



SHERBORNE ABBEY
festival

2nd–9th May 2024
sherborneabbeyfestival.org

Sponsored by

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Doors will open 30 minutes before performances.

Tickets

Tickets are available online at:
ticketsource.co.uk/sherborneabbeyfestival
 or by telephone on **0333 666 3366**
 or scan the QR code:



Patrons' prices including discount are calculated online. Patrons' discounts are not applicable for Dinner and Opera. Under-18s tickets attract a 50% discount.

Become a Patron

Why not become a Festival Patron? With seven levels to choose from, starting from just £25 for an annual Bronze membership through to our new Pearl, Ruby and Diamond Patron levels, help us to continue to attract world-class artists to Sherborne Abbey, as well as support local music initiatives and youth music-making. Enjoy advanced booking, discounts (rates according to level) and invitations to exclusive events! Visit sherborneabbeyfestival.org/patrons.

The Festival is run on behalf of Sherborne Abbey Parochial Church Council (PCC), Registered Charity No.1130082, to support its charitable activities in the field of music.

There are far, far better things ahead than anything we leave behind' wrote C.S. Lewis, and that is my hope for the future of Sherborne Abbey Festival.

This year is my final season as Chairman and Artistic Director and I must thank all those who have worked with me to create and run this festival for 25 years: the committee, our amazing volunteers, fantastic supporters, patrons, sponsors and advertisers and last but not least you, the audience, without whom none of this would have been possible.



After last year's success we once more have lots of musical treats in store for you, as you will see, so bring your friends and family along to enjoy it too. The Festival will carry on in safe hands with John Jenkins – recently retired Director of Music at Sherborne Girls, as Chairman and Ana Manero – Tutor of Piano and Senior Accompanist at Sherborne Girls as Artistic Director.

Why not go the extra mile this year and become a Patron or, if you already are one, increase your patronage and go to the next level? Remember, all profits are ploughed back into Sherborne to support local musicians, and music in our glorious Sherborne Abbey!

Best wishes,

John Baker

Chairman/Artistic Director

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THE
SHERBORNE

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**Charterhouse, The Plume of Feathers,
The Sherborne and Sherborne Castle Estates.**

2nd–9th May 2024



Photo: ©Len Copland

Sherborne Festival Chorus

Paul Ellis *conductor*
Chameleon Arts Orchestra
Amelia Monaghan *soprano*

Thursday 2nd May at 7.30pm
Tickets: £35, £30, £15, £10
Sherborne Abbey

Edward Elgar: *Serenade for Strings*
Gabriel Fauré: *Requiem*
 (Interval)
John Rutter: *Magnificat*

Start your Festival experience with an evening of music spanning all the emotions! Sherborne Festival Chorus returns with two much-loved choral works, written 100 years apart. 2024 is the Fauré centenary (d.1924). His sublime setting of the Requiem has been a favourite with choirs and audiences alike since its first performance in 1890. No rage or fury here: instead, this masterpiece is marked by solace and hope, glorious melody and angelic harmonies, including the famous *Pie Jesu* and sublime *In Paradisum*. Rutter's joyful setting of the Magnificat conjures up the sunshine of Spain and South America and their lively street festivals celebrating the Virgin Mary. With its energetic rhythms, colourful orchestration and Rutter's trademark melodies, it will be impossible to leave the Abbey without it ringing in your ears! Opening the concert is Elgar's wonderful early jewel, the *Serenade for Strings*.

Sherborne School Chamber Ensembles

Friday 3rd May at 1.30pm

Tickets: Free entry
Sherborne Abbey



A piano trio, a string quartet and a brass ensemble are joined by talented soloists from Sherborne School in the glorious surroundings of Sherborne Abbey. This lunchtime recital is part of a weekly platform for solo performances and small ensembles drawn from all year groups that ordinarily takes place in Cheap Street Church every Friday of the school year. Perfect before or after a light lunch!



