brujo 4'

Bartók trans. **Isoir** Romanian Dances 7'

Vierne Adagio & Final *from* Symphony
No 3 in F sharp minor 14'

Durufié Prélude, Adagio et Choral varié
sur le thème du 'Veni Creator' 22'

Olivier Latry Improvisation

Revel in a feast of French music with one of the world's greatest organists, Olivier Latry of Notre-Dame Cathedral. Spectacular works by composers Vierne and Durufié are complemented by a unique improvisation on Hereford Cathedral's impressive 'Father' Willis organ in this unmissable recital programmed especially for the Three Choirs Festival.

Guided Walk: Historic Hereford

11.30 am – 1 pm; 2.30 – 4 pm
£7.50 adults, £1 under 18s

See p11 for details.

As You Like It

1.30 – 3.30 pm
Bishop's Palace Gardens
£18 adults, £11 under 18s

With her father the Duke in exile, Rosalind and her cousin Celia leave their lives in the court behind them and journey into the Forest of Arden. Join the Festival Players as new identities are explored, unexpected friendships are forged, curious minds meet, bitter enemies reconcile, and strangers fall in love.

This is an outdoor performance. It will be relocated only in the event of severely adverse weather conditions.

Marsyas Trio and Lotte Betts-Dean

2 – 4.10 pm Holy Trinity Church
£32, £26

Lotte Betts-Dean *mezzo-soprano*
Marsyas Trio

Bonis *Scènes de la forêt* 15'

Saint-Saëns *Une flûte invisible* 3'

Ravel *La flûte enchantée* from
Shéhérazade 3'

Ravel *Chansons madécasses* 15'

Michael Finnissy *Blessed be* 15' *premiere*

Anne Boyd *Cycle of Love* 15'

Debussy *Chansons de Bilitis* 10'

Hear the music of Ravel, Debussy, and Saint-Saëns in this enchanting concert for voice, flute, cello, and piano. Be transported to other worlds as timeless stories from Greek myths to the Arabian Nights are brought to life in songs and music.



Coach departs 1.30 pm;
returns by approx. 4.40 pm

Private Viewing: Mappa Mundi and Chained Library

MEMBER
EVENT

4.45 – 6 pm Hereford Cathedral
£18

Festival members can enjoy a private viewing of Hereford Cathedral's incredible treasure the Mappa Mundi and fascinating Chained Library, followed by a delicious Herefordshire cream tea.

There are only 30 spaces available, so book quickly to take advantage of this exclusive opportunity.



Evensong

5.30 – 6.20 pm Hereford Cathedral
FREE (no ticket required)

Three Choirs Festival Youth Choir
Nicholas Freestone *organ*
Samuel Hudson *conductor*

Morley Responses

L'Estrange King's College Service

Balfour Gardiner Evening Hymn

The Three Choirs Festival Youth Choir sings tonight's contemplative service, including Balfour Gardiner's powerful *Evening Hymn*.

Handel: Alexander's Feast

7.30 – 9.30 pm Hereford Cathedral
£60, £55, £38, £25, £15, £10

Rowan Pierce *soprano*
Gwilym Bowen *tenor*
Gareth Brynmor John *baritone*
Three Cathedral Choirs
Musical and Amicable Society
Geraint Bowen *conductor*

Handel *Alexander's Feast* 90'

Experience the brilliance of Handel through his rousing oratorio *Alexander's Feast*, a dramatic, vividly colourful work that will move you from heartfelt pity to flaming vengeance, from tender love to fervent joy. As Alexander takes a fiery revenge on his conquered city, discover this exciting story through the power of Handel's music performed by the joint forces of the cathedral choirs of Hereford, Gloucester and Worcester.

Supported by Simon and Elizabeth Allen and an anonymous donor

TUESDAY

Ouseley – Renaissance Man?

9.30 – 10.30 am

Ballroom, Green Dragon Hotel

£16 to include coffee and croissant

Today's Evensong features the work *Jerusalem on high* by Sir Frederick Ouseley, who left behind a significant artistic legacy. University professor, cathedral precentor, and founder of St Michael's College Tenbury Wells, he created a musical revolution of lasting consequences. **Roger Judd**, former Director of Music at St Michael's Tenbury, explores this remarkable man's achievements.

Guided Walk: In the Footsteps of Elgar

10.30 am – 12 noon

£7.50 adults, £1 under 18s

See p14 for details.

BREAKFAST
TALK

James Gilchrist and Anna Tilbrook

11.30 am – 12.40 pm

Holy Trinity Church

£32, £26

James Gilchrist *tenor*

Anna Tilbrook *piano*

Quilter Under the Greenwood Tree 1'
L Boulanger *songs from Clairières*
dans le ciel 6'

Bliss The Hare; This Night; The
Fallow Deer at the Lonely House 9'

M Herbert The Lake Isle of Innisfree;
To Daffodils 6'

Delius To Daffodils; Spring,
the Sweet Spring 6'

Quilter Song of the Blackbird; Spring
is at the Door; O Mistress Mine 6'

R Schumann *Liederkreis*, Op. 24 22'

Spend a summer's afternoon amid the glories of the English countryside with James Gilchrist and Anna Tilbrook as they present an abundance of nature-inspired delights. Trees, flowers, animals, and lovers (or lost love) all feature in this programme which culminates in Schumann's masterpiece *Liederkreis*, containing some of his most famous songs.

