

Cheltenham CHAMBER MUSIC

2025-26 PROGRAMME



Takács Quartet – 21 October

VOCES8 – 20 November

Castalian String Quartet – 11 December

Roderick Williams & Christopher Glynn – 6 January

Kaleidoscope Chamber Collective – 24 February

Clare Hammond – 25 March

Marmen and Kleio Quartets – 29 April

All concerts in Pittville Pump Room

Cheltenham Music Society
www.cheltmusicsoc.co.uk

CHELTENHAM MUSIC SOCIETY

Cheltenham Music Society was founded in 1948 and has been promoting high-quality concerts for string quartets and other ensembles ever since. Many of our artists have established international reputations, and we also give opportunities to high-flying young artists embarking on their careers. Our concerts are given in the Pittville Pump Room, one of the architectural jewels of Cheltenham with wonderful acoustics. They are open to everyone. Single tickets provide excellent value for money, and subscribers to the complete series get a discount of over one-third. Do join us!

In the belief that this was going to be our final series we decided to put together a bumper programme so that we could go out with a bang. Happily, we now find that we can keep going a bit longer and so our 2025-26 season becomes a celebration of our history and future, as you can see from the list of performers on the front cover. With its mix of string quartets, a piano recital, vocal offerings, a concert of horn trios and a performance of Mendelssohn's Octet as its glorious conclusion, this is a season offering music of the highest quality for all tastes.

PITTVILLE PUMP ROOM

Facilities

- Step-free access and disabled facilities and parking.
- Ample, free parking in the evening after 6pm.
- All seats are reserved for these concerts.
- A bar service plus tea and coffee is available.

Directions

Pittville Pump Room lies between Evesham Road and Albert Road at the North end of Pittville Park. The postcode is GL52 3JE. Access by car is via East Approach Drive (off Albert Road).

Bus D (Stagecoach) stops on Evesham Road by West Approach Drive (please check timetable for available service).

Tuesday 21 October 2025
at 7.30pm

There is perhaps no better way to start such an exciting season than with a concert by our old friends, the wonderful Takács Quartet, without doubt one of the truly great quartets on the global stage. Their programme this evening offers four works from the quartet repertoire each in its own way representing a landmark in the musical development and legacy of the composer.

Takács Quartet

Haydn

String Quartet in G minor
op.74 no.3 'Rider' (22')

Bartók

String Quartet no.3 BB93 (16')

Schubert

Quartettsatz in C minor
D703 (10')

Debussy

String Quartet in G minor
op.10 (26')



'Classical music doesn't get much more life-enhancing than this.'

The Guardian

'...describing them as one of the world's best quartets is unavoidable.'

The Guardian

Tickets £28 & £23, under 26 £5, from *Leisure at Cheltenham* Box Office
or at door (or buy a series ticket at 34% discount - see back of brochure)

VOCES8

A wide-ranging programme spanning the centuries from the Renaissance to the present day, including Gibbons' anthem 'O Clap Your Hands', Monteverdi's Sixth Book of Madrigals, works by Weelkes, Mendelssohn, Elgar, Nat 'King' Cole, Gershwin and Irving Berlin – and more!

Thursday 20 November 2025
at 7.30pm

'VOCES8's gorgeous sound, impeccable ensemble and intense responsiveness to text, harmony and melodic shape is all of the highest quality. Hearing them sing is a joy.'
BBC Music Magazine



Andy Staples

Tonight's concert offers a rare opportunity to experience live the vocal sound world of a group described by The Arts Desk as 'the Rolls-Royce of British *a cappella* ensembles'. Grammy-nominated and a magnet for superlatives, they bring to the Pump Room a programme showcasing a selection of their favourite works and arrangements in celebration of their 20th anniversary in 2025.

Tickets £28 & £23, under 26 £5, from *Leisure at Cheltenham* Box Office or at door (or buy a series ticket at 34% discount - see back of brochure)

Thursday 11 December 2025
at 7.30pm

The award-winning Castalian String Quartet first played for us in April 2019 and we are delighted to welcome them again. Now in wide demand on the international stage, they are regular performers at the Wigmore Hall and have recently been invited to extend their inaugural Hans Keller String Quartet Residency at Oxford University. Tonight's programme offers the treat of a series of short pieces followed by two quartets from mainstream repertoire rarely heard at our concerts.