Sherborne School Swing Band

James Henderson *director*

Friday 3rd May at 5pm

Tickets: Free entry
Big School Room, Sherborne School

Sherborne School's superb swing band, spanning all year groups, returns with another great line-up of big band classics. Tunes from the '30s and '40s sit alongside well-known contemporary numbers, while soloists and vocalists from across the band get a chance to be in the spotlight. It continues to be one of the best-loved events at the Festival!

2nd–9th May 2024

Leia Zhu and Iuventus Chamber Orchestra



Thomas Hull *conductor*

Ruth Rogers *leader*

Leia Zhu *violin*

Friday 3rd May at 7.30pm

Tickets: £35, £30, £15, £10

Sherborne Abbey

Johannes Brahms: Violin
Concerto in D major, op.77

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart:
Symphony no.41, 'Jupiter', k.551

The 17-year-old British- Chinese violin sensation Leia Zhu performs one of the great Romantic works of the violin repertory, the Brahms Violin Concerto – supremely demanding technically, interpretatively and emotionally. Zhu, who made her debut at four years old, has already performed in more than 20 countries to unalloyed praise from critics and fellow artists alike, including Sir Simon Rattle who recently hailed Zhu 'a soaring talent'. In the second half, the Iuventus Chamber Orchestra come to the fore in Mozart's grand final symphony – the dramatic and exuberant 'Jupiter', which foreshadows Beethoven in its famously sophisticated finale.

Sherborne School Chamber Choir

James Henderson *director*

Saturday 4th May at 11am

Tickets: Free entry
Sherborne Abbey



Get your morning off to a great start with another delightful programme from Sherborne School's outstanding chamber choir, performing close harmony arrangements of classics from the shows

and other well-loved contemporary songs. Plus a Barbershop group, consisting almost entirely of ex-cathedral choristers, adds a humorous and light-hearted twist.



Wessex Strings

John Jenkins *conductor*
Shoko Middleton *leader*

Saturday 4th May at 1.30pm

Tickets: £8
Cheap Street Church

Wessex Strings are delighted once again to provide a platform for accomplished young Sherborne musicians. Welcome to soloists Laura Jones for Vivaldi's virtuoso Concerto in C major RV443, performed on a Sopranino Recorder, and Elodie Rigby for Glazunov's charming *Meditation for Violin and Orchestra*. The programme opens with J.S. Bach's majestic Overture from the First Orchestral Suite. In sharp contrast are the yearning and achingly tender melodies of Finzi's *Romance for String Orchestra* before the ensemble slips back to the Baroque for a spirited close with Handel's Concerto Grosso for Strings op.6 no.1.

2nd-9th May 2024



Aquinas Piano Trio

Ruth Rogers *violin*
Katherine Jenkinson *cello*
Martin Cousin *piano*

Saturday 4th May at 3.30pm
Tickets: £15
Gransden Hall at The Merritt Centre

Franz Joseph Haydn
Piano Trio in D major, Hob. XV:7
Felix Mendelssohn
Piano Trio no.2 in C minor
Franz Schubert
Piano Trio no.1 in B flat major, D898

The Aquinas Piano Trio is firmly established as one of the leading piano trios in the country, with violinist Ruth Rogers also well known to local audiences. Praise by the critics for 'exquisite virtuosity' and for being 'spot on in interpretative instinct' (*Gramophone*) has resulted in an increasing catalogue of recordings. Look forward to these qualities in the elegantly sublime Haydn D major trio (recently released on Naxos), the stormy and thrilling C minor trio by Mendelssohn and one of the great pinnacles of the chamber music repertoire – the mighty Schubert B flat trio. In short, an unmissable afternoon for chamber music lovers, ahead of the group's next Wigmore Hall appearance.