**Supported by Professor Jeremy and
Alison Dibble**



Coach departs 11 am;
returns by approx. 1.05 pm

Guided Walk: Historic Hereford

11.30 am – 1 pm; 2.30 – 4 pm

£7.50 adults, £1 under 18s

See p11 for details.

As You Like It

1.30 – 3.30 pm

£18 adults, £11 under 18s

See p19 for details.

Evensong

3 – 4 pm Hereford Cathedral

FREE (no ticket required)

Three Cathedral Choirs

Peter Dyke *organ*

Geraint Bowen *conductor*



Ouseley Jerusalem on high

McDowall Responses

Leighton Magdalen College Service

Bairstow Blessed city, heavenly Salem

Tonight's service features the composer Frederick Ouseley, who was born two hundred years ago this year. Find out more about him in this morning's Breakfast Talk (see opposite page).

This service will be broadcast live on BBC Radio 3. Please be seated by 2.45 pm

Babar the Elephant

3 – 4 pm Holy Trinity Church

£15 adults, under 25s **FREE**

Ideal for everyone over the age of 5!

Alistair McGowan *narrator; piano*

Mark Bebbington *piano*

Poulenc The Story of Babar, the Little Elephant 29'

Satie Sports et divertissements 15'

Ravel Mother Goose Suite 15'

Bring the whole family along to hear the beloved tale of Babar, which has enchanted children for generations. Escaping from the jungle after his mother dies, Babar finds himself in the city and lives like a human, wearing clothes and driving a car. Will he ever return to the jungle? Join celebrity narrator Alistair McGowan and pianist Mark Bebbington on this exciting musical adventure.



Coach departs 2.30 pm;
returns by approx. 4.30 pm

TOP
PICK

FAMILY
EVENT

WEDNESDAY

Three Deans' Contest... would they lie to you?

4.30 – 5.30 pm Great Hall, Bishop's Palace
£16 to include refreshments

Join the Deans of Hereford, Gloucester and Worcester along with their cathedral teams as rivalries are renewed this summer. Expect laughter, hilarity, and plenty of audience participation – would they lie to you?

Howells' Paradise

5.30 – 6.30 pm
Ballroom, Green Dragon Hotel
£13

British music expert **Dr Jonathan Clinch** explores the fascinating context behind a piece often considered Herbert Howells' masterpiece, *Hymnus Paradisi* (premiered at the Three Choirs Festival in 1950), and outlines the findings of his latest research. Originally intended as a requiem for his young son, Howells transformed the work into an affirmation of life by taking on a remarkable web of influences.

TOP
PICK

Howells: Hymnus Paradisi

7.30 – 9.30 pm Hereford Cathedral

£60, £55, £38, £25, £15, £10

Rebecca Hardwick *soprano*
Sarah Connolly *mezzo-soprano*
Michael Bell *tenor*
Malachy Frame *baritone*
Three Choirs Festival Chorus
Philharmonia Orchestra
Adrian Partington *conductor*

Howells Paradise Rondel 10'

Bliss Mary of Magdala 27'

Howells Hymnus Paradisi 47'

A little piece of heaven and possibly one of the greatest English choral pieces ever composed. Written as an outpouring of grief after the death of his nine-year-old son, the heart-breakingly beautiful *Hymnus Paradisi* gives a deeply personal voice to Howells' pain and is powerfully affecting. Grief turns to wonder in Bliss' dramatic *Mary of Magdala* as Mary finally recognises and kneels in joy before the risen Christ in the Easter Garden. This emotionally charged concert is full of beauty and will leave you profoundly moved.

Supported by the Elmley Foundation

**Performance of *Mary of Magdala*
supported by the Bliss Trust**

Ledbury Link concert transport is available



Coach departs Ledbury War Memorial 6.15 pm; returns by approx. 10.30 pm

Night Songs

10.15 – 11.15 pm St Peter's Church

£22

Eve Doyle *mezzo-soprano*
Evie Perfect *piano*

Vaughan Williams Four Last Songs 10'

Dove Nights Not Spent Alone 10'

Clarke Shy One; A Dream; The Cloths
of Heaven; June Twilight 11'

Britten A Charm of Lullabies 13'

A true moment of calm to conclude a wonderful day of music at the Three Choirs Festival. This beautiful song recital of gentle English music brings together threads of night-time musings and farewells.

WEDNESDAY

SATURDAY 26 JULY

WHAT'S ON GUIDE

Opening Service	11.15 am – 12.20 pm	Hereford Cathedral	p6
Festival Reception	12.30 – 1.30 pm	Great Hall, Bishop's Palace	p6
Arthur Bliss: Standing Out from the Crowd	2 – 3 pm	Ballroom, Green Dragon Hotel	p7
Carducci Quartet and Emma Johnson	3.30 – 5.15 pm	St Francis Xavier's Church	p8
Two-by-Two	3.30 – 4.30 pm	Ballroom, Green Dragon Hotel	p8
This Worlde's Joie	7.30 – 9.30 pm	Hereford Cathedral	p9
Ethel Smyth: Grasp the Nettle	10 – 11 pm	Ballroom, Green Dragon Hotel	p9

SUNDAY 27 JULY

Festival Eucharist	10.30 am – 12.15 pm	Hereford Cathedral	p10
Members' Lunch	12.30 – 2 pm	Green Dragon Hotel	p10
Guided Walk: Historic Hereford	2.30 – 4 pm	Elgar Statue, Cathedral Close	p11
Roderick Williams and VocalEssence	3.15 – 4.30 pm	Leominster Priory	p11
Emma Johnson's Instrument Stories	3.30 – 4.30 pm	St Peter's Church	p12
Evensong	5.30 – 6.20 pm	Hereford Cathedral	p12
The Black Lake	7.30 – 9.45 pm	Hereford Cathedral	p13
Drake and Dowland	10.15 – 11.15 pm	St Peter's Church	p13

