

Cheltenham CHAMBER MUSIC

2025-26 PROGRAMME

This is a mid-season updated brochure.
The four concerts in 2026 will now take place
in Cheltenham Ladies' College.
See pages 2-3 for details.

There have also been some changes to
concert programmes.

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

Cheltenham Music Society
www.cheltnmusic soc.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 usually 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.

Changes to concert venues

All this season's concerts were originally to be held in the Pittville Pump Room, our normal venue. However, the Pump Room will be closed for the first four months of 2026 in order to have its floor rebuilt. In consequence, four of our concerts have to be moved to a different venue. **Those concerts will now take place in Cheltenham Ladies' College, either the Parabola Arts Centre (PAC) or Princess Hall as indicated on individual concert pages.** Seating at these concerts will be unreserved; single tickets will cost £28 (£5 for under 26). Tickets will continue to be available through the Cheltenham Trust box office. Discounts for Members' guests and for the four-concert purchase will still apply as detailed at the end of the brochure

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).

CHELTENHAM LADIES' COLLEGE

The **Parabola Arts Centre** is located at the junction of Bayshill Road and Parabola Road; the entrance is on Bayshill Road.

Access to the **Princess Hall** is through the main entrance to the College, also on Bayshill Road.

Both venues have step-free access. A bar service will be available. There is free parking after 6pm on surrounding roads, and town-centre car parks are nearby.

We would like to thank Cheltenham Ladies' College for their help in arranging use of their facilities.

Tuesday 21 October 2025
at 7.30pm
in Pittville Pump Room

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')



Amanda Tipton

‘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
in Pittville Pump Room

'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
in Pittville Pump Room



© Todd Rosenberg, Natalie Loughran, Andrej Grlic, Stefan Morris

Castalian String Quartet

Haydn

String Quartet in F major
op.77 no.2 (25')

Mendelssohn

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

Beethoven

String Quartet in C sharp
minor op.131 (47')

Join us for what is, sadly, one of the final concerts being given by this much-loved quartet. They first played for us in 2019 and we are grateful to them for giving us the opportunity to bid them farewell. The line-up will include two award-winning and impressively experienced young violinists from the United States but these changes of personnel mean a change of programme from that originally advertised. The evening will now offer the chance to hear three mainstream works from the quartet repertoire which have, surprisingly, rarely featured in our concerts.

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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
in **Parabola Arts Centre**

'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, 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
in **Princess Hall, CLC**

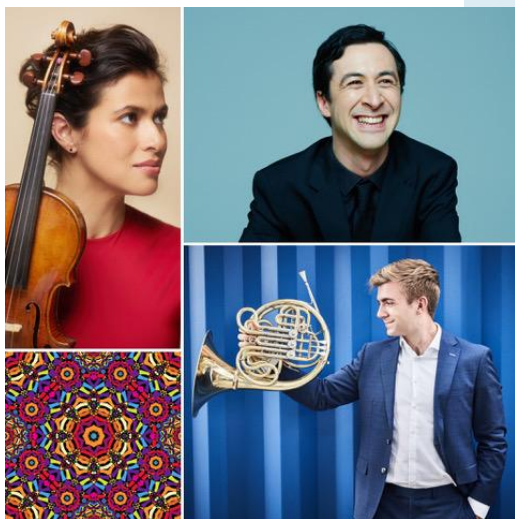
Kaleidoscope Chamber Collective is one of the UK's most imaginative and versatile ensembles with a reputation for creativity and joyous music-making of the highest order. Invited by the Society to suggest a programme with a difference, the group's co-founder and artistic director, Tom Poster, proposed 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 K407
(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, 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')

Grażyna Bacewicz

Sonatina (7')

Rachmaninov

Etudes-Tableaux op.33 (26')

Florence Price

Fantasie Nègre no.1 (9')

Michael Betteridge

Shattered Freedom, Shards of
Hope (5')

Janáček

In the Mists (14')

Earl Wild

Virtuoso Etudes after

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

Wednesday 25 March 2026
at 7.30pm
in **Princess Hall, CLC**

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

BBC Music Magazine

'a pianist of extraordinary
gifts' *Gramophone*



Philip 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, 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
in **Parabola Arts Centre**

‘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*



Marco Borggrave

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')



Matthew Johnson

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.

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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 credit or debit card, 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 booking fee may apply. 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@cheltmusic soc.co.uk and ask to be added to the list.

SEASON TICKETS

The sale of season tickets for 2025-26 has now closed. Details of how to apply for next season will be in the 2026-27 brochure which will be distributed in March/April 2027.

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.