Ex Cathedra

Jeffrey Skidmore *conductor*

Martha McLorinan *mezzo soprano*

James Robinson *tenor*

Simone Rebello *bells*

Saturday 4th May at 7.30pm

Tickets: £35, £30, £15, £10

Sherborne Abbey

Rachmaninoff: 'All-night vigil', op.37

Ex Cathedra are an elite vocal ensemble who have been captivating a diverse range of audiences for more than 50 years. In the stunning setting of Sherborne Abbey they present Rachmaninoff's powerful and hypnotic 'All-night vigil' – a luminous choral tapestry that draws upon Orthodox chants from the Znamenny tradition, Greece and poignantly from the Ukrainian capital Kyiv. Immerse yourself in mesmeric melodies and hear some of the lowest notes you'll ever hear sung! This magnificent sacred music composed during the turmoil of the Great War held special significance for Rachmaninoff. In this work he breathed new life into his unique choral heritage. Ex Cathedra's presentation is informed by recent discoveries of the 1915 premiere. Join us for this very special evening.

2nd–9th May 2024

Services

Festal Eucharist

Choral Evensong

Choral Matins*

Sunday 5th May
Sherborne Abbey at 9.30am; 6pm
* Castleton Church at 11.15am

The Abbey Choir, which leads the worship at the Abbey throughout the year, has an increasingly strong reputation for the quality of its singing. During the Festal Eucharist hear Palestrina's *Missa Brevis* alongside motets by Byrd and Tallis during the Communion. Choral Evensong includes the wonderful Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis in F major for double choir by Charles Wood and the first performance of a new anthem by the Abbey's Director of Music, James Henderson. Mid morning, The Beckett Consort return to the Festival for Choral Matins at Castleton Church.



Photos: Francesco Vitali, Kyrstan Data

The English Orpheus

Kieran White *tenor*
David Wright *harpsichord; chamber organ*

Sunday 5th May at 3.30pm
Tickets: £15
Gransden Hall at The Merritt Centre

Henry Purcell: songs and arias

Kieran White – ex-Sherborne chorister and now leading, internationally sought-after tenor – presents a programme of songs and arias accompanied by renowned harpsichordist extraordinaire David Wright. With favourites including the transcendent 'Sweeter Than Roses' and 'One Charming Night' from *The Fairy Queen*, this an absolute treat of an afternoon recital for Purcell lovers.



An Evening with Jacqui Dankworth

Jacqui Dankworth *vocals*

Sunday 5th May at 7.30pm

Tickets: £20

Big School Room

One of the country's most highly regarded jazz vocalists – the deeply soulful and award-winning Jacqui Dankworth – is joined by a stellar line-up of musicians for one of a select number of 2024 tour dates. In this very special, intimate concert audiences will be treated to a sparkling collection of songs drawn from her highly praised studio albums as well as her much anticipated new album *Windmills*, due for release in spring, and tracks that have inspired her incredible career. Jacqui's live concerts showcase her unique versatility and effortless mastery of a wide spectrum of genres, drawing on jazz, folk, soul and blues, as well as her acute sensibility as a songwriter and lyricist. Grab a ticket while you can!

2nd–9th May 2024

Gryphon School and Phoenix Voices

Head of Music: **Valdon Mizen**

Sunday 5th May at 1pm

Tickets: Free entry
Sherborne Abbey



The Gryphon School Music Department returns to the Festival with a musical theatre themed programme featuring an exciting three-way choral collaboration. The performance brings together the school's Pitch Perfect school and Show Orchestra, comprising secondary school students aged 11 – 18 years, members of the Staff Choir

and the Phoenix Voices directed by Kris Emmett – a thriving local community choir based in Yeovil. Look forward to arrangements and solos from *Joseph and his Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Aladdin*, *Sweet Charity*, *Hairspray*, *The Phantom of the Opera* and *Sister Act*, with live instrumental accompaniments.

Family Workshops Toddler Tunes/ Carnival Samba



Monday 6th May at 10.30am

Tickets: FREE (advanced booking only)

Toddler Tunes: ages 2–4 years;
limited to 15 places.

Samba batucada: ages 9–90;
limited to 40 places.

Digby Memorial Church Hall

Forty-five fun minutes in a Toddler Tunes workshop to delight and surprise your little one, introducing them to sound, rhythm and songs to remember. Bring a teddy! Meantime, older children to grandparents can get into Brazilian carnival mood with this *samba batucada* workshop. Shake, rattle and drum with cross rhythms and Latin American percussion, then come together in an exhilarating informal performance, Rio style!