MONDAY 28 JULY

Constance Radcliffe Cooke	9.30 – 10.30 am	Ballroom, Green Dragon Hotel	p14
Guided Walk: Footsteps of Elgar	10.30 am – 12 noon	Elgar Statue, Cathedral Close	p14
Bliss and Debussy	11.15 am – 1 pm	Holy Trinity Church	p15
Guided Walk: Historic Hereford	11.30 am – 1 pm	Elgar Statue, Cathedral Close	p15
	2.30 – 4 pm		
Stile Antico	2.30 – 4.15 pm	Hereford Cathedral	p15
Musical Waterways	3.30 – 4.30 pm	St John's Methodist Church	p16
Evensong	5.30 – 6.20 pm	Hereford Cathedral	p16
Choral Masters	7.30 – 9.20 pm	Hereford Cathedral	p17
Brandenburg Concertos	10 – 10.50 pm	St Francis Xavier's Church	p17

TUESDAY 29 JULY

The Wulstan Atkins Lecture	9.30 – 10.30 am	Ballroom, Green Dragon Hotel	p18
Guided Walk: Footsteps of Elgar	10.30 am – 12 noon	Elgar Statue, Cathedral Close	p18
Celebrity Organ Recital	11 am – 12.15 pm	Hereford Cathedral	p19
Guided Walk: Historic Hereford	11.30 am – 1 pm	Elgar Statue, Cathedral Close	p19
As You Like It	1.30 – 3.30 pm	Bishop's Palace Gardens	p19
Marsyas Trio, Lotte Betts-Dean	2 – 4.10 pm	Holy Trinity Church	p20
Guided Walk: Historic Hereford	2.30 – 4 pm	Elgar Statue, Cathedral Close	p19
Member Event: Mappa Mundi	4.45 – 6 pm	Hereford Cathedral	p20
Evensong	5.30 – 6.20 pm	Hereford Cathedral	p21
Handel: Alexander's Feast	7.30 – 9.30 pm	Hereford Cathedral	p21

WEDNESDAY 30 JULY

WHAT'S ON GUIDE

Ouseley – Renaissance Man?	9.30 – 10.30 am	Ballroom, Green Dragon Hotel	p22
Guided Walk: Footsteps of Elgar	10.30 am – 12 noon	Elgar Statue, Cathedral Close	p22
James Gilchrist & Anna Tilbrook	11.30 am – 12.40 pm	Holy Trinity Church	p22
Guided Walk: Historic Hereford	11.30 am – 1 pm	Elgar Statue, Cathedral Close	p23
As You Like It	1.30 – 3.30 pm	Bishop's Palace Gardens	p23
Guided Walk: Historic Hereford	2.30 – 4 pm	Elgar Statue, Cathedral Close	p23
Evensong	3 – 4 pm	Hereford Cathedral	p23
Babar the Elephant	3 – 4 pm	Holy Trinity Church	p23
Three Deans' Contest	4.30 – 5.30 pm	Great Hall, Bishop's Palace	p24
Howells' Paradise	5.30 – 6.30 pm	Ballroom, Green Dragon Hotel	p24
Howells: Hymnus Paradisi	7.30 – 9.30 pm	Hereford Cathedral	p25
Night Songs	10.15 – 11.15 pm	St Peter's Church	p25

THURSDAY 31 JULY

Come and Sing	9.30 am – 1.30 pm	St Peter's Church	p28
Guided Walk: Footsteps of Elgar	10.30 am – 12 noon	Elgar Statue, Cathedral Close	p28
Elgar Society Lecture and Lunch	11.30 am – 2.15 pm	Ballroom, Green Dragon Hotel	p28
Guided Walk: Historic Hereford	11.30 am – 1 pm 2.30 – 4 pm	Elgar Statue, Cathedral Close	p29
The King's Singers	3 – 4.10 pm	Hereford Cathedral	p29
Samuel Coleridge-Taylor at 150	5 – 6 pm	Ballroom, Green Dragon Hotel	p29
Ophelia Amar Organ Recital	5 – 6 pm	Holy Trinity Church	p30
Evensong	5.30 – 6.20 pm	Hereford Cathedral	p30
Coleridge-Taylor: The Atonement	7.30 – 9.30 pm	Hereford Cathedral	p31
Late-night Beethoven	10.15 – 11.15 pm	St Francis Xavier's Church	p31

FRIDAY 1 AUGUST

Members' Breakfast	9.30 – 10.30 am	Ballroom, Green Dragon Hotel	p32
Guided Walk: Footsteps of Elgar	10.30 am – 12 noon	Hereford Cathedral Close	p32
Letters from Lony	11 am – 12.30 pm	Holy Trinity Church	p32
Guided Walk: Historic Hereford	11.30 am and 2.30 pm	Elgar Statue, Cathedral Close	p32
National Youth Orchestra of Wales	2.15 – 4.10 pm	Hereford Cathedral	p33
Evan Lawrence Organ Recital	5 – 6 pm	Holy Trinity Church	p33
Evensong	5.30 – 6.20 pm	Hereford Cathedral	p34
Fauré: Requiem	7.30 – 9.20 pm	Hereford Cathedral	p34
Lay Clerks in Concert	10 – 11 pm	All Saints Church	p35