Castalian String Quartet

Schumann

'Der Dichter spricht' (arr.) (3')

Kurtág

Aus die Ferne III (3')

Dvořák

Selection from *Cypresses* (10')

Mendelssohn

String Quartet in E flat major
op.44 no.3 (34')

Brahms

String Quartet in A minor
op.51 no.2 (24')



The Castalian Quartet makes the simplest things we hear into the most important things we could ever want to hear....There were times that I simply could not believe my ears." *Calgary Herald*

Tickets £28 & £23, under 26 £5, from *Leisure at Cheltenham* Box Office or at door (or buy a series ticket at 34% discount - see back of brochure)

Roderick Williams
(baritone)

Christopher Glynn
(piano)

An English Song Winterreise

A journey through English song set against the backdrop of the 24 songs of Schubert's famous song cycle.

Composers include Vaughan Williams, Finzi, Britten, Bridge, Judith Weir, the newly announced Master of the King's Music Errollyn Wallen, and Roderick Williams himself.

Tuesday 6 January 2026
at 7.30pm

'From the moment he appears, Williams gives the impression that there is nowhere else in the entire universe he would rather be, such is his charisma.' *Charles Hutch Press*

'I was transfixed and touched by ... Christopher Glynn's brilliant piano playing.' *The Times*



Joanna Bergin



Theo Williams

Schubert's song cycle *Winterreise* captivates singers and audiences alike. In 2016 one of the UK's most sought-after and best-loved baritones, Roderick Williams, was just beginning to study the work in German, when he was invited by pianist Christopher Glynn to collaborate on the performance of a new English translation. Now, he has been inspired to transpose Schubert's traveller to a journey through English song and we are privileged to be the first audience to accompany him along his way.

Tickets £28 & £23, under 26 £5, from *Leisure at Cheltenham Box Office* or at door (or buy a series ticket at 34% discount - see back of brochure)

Tuesday 24 February 2026
at 7.30pm

Kaleidoscope Chamber Collective is one of the UK's most imaginative and versatile ensembles with a reputation for creativity and joyous music-making of the highest order. Invited by the Society to suggest a programme with a difference, the group's co-founder and artistic director, Tom Poster, proposed this mouth-watering set of horn trios.

Kaleidoscope
Chamber Collective
Ben Goldscheider (horn)
Elena Urioste (violin)
Tom Poster (piano)

Mozart

Horn Quintet in E flat major
K.407 (arr. for horn trio by Ernst
Naumann) (17')

Ethel Smyth

Horn Trio in A major (27')

Brahms

Horn Trio in E flat major
op.40 (29')



‘...a sparky, shape-shifting
ensemble of starry young
musicians...’ *The Arts Desk*
‘...exhilarating
performances...’ *The Times*

Tickets £28 & £23, under 26 £5, from *Leisure at Cheltenham* Box Office
or at door (or buy a series ticket at 34% discount - see back of brochure)

Clare Hammond (piano)

Chopin

Barcarolle op.60 (9')

Bacewicz

Sonatina (7')

Rachmaninov

Etudes-Tableaux op.33 (26')

Florence Price

Fantasie Nègre no.1 (9')

Michael Betteridge

Prison piece (5')

Janáček

In the Mists (14')

Earl Wild/Gershwin

Virtuoso Etudes after

Gershwin nos. 4, 6 and 7 (8')

Wednesday 25 March 2026
at 7.30pm

'...shimmering pianism and
lightly-worn virtuosity...'

BBC Music Magazine

'a pianist of extraordinary
gifts' *Gramophone*



Philp Gatward

Much-loved by Cheltenham audiences and promising another recital of the finest musicianship, Clare Hammond returns with a typically varied and eye-catching programme. The piece by Michael Betteridge is a reflection of her increasing commitment to community engagement in schools and prisons and is a co-composition resulting from a series of workshops undertaken with Michael in prisons in Staffordshire in 2025.