Organ Recital

Robert Quinney *organ*

Monday 6th May at 1.30pm

Tickets: £15

Sherborne Abbey

Robert Quinney is one of the UK's most esteemed organists and is director of the world-famous Choir of New College, Oxford, where he is also Tutorial Fellow in Music. Prior to Oxford, he was Sub-Organist at Westminster Abbey, performing at such state occasions as the Marriage of the Prince and Princess of Wales in 2011, and briefly Director of Music at Peterborough Cathedral. He is also a frequent guest conductor, notably with

the BBC Singers, and since 2022 is Director of The Edington Music Festival within the Liturgy. He made his debut as a solo organist in 2017 at the Royal Festival Hall; his choral and organ recordings have been widely acclaimed. In this lunchtime recital he performs a programme of music from Bach to Mendelssohn to Dupré, closing with Vienne's atmospheric 'Clair de lune' and 'Carillon de Westminster' from the *Pièces de Fantaisie* suites.



Photo: Nick Rimer

Leweston School Chamber Ensembles

Monday 6th May at 4pm

Tickets: Free entry

St Aldhelm and the Sacred Heart

An afternoon treat for those who fancy a little taste of everything! Leweston School's senior ensembles include their Baroque Ensemble, Recorder Consort, Saxophone Ensemble, String Quartet, Rock Band and Jazz Band in this wide-ranging programme – We Are the Music Makers – spanning 400 years of musical imagination.



2nd–9th May 2024



Choral Illuminations

Sherborne Abbey Choir

James Henderson *director*

Monday 6th May at 7.30pm

Tickets: £12, £10, £8, £6

Sherborne Abbey




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Photo © Len Copland

Sherborne Abbey Choir present something uniquely special at this year's Festival: a meditative programme that includes music from the Sherborne Missal – the spectacular and unrivalled late medieval service book created by the Abbey monks between 1399 and 1407. Gentle plainchant from this exceptional treasure,

interspersed with magnificent full-bodied choral music from some of the greatest composers of the Renaissance – Orlando Lassus, Tomás Luis de Victoria, Thomas Tallis, Francisco Guerrero and Robert Parsons, serves to illuminate in sound both Sherborne's sacred history and the continuation of its exceptional musical heritage.

2nd–9th May 2024

The Art of the Italian Concerto

Academy of Ancient Music

Bojan Čičić *director, violin*

Tuesday 7th May at 7.30pm

Tickets: £25; £20; £15; £10

Sherborne Abbey

Giovanni Mossi

Concerto in G minor for four violins, no.12

Pietro Locatelli

Concerto grosso in C minor, no.11

Antonio Vivaldi

Violin Concerto in E major, RV265, from
L'estro armonico

Concerto for two violins in D minor, R565,
from L'estro armonico

Giuseppe Valentini

Concerto in A minor for four violins

Arcangelo Corelli

Concerto grosso in D major, no.4

Take the warmth of Italy. Add the energy of the Baroque, plus the novelty and glamour of the very latest in musical technology: the violin. The renowned Academy of Ancient Music celebrates the Italian concerto, a sunburst of creativity, flamboyance and sheer musical imagination that took Europe by storm – and transformed the way we listen. We'll meet some old friends: who doesn't love the showmanship and melody of Vivaldi, or the unchained exuberance of his older contemporary Corelli? Locatelli, Valentini and Mossi are less well-known, but every bit as entertaining. AAM's leader Bojan Čičić leads his hand-picked team of virtuoso players to rediscover a fabulous lost world: music that never loses its power to seduce, dazzle and delight.



Photo: Benjamin Edwards

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Sherborne Girls Madrigal Society

Mark Cracknell *director*

Tuesday 7th May at 1.30pm

Tickets: Free entry
Sherborne Abbey

Join Sherborne Girls Madrigal Society for a lunchtime concert to lift the spirit. This talented chamber choir, comprising 22 female voices, will give a varied programme of choral music from some of the world's most renowned composers, from Mendelsohn to the modern day, sung a cappella and accompanied by organ or piano.