SATURDAY 2 AUGUST

Daniel Greenway Organ Recital	9.30 – 10.30 am	Holy Trinity Church	p36
Guided Walk: Footsteps of Elgar	10.30 am – 12 noon	Elgar Statue, Cathedral Close	p36
Keats at the Keyboard	11 am – 12 noon	St Peter's Church	p36
National Youth Choir	11 am – 12.15 pm	Hereford Cathedral	p37
Guided Walk: Historic Hereford	11.30 am – 1 pm	Elgar Statue, Cathedral Close	p37
National Youth String Orchestra	2.45 – 4.30 pm	Leominster Priory	p37
Elijah: The Chorus Explored	5 – 6 pm	Ballroom, Green Dragon Hotel	p37
Mendelssohn: Elijah	7.30 – 10.15 pm	Hereford Cathedral	p38

THURSDAY 31 JULY

The King's Singers © Frances Marshall

Come and Sing

9.30 am – 1.30 pm St Peter's Church
£15 adults, £10 under 18s

Multibuy Offer: Get 10% off tickets for The King's Singers when purchased with a Come and Sing ticket

Neil Ferris *conductor*

Share in the joy of singing beautiful and familiar music with others. Bring your friends together to sing some well-known choral classics including Bruckner's *Locus iste*, Franck's *Panis angelicus*, and Rachmaninov's *Bogoroditse Dyevo* with Neil Ferris, Director of the BBC Symphony Chorus. Everyone is welcome to this informal workshop-style event, which is suitable for a broad range of abilities. Music will be provided.

Guided Walk: In the Footsteps of Elgar

10.30 am – 12 noon
£7.50 adults, £1 under 18s

See p14 for details.

Elgar Society Lecture and Lunch

11.30 am – 2.15 pm
Ballroom, Green Dragon Hotel
£38

Open to all, this year's Elgar Society Lecture by former Vice-Chancellor of Birmingham University **Sir David Eastwood** discusses festival favourite Edward Elgar as a symphonist and what makes his symphonies so distinctive. Following the lecture, enjoy a delicious lunch with fellow Elgar enthusiasts.



Guided Walk: Historic Hereford

11.30 am – 1 pm; 2.30 – 4 pm

£7.50 adults, £1 under 18s

See p11 for details.

The King's Singers

3 – 4.10 pm Hereford Cathedral

£35, £30, £25, £10

Travel the world in style with the acclaimed King's Singers in their delightful programme *Sounds of the City*. Renowned for their unrivalled technique, versatility, and skill in performance, The King's Singers take us on a musical journey from Europe to America, from Paris to Johannesburg, from the music of Janequin to Gershwin, bringing some of the world's most vibrant cities to life. You are sure to leave this one singing!

TOP
PICK

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor at 150

5 – 6 pm

Ballroom, Green Dragon Hotel

£13

In his 150th anniversary year, explore Samuel Coleridge-Taylor and his relationship with the Three Choirs Festival. Take an in-depth look at his masterpiece *The Atonement* with musicologist **Paul Ellison** and scholar **Bryan Ijames** as the piece receives its second ever Three Choirs Festival performance.

TOP
PICK

THURSDAY



Ophelia Amar Organ Recital

5 – 6 pm Holy Trinity Church

£15

Ophelia Amar *organ*

Pierné Prélude, Op. 29 No 1 4'

Boulay Prélude, Andante et Fugue 13'

Saint-Saëns Improvisation, Op. 150 No 1 10'

Litaize Scherzo 3'

Franck Andantino in G minor 8'

N Boulanger Trois Improvisations 12'

Dubois Fiat Lux 5'

The first recital of our series showcasing talented young performers from the Royal College of Organists is a celebration of extraordinary French music. French-British organist Ophelia Amar presents this exciting programme including works by Saint-Saëns, Franck, and Nadia Boulanger.

Supported by Fr Michael Thomas



Coach departs 4.30 pm;
returns by approx. 6.30 pm

Evensong

5.30 – 6.20 pm Hereford Cathedral

FREE (no ticket required)

Academia Musica

Robert Green *organ*

Tim Pratt *conductor*

Moore Responses

Murrill Magnificat and Nunc dimittis in E

Joubert O Lorde, the maker of al thing

Tonight's service is sung by the celebrated young musicians of Academia Musica, the choir and choral academy of Hereford Sixth Form College.

Coleridge-Taylor: The Atonement

TOP
PICK

7.30 – 9.30 pm Hereford Cathedral
£60, £55, £38, £25, £15, £10

Rebecca Hardwick *soprano*
Aoife Miskelly *soprano*
Amy Holyland *mezzo-soprano*
Martha McLorinan *mezzo-soprano*
Mark Le Brocq *tenor*
David Stout *baritone*
Three Choirs Festival Chorus
Philharmonia Orchestra
Samuel Hudson *conductor*

Coleridge-Taylor *The Atonement* 90'

Discover Samuel Coleridge-Taylor's stirring masterpiece *The Atonement* in a celebration of his 150th anniversary year. Commissioned by the Three Choirs Festival, with the 1903 premiere conducted by the composer himself and a libretto by local writer Alice Parsons, this is an opportunity to hear a rarely performed gem with its lush, sweeping melodies and majestic grandeur. Be a part of this historic revival and see for yourself why Elgar was such a champion of Coleridge-Taylor's music.