Tickets £28 & £23, under 26 £5, from *Leisure at Cheltenham Box Office* or at door (or buy a series ticket at 34% discount - see back of brochure)

Wednesday 29 April 2026
at 7.30pm

‘The best chamber ensembles are a joy to watch as well as hear. The Marmen Quartet clearly take delight in their art...’ *Local concert review*

‘A wonderfully dedicated group of musicians, [the Kleio Quartet] bring assuredness and freshness to everything they play.’ *Alina Ibragimova*



Marmen Quartet*

Kleio Quartet**

Beethoven *

String Quartet in F major
op.135 (24')

Kaija Saariaho **

Terra Memoria (20')

Mendelssohn

Octet in E flat major
op.20 (30')



The Marmen Quartet delighted their Music Festival audience in 2024. For us they join forces with the young Kleio Quartet, recently appointed as BBC New Generation Artists and already with a multitude of awards to their name. This is an evening not to be missed: the lyricism of Beethoven's last quartet, the absorbing intensity of Kaija Saariaho's work from 2007, and the 16-year-old Mendelssohn's astonishing Octet performed by two of the most exciting of today's upcoming ensembles.

Tickets £28 & £23, under 26 £5, from *Leisure at Cheltenham Box Office* or at door (or buy a series ticket at 34% discount - see back of brochure)

SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP AND SEASON TICKETS

By buying a season ticket for the seven concerts you become a member of the Society. For each seat purchased you will receive a 2025-26 membership card showing name and seat number. A season ticket costs £130 for the A seats or £105 for the B seats, a discount of over 34% on the price of single tickets. By joining the Society you get a better choice of seat and the ability to renew your subscription by phone or email.

Members are entitled to a 50% discount on the purchase of individual concert tickets, up to 2 tickets per concert. Please use Box Office code CMS252650.

Membership applications must be received by **15 September** unless otherwise arranged with the Membership Secretary. You can pay for season tickets by bank transfer (our preferred method), cheque or debit/credit card. **If you wish to pay by card or bank transfer, we will email payment details to you.**

INDIVIDUAL CONCERT TICKETS

Tickets for individual concerts are available at the door and can be purchased in advance at the *Leisure at Cheltenham* box office or by phone 01242 528764. They can also be bought on the Town Hall website www.cheltenhamtownhall.org.uk. A discount of 10% is offered for those purchasing tickets for four concerts together at the box office; to do this please use box office code CMS252610.

NOT A MEMBER BUT WANT TO STAY IN TOUCH ?

Join our mailing list and we will alert you about forthcoming concerts and other news. Just email membsec@cheltmusicsoc.co.uk and ask to be added to the list.

SEASONTICKETS

Season tickets may be purchased by sending the form overleaf to the Membership Secretary Mike O'Connell (Tel 01242 234791) by **?? September 2025:**

- By post to 49 Painswick Rd, Cheltenham, GL50 2EP
- By email to membsec@cheltmusicsoc.co.uk if you are not sending a cheque

You can pay by cheque, bank transfer or debit/credit card. For cheque payment, please enclose the cheque with your form. For bank transfer or debit/credit card, please tick the appropriate line on the booking form and the Membership Secretary will contact you with payment details. **Bank transfer is our preferred means of payment.** Subscribers will receive membership cards showing seat numbers for the season.

Holders of a membership card for 2024-25 do not need to use the form overleaf. They will receive details showing how to renew their membership in a letter accompanying this brochure.

DONATIONS

Ticket sales do not cover the full cost of our concerts and we rely on donations to maintain the quality of our programmes. Please consider making a donation of at least £10 per person and allowing us to increase its value by Gift Aid. Cheltenham Music Society is a registered charity no. 279209.

DATA PROTECTION

We will use personal information only to mail and email about concerts, events and programme changes, and we will not share it with any other organisation. We share members' names and seat numbers with Box Office staff to assist in cases of inability to present a membership card. Details of our Data Protection Policy are on our website. By giving us your details you consent to us holding your data.

Form for New Membership Applications

Name(s)

Address

Phone

Postcode

Email

I wish all my donations to the Cheltenham Music Society from this date onwards to be treated as Gift Aid donations. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference (*Delete this paragraph if you do not wish us to claim gift aid*).

Signed.....

Date.....

Tickets required

..... Price band A series seats at £130 £.....

..... Price band B series seats at £105 £.....

..... Under-26 series seats (any band) at £15 £.....

Donation £.....

Total payable to Cheltenham Music Society £.....

Please indicate Pump Room seat preference by circling area of choice or contact the Membership Secretary if you have more specific requirements.

Payment method (please tick one):

I wish to pay by bank transfer.....

I wish to pay by debit/credit card

I enclose a cheque

Stage		
£130	£130	£130
£130	£130	£130
£105	£105	£105

Please return to the Membership Secretary by **15 September 2025**