Photo: ©Josie Sturgess-Mills



Photo: ©Josie Sturgess-Mills

Sherborne Girls Chamber Ensembles

Tuesday 7th May at 4.30pm

Tickets: Free entry
Gransden Hall at The Merritt Centre

Sherborne Girls' chamber musicians are something special. Their short programme of piano trios and quartets in the school's beautiful Gransden Hall features works by Schubert and Fauré, among others. Perfect for an afternoon break.

Leweston Schola Cantorum



Photo: ©Len Copland

Rachel Milestone *director*

Wednesday 8th May at 1pm

Tickets: Free entry
Sherborne Abbey

Musically re-fuel over lunch with Leweston School's Senior choirs: Schola Cantorum, Festival Singers and the Sixth-Form/Staff Choir. Their joyful programme is an eclectic mix of choral arrangements, from favourite popular songs to traditional and modern sacred choral music by British, European and American composers. There is something for everybody in this programme!

Dinner and Opera

Lynsey Docherty *soprano*
Anthony Flaum *tenor*
Philip Smith *baritone*
Caroline D'Cruz *piano*

Wednesday 8th May at 7pm

Thursday 9th May at 7pm

Tickets: £70 per head
The Plume of Feathers



Welcoming back the original Opera at The Plume team! Lynsey, Anthony and

Philip lead this musical extravaganza from opera's greatest hits through to contemporary music theatre, interwoven with a sensational menu from the restaurant team. The evening commences in the pretty courtyard, soaking up the summer sunshine

before taking places at table, surrounded by the singers and enveloped by the music. Finally, the courtyard is atmospherically lit for a Broadway finale, all delivered with the performers' inimitable slick, uplifting and inclusive style. This event sells out, for both performances, every year, so be sure to book early!

Guests will be seated at shared tables unless booking a party for six or more. Once you have purchased tickets, please advise The Plume of Feathers directly if you have any special dietary requirements. (Patrons' discounts do not apply.)

2nd–9th May 2024

Thursday 2 May

Sherborne Festival Chorus	7.30pm	Sherborne Abbey
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Friday 3 May

Sherborne School Chamber Ensembles*	1.30pm	Sherborne Abbey
Sherborne School Swing Band*	5pm	Big School Room, Sherborne School
Leia Zhu and Iuventus Chamber Orchestra	7.30pm	Sherborne Abbey

Saturday 4 May

Sherborne School Chamber Choir*	11am	Sherborne Abbey
Wessex Strings	1.30pm	Cheap Street Church
Aquinas Piano Trio	3.30pm	Gransden Hall at The Merritt Centre
Ex Cathedra	7.30pm	Sherborne Abbey

Sunday 5 May

Festal Eucharist*	9.30am	Sherborne Abbey
Choral Matins*	11.15am	Castleton
Gryphon School*	1pm	Sherborne Abbey
Kieran White	3.30pm	Gransden Hall at The Merritt Centre
Evensong*	6pm	Sherborne Abbey
An Evening With Jacqui Dankworth	7.30pm	Big School Room, Sherborne School

Monday 6 May

Family Workshops**	10.30am	Digby Memorial Church Hall
Robert Quinney Organ Recital	1.30pm	Sherborne Abbey
Leweston Chamber Ensembles*	4pm	St Aldhelm and the Sacred Heart
Sherborne Abbey Choir	7.30pm	Sherborne Abbey

Tuesday 7 May

Sherborne Girls Madrigals*	1.30pm	Sherborne Abbey
Sherborne Girls Chamber Ensembles*	4.30pm	Gransden Hall at The Merritt Centre
Academy of Ancient Music	7.30pm	Sherborne Abbey

Wednesday 8 May

Leweston Schola Cantorum*	1pm	Sherborne Abbey
Dinner and Opera	7pm	The Plume of Feathers

Thursday 9 May

Dinner and Opera	7pm	The Plume of Feathers
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All event details correct at the time of going to press.



* Free entry
** Tickets free (limited spaces; advance booking required)