Supported by the Friends of the Hereford Three Choirs Festival

Late-night Beethoven

10.15 – 11.15 pm
St Francis Xavier's Church
£22, under 25s FREE

Gildas Quartet

Beethoven String Quartet No 14 in
C sharp minor, Op. 131 40'

One of the best string quartets ever written? Experience sorrow, joy, sublime melodies, ferocious intensity, and intriguing mystery all in a single piece of music as the Gildas Quartet performs Beethoven's own favourite of his quartets, an incredible work of genius ahead of its time.

Gildas Quartet supported by Bruce and Sarah Herriot in memory of Dr and Mrs JCS Turner

THURSDAY

Members' Breakfast

9.30 – 10.30 am

Ballroom, Green Dragon Hotel

FREE (ticket required)

Enjoy coffee and pastries with fellow festival members and members of the Three Choirs Festival Board and staff.

MEMBER
EVENT

Guided Walk: In the Footsteps of Elgar

10.30 am – 12 noon

£7.50 adults, £1 under 18s

See p14 for details.

Letters from Lony: A Holocaust Story

11 am – 12.30 pm Holy Trinity Church
£32, £26

Olivia Ray *mezzo-soprano*
Sholto Kynoch *piano*
Gildas Quartet

Ronald Corp Letters from Lony 70'

Discover the story of Lony Rabl through her letters, beautifully captured in this poignant song cycle. Lony fled the Nazis and wrote a series of letters to her family, especially her newborn grandson Peter. Lony perished in Auschwitz in 1944. Peter never met her and only discovered the letters she had written years later. This moving concert will be introduced by Peter and composer Ronald Corp.

Supported by John Hammond,
George Meyer and Peter Lobbenberg

Gildas Quartet supported by Bruce
and Sarah Herriot in memory of
Dr and Mrs JCS Turner



Coach departs 10.30 am;
returns by approx. 1 pm

Guided Walk: Historic Hereford

11.30 am – 1 pm; 2.30 – 4 pm

£7.50 adults, £1 under 18s

See p11 for details.



National Youth Orchestra of Wales

2.15 – 4.10 pm Hereford Cathedral
£35, £30, £25, £20, £15, £10

National Youth Orchestra of Wales
Kwamé Ryan *conductor*

Mason Bates Attack Decay Sustain
Release 4'

Barber Second Essay for Orchestra 11'

Gershwin arr. **Bennett** Porgy and Bess:
A Symphonic Picture 20'

Bernstein Symphonic Dances from
West Side Story 24'

Wang Jie Symphonic Overture 'America,
the Beautiful' 6'

Journey to America and hear some of the best tunes from across the pond with the fabulous National Youth Orchestra of Wales and conductor Kwamé Ryan. Get into the swing with Gershwin and dance along to Bernstein's lively music from *West Side Story*. An energetic and fun-filled afternoon of music for all to enjoy.

Supported by Penny Moore

Evan Lawrence Organ Recital

5 – 6 pm Holy Trinity Church
£15

Evan Lawrence *organ*

Buxtehude Prelude in G minor,
BuxWV 149 8'

JS Bach Schmücke dich, O liebe Seele,
BWV 654 8'

Mendelssohn Organ Sonata in B flat,
Op. 65 No 4 15'

JS Bach Herr Jesu Christ, dich zu uns
wend, BWV 655 4'

JS Bach Prelude and Fugue in E flat
(St Anne), BWV 552 15'

Dupré Cortège et Litanie 6'

Our second talented young performer from the Royal College of Organists, Evan Lawrence from the London Oratory, presents a powerful programme of works by the organ masters, including JS Bach's well-loved 'St Anne' fugue.

Supported by Fr Michael Thomas



Coach departs 4.30 pm;
returns by approx. 6.30 pm

FRIDAY



Fauré: Requiem

7.30 – 9.20 pm Hereford Cathedral
£60, £55, £38, £25, £15, £10

Florence Price *soprano*
Alex Ashworth *bass-baritone*
Three Choirs Festival Voices
Philharmonia Orchestra
Adrian Partington *conductor*

Debussy *Danse sacrée et danse profane* 9'
Dobrinka Tabakova *Centuries of Meditations* 20'
Vaughan Williams *Five Variants of 'Dives and Lazarus'* 12'
Fauré *Requiem* 35'

Could this be the most beautiful music ever written? Fauré's glorious Requiem is filled with rich, expressive melodies which speak to the soul of a peace beyond anything we can know in this life. The Three Choirs Festival Voices perform this stunning work alongside Tabakova's exquisite *Centuries of Meditations*, a former festival commission. Bringing the majesty of the rolling English countryside to life, Vaughan Williams' sumptuous *Five Variants of 'Dives and Lazarus'* complements the musical beauty of this programme exploring the sacred and secular.

Performance of the Fauré Requiem
supported by Joanna Brickell

Performance of *Centuries of Meditations*
supported by Jeremy Wilding

Evensong

5.30 – 6.20 pm Hereford Cathedral
FREE (no ticket required)

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

Sanders Responses
Jackson Magnificat and Nunc dimittis
in G
Gibbons O Lord, in thy wrath rebuke
me not

Join us for a moment of calm and
contemplation at the final sung service
of this year's Three Choirs Festival.



Lay Clerks in Concert

10 – 11 pm All Saints Church
£22, £15

A festival tradition: the lay clerks of Hereford Cathedral present their popular late-night concert, with repertoire spanning many centuries and styles. The programme includes the sumptuous *Musica, Dei donum optimi* (Lassus, 1594), together with favourites from the lay clerks' wide and varied collection of smooth, close-harmony classics from around the world. Fill up your glass, sit back and enjoy!

FRIDAY

Daniel Greenway Organ Recital

9.30 – 10.30 am Holy Trinity Church
£15

Daniel Greenway *organ*

JS Bach Fantasia and Fugue in
G minor, BWV 542 12'

Elgar Chanson de matin 3'

Mendelssohn Organ Sonata in D,
Op. 65 No 5 9'

Beach Scottish Legend 4'

Coleridge-Taylor Impromptus,
Op. 78 Nos 2 & 3 10'

Whitlock Carol & Divertimento
from Four Extemporizations 7'

JS Bach arr. **Dupré** Sinfonia from
Cantata 29 5'

Our final recitalist from the Royal College of Organists is Daniel Greenway, organ scholar at Westminster Cathedral. His programme includes Mendelssohn's challenging Organ Sonata alongside works by JS Bach and Samuel Coleridge-Taylor in his 150th anniversary year.

Supported by Fr Michael Thomas



Coach departs 9 am;
returns by approx. 11 am

Guided Walk: In the Footsteps of Elgar

10.30 am – 12 noon
£7.50 adults, £1 under 18s

See p14 for details.

Keats at the Keyboard

11 am – 12 noon
St Peter's Church
£10 adults, £8 children,
under 5s FREE

FAMILY
EVENT

Introduce the family to John Keats, one of England's finest romantic poets, with actor Edward Derbyshire. He'll be at the keyboard to deliver poetry and music in a story that weaves together some of Keats' best loved lyrical stories with a selection of live piano pieces, some new, some old. A treat for all the family.

National Youth Choir

11 am – 12.15 pm Hereford Cathedral
£25, £20, £15, £10

National Youth Choir
Nicholas Chalmers *conductor*

Programme to include:

Mozart Ach, zu kurz

Ola Gjeilo Sanctus

Roderick Williams new work *premiere*

Arvo Pärt Bogoroditse Dyevo

Stanford Coelos Ascendit Hodie

Home to some of the best young singers in the world, the National Youth Choir takes us on a European tour in this morning's riveting recital. From Poland to Portugal, from Italy to Ireland, discover some of the continent's most beautiful music, including a brand new piece written by festival favourite Roderick Williams. Don't miss this opportunity to hear some of the most talented voices of their generation.

Guided Walk: Historic Hereford

11.30 am – 1 pm
£7.50 adults, £1 under 18s

See p11 for details.

National Youth String Orchestra

2.45 – 4.30 pm Leominster Priory
£32, £26, £12

National Youth String Orchestra
Damian Iorio *conductor*

Respighi Ancient Airs and Dances,
Suite No 3 **16'**

Bliss Music for Strings **25'**

Mussorgsky arr. **Cohen** Pictures at an
Exhibition **35'**

Mussorgsky's stunning *Pictures at an Exhibition* is a remarkable musical depiction of artworks created by a close friend. This well-loved piece is presented alongside some uncharacteristically dark and mysterious music by Bliss and the powerful and elegant tones of Respighi in this recital given by the talented young players of the NYSO.

Supported by Katharine Wedgbury



Coach departs 1.45 pm;
returns by approx. 5.30 pm

Elijah: The Chorus Explored

5 – 6 pm Ballroom, Green Dragon Hotel
£13

Dig deeper into Mendelssohn's masterpiece *Elijah*. In this talk **Richard Willmott** explores the representation of religious persecution by comparing the role of the chorus in *Elijah* with the role of the bystanders in the painting of *Moses Showing the Tablets of the Law to the Israelites* by Maerten de Vos.

Evening Prayer will be said today at
5.30 pm in Hereford Cathedral

Mendelssohn: *Elijah*

7.30 – 10.15 pm Hereford Cathedral

£65, £60, £38, £25, £15, £10

Katherine Broderick *soprano*

Jess Dandy *contralto*

Anthony Gregory *tenor*

Matthew Brook *bass-baritone*

Three Choirs Festival Chorus

Philharmonia Orchestra

Geraint Bowen *conductor*

Mendelssohn *Elijah* 130'

Experience the magnificent musical masterpiece, Mendelssohn's *Elijah* – a breathtaking oratorio and epic drama of biblical proportions. Prepare to be blown away by the full forces of the Festival Chorus and Philharmonia Orchestra as the story of the prophet Elijah is brought to life through majestic choruses, beautiful solo arias, and dramatic orchestral passages, building to a fiery climax with Elijah's ascent to heaven in a flaming chariot. *Elijah* is a firm favourite for Three Choirs Festival audiences and is back by popular demand, so be sure to book early to be part of this stunning festival finale.

**Supported by the
Perry Family Charitable Trust**

**Katherine Broderick and Jess Dandy
supported by Professor Jeremy
and Alison Dibble in memory of
Mollie Manning and Pamela Dibble**

**Anthony Gregory supported by
Clare Wichbold**

Ledbury Link concert transport is available



Coach departs Ledbury War Memorial 6.15 pm; returns by approx. 11.15 pm

TOP
PICK



**“Richard Blackford has an assured place at the table
of contemporary English choral writing...”**

Gramophone

Richard Blackford's choral works include: Not in Our Time, Mirror of Perfection, Vision of a Garden, Voices of Exile, Pietá, Verdi Requiem (orchestration) and Babel.

Lyrity

**Mirror of Perfection
Vision of a Garden**

**Richard
Blackford**

Ikon • Britten Sinfonia
The Bach Choir • Philharmonia Orchestra
CONDUCTOR DAVID HILL



For more information scan the
QR code or visit our website:
www.wyastone.co.uk



Festival Village

Why not enhance your Three Choirs Festival experience with a visit to our Festival Village? Relax between concerts, enjoy a drink in the festival bar, grab a hot meal, and meet with friends in the beautiful grounds of Hereford Cathedral.

Free Performances on the Festival Bandstand

Providing the lively soundtrack to the Festival Village, local bands and performers take to the stage throughout the week. The perfect free-to-attend entertainment for all ages, whether you're sitting down with a drink or up and dancing at the front!

Free Access to Cathedral Rehearsals

Many of our large-scale rehearsals in the cathedral are open to the public, so join us for a behind-the-scenes view of how concerts are rehearsed and experience our amazing music for free! You can come in at any point and stay for as long as you would like. Rehearsal times will be available at 3choirs.org/your-visit nearer the festival.

Guilds of Craftsmen

Members of the Herefordshire, Cotswold and Worcester Guilds will be exhibiting their latest collection of work in the Festival Village. A great opportunity to buy a festival gift from a highly skilled local maker.

Quiet Room

The Quiet Room, located in School House (part of Hereford Cathedral School), will be open daily from 10 am until the start of the evening concert for you to relax and unwind.

In the Festival Village

Food and drink offerings in the Festival Village include our festival cafe and a fully stocked bar. There is something for every occasion, whether you're after a mid-morning refreshment, a hot lunch, or a drink after the evening concert. You can view all our catering options at 3choirs.org/catering.

Breakfast Talks

Green Dragon Hotel, 9.30 am
28 – 30 July £16

Enjoy coffee and a delicious croissant by Peter Cooks Bread at the Green Dragon Hotel as you listen to one of our fascinating breakfast talks. Please book your talk tickets through the Three Choirs Festival ticket office or website and inform staff of any special dietary requirements when booking.

28 July:

Constance Radcliffe Cooke:
A Life Uncovered *p14*

29 July:

Three Choirs Festival:
Back in Time *p18*

30 July:

Ouseley – Renaissance Man? *p22*

Pre-Concert Dining

Green Dragon Hotel, 6 pm daily
£30

Pre-book a two-course dinner served in the Green Dragon Hotel at 6 pm for festival-goers on every evening of the festival, just two minutes' walk from the cathedral. Priced at £30 per person, all menus include a main course and dessert, a glass of wine or soft drink, and tea or coffee. Please book through the Three Choirs Festival ticket office or website and inform staff of any special dietary requirements when booking.

BREAKFAST
TALK

Pre-concert Dinner Menu

Saturday 26 July

- Lemon and thyme roast chicken breast, mashed potato and tenderstem broccoli
- Roasted cauliflower and chickpea curry (v)
- Carrot cake with salted caramel ice cream

Sunday 27 July

- Fish and chips with crushed peas and tartar sauce
- Vegetarian sausages, mashed potato and red gravy (v)
- Strawberry cheesecake with Chantilly cream

Monday 28 July

- Roast pork loin, dauphinoise potatoes and fine beans
- Mushroom stroganoff, roasted new potatoes and broccoli (v)
- Tarte au Citron with crème fraîche

Tuesday 29 July

- Cod fishcake, new potatoes, peas and parsley sauce
- Thai vegetable curry with rice (v)
- Lemon cake with vanilla ice cream

Wednesday 30 July

- Oven-roasted chicken breast in a Provençale sauce with new potatoes
- Maple-roasted butternut squash, tofu and gem lettuce (v)
- Eton mess

Thursday 31 July

- Salmon, spinach and salsa verde
- Red pepper pasta and spinach (v)
- Chocolate brownie with raspberry coulis

Friday 1 August

- Fish pie, minted peas and sautéed potatoes
- Roasted vegetable pie with minted peas and sautéed potatoes (v)
- Chocolate fudge cake with pouring cream

Saturday 2 August

- Chicken schnitzel, mashed potato and tenderstem broccoli
- Mushroom risotto with watercress (v)
- Baked vanilla cheesecake with raspberry sorbet

Booking Dates Open...

Gold Members	from 31 March
Silver Members	from 3 April
Bronze Members	from 7 April
General Public	from 14 April

Booking Fees and Dispatch

A £2.50 transaction fee applies to each order. We encourage you to have your tickets emailed to you where possible, or tickets can be posted out for an extra £2.

Ticket concessions are available for visitors attending with an essential companion, and on selected events for young people and families on low incomes. Visit 3choirs.org/booking-information for full details.

Ticket Office, Shop and Information

There will be a ticket office and shop located in the Festival Village during festival week. It will be open daily from 10 am until the start of each evening concert and the ticket office team will be happy to help with any enquiries or needs you may have.

Accessibility

We welcome all visitors to the festival and aim to assist with access requirements wherever possible. A detailed fact sheet is available at 3choirs.org/accessibility

If you have any access requirements, please contact the ticket office prior to booking your tickets. Once we have recorded your access needs, you will then be able to book online or over the phone. For some venues, 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.

Transport

We provide coaches to all venues beyond Hereford city centre and are also running a minibus service between Ledbury War Memorial and Hereford Cathedral for the evening concerts on Saturday 26 July, Wednesday 30 July and Saturday 2 August. These can be booked with your festival tickets.



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THREE CHOIRS
FESTIVAL MEMBERSHIP

SUPPORT THE FESTIVAL YOU *Love*

Enjoy **exclusive benefits** with a Three Choirs Festival membership and help us provide musical experiences far into the future.

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- Spotlight magazine
- Member events ...and much more!

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HEREFORD CATHEDRAL

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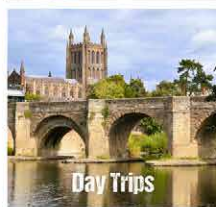
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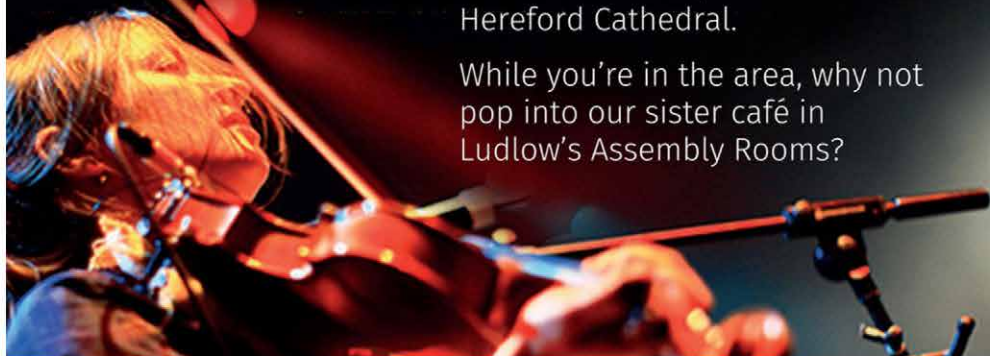


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You can view seating plans and select your own seat for all reserved venues by booking online. Please note that zone B seats are likely to have small areas of the stage obscured. Seats in zone C will have a restricted view of the stage. In the cathedral,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



Festival Village

1. Bishop's Palace
2. Bishop's Palace Gardens
3. Ticket Office, Shop & Information Point
4. Festival Bar
5. Bandstand
6. Guilds of Craftsmen

7. Festival Cafe
8. Quiet Room
9. Green Dragon Hotel

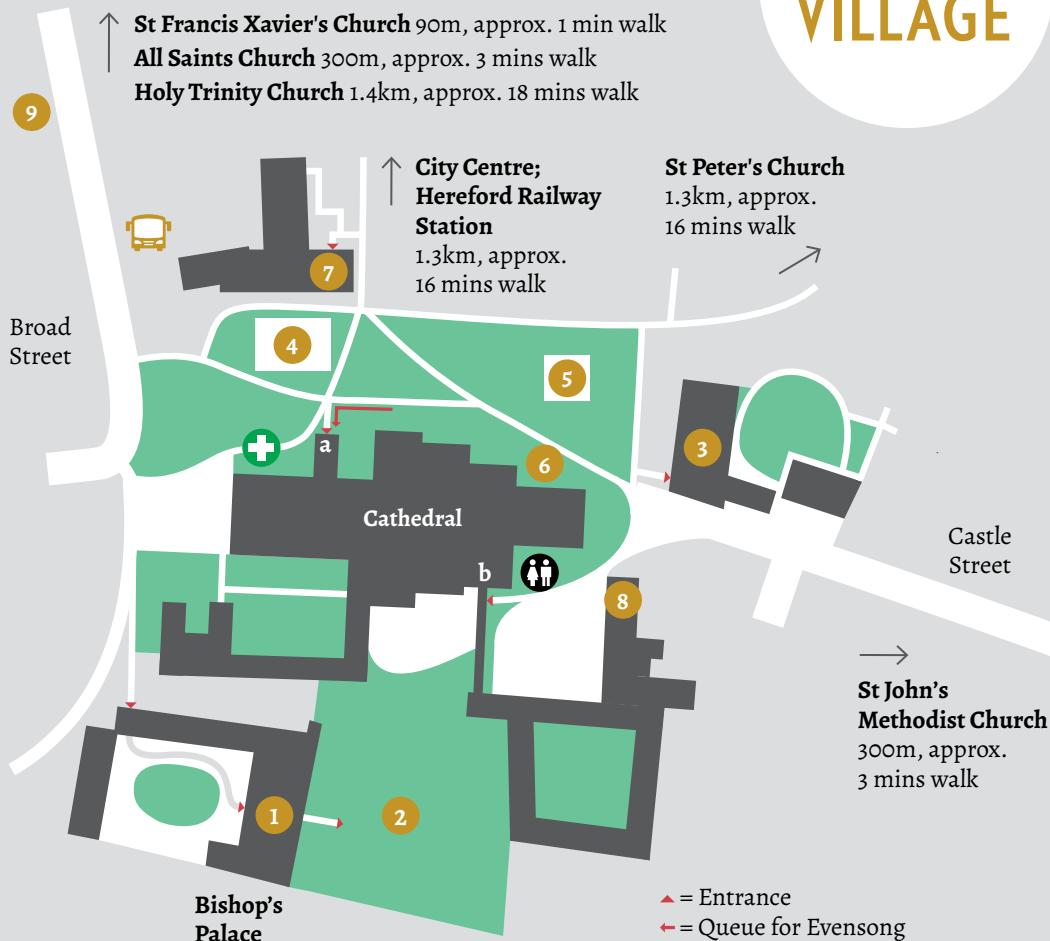
Cathedral Entrances

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



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