

Cheltenham CHAMBER MUSIC

2026-27 PROGRAMME



Opus 13 – 20 October 2026

Steven Osborne – 10 November

APOLLO5 – 8 December

Carducci Quartet and Julian Bliss – 27 January 2027

Hana Chang and Arthur Hinnewinkel – 23 February

Fibonacci Quartet – 10 March

Fidelio Piano Trio – 14 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 career. 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!

The Society has always been committed to providing a platform for young talent and in a season offering two string quartets, a string quartet extended to a clarinet quintet, two recitals, a piano trio and a festive vocal concert, three of the concerts showcase young musicians, all already multiple prize-winners and recognised as names to watch. We are now trying to stretch our finances to allow our concerts to continue for another few years but, as the programme for this season demonstrates, quality remains central to our selection of artists and, as ever, the concerts in their variety offer much to enjoy and discover.

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).

Opus 13

Beethoven

String Quartet in D major
Op. 18 No. 3 (25')

Thomas Adès

Arcadiana Op. 12 (20')

Brahms

String Quartet in C minor
Op. 51 No. 1 (35')

Tuesday 20 October 2026

at 7.30pm

at Pittville Pump Room

'...a performance of a profundity and kaleidoscopic colour that would have been astounding from any ensemble, let alone a young one still making itself known.' *Gramophone*



Elvira Glänte

A quick return to Cheltenham for this young Scandinavian string quartet who will be performing at the 2026 Music Festival. In April 2025 they mirrored the achievements of the Leonkoro Quartet in 2022 by taking multiple prizes at both the Wigmore Hall and the Bordeaux string quartet competitions. The Leonkoro Quartet wowed us in October 2023. Be prepared to be wowed again!

Tickets £29 & £24, under 26 £5, from *Leisure at Cheltenham Box Office* or at door (or buy a series ticket at 34% discount - see back of brochure)

Steven Osborne (piano)

Schumann

Papillons Op. 2

Satie

Gymnopédie No. 3

Lili Boulanger

'D'un jardin clair' from Trois
Morceaux pour piano

Lyadov

A Musical Snuff Box Op. 32

Kreisler (arr. Rachmaninov)

Liebesleid

Ravel

Valses nobles et sentimentales

Chaminade

'Autrefois' from 6 Pièces
humoristiques Op. 87

Schubert

Piano Sonata No. 20
in A major D959

Tuesday 10 November 2026
at 7.30pm
at Pittville Pump Room



Benjamin Ealovega

'...a care for colour and a sense of control that put the works across more effectively than any amount of grandstanding.' *The Guardian*

One of the UK's most loved and internationally acclaimed pianists offers a programme of consummate artistry and virtuosity. In the first half a succession of shorter pieces forms an ideal prelude to the elegance of Ravel's exquisitely crafted 'Valses nobles et sentimentales'. After the interval Chaminade's 'Autrefois' provides the perfect introduction to one of Schubert's glorious late sonatas.

Tickets £29 & £24, 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 8 December 2026

at 7.30pm

at Pittville Pump Room

With their line-up of just one soprano, one mezzo-soprano, two tenors and a bass, APOLLO5 are one of the UK's smallest but most critically acclaimed vocal ensembles. Formed in 2011 as part of the VOCES8 Foundation and with a repertoire that spans over 500 years of music, they inhabit and communicate a sound-world of extraordinary intimacy and intensity.

APOLLO5

Make We Joy Now

A seasonal celebration exploring texts and settings from the medieval to the contemporary classical. At the heart of the programme will be Poulenc's beautiful 'Quatre motets pour le temps de Noël'. Other composers range from Byrd, Walton and Warlock to Bob Chilcott, Elizabeth Poston and Adrian Peacock and there will also be classical contemporary arrangements of traditional songs and texts. Even the apparently familiar may well surprise!



Matthew Johnson

'...exceptional cohesion and effortless style... faultless.' *BBC Music Magazine*

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Carducci Quartet and Julian Bliss (clarinet)

Wednesday 27 January 2027
at 7.30pm
at Pittville Pump Room

Mendelssohn

String Quartet in D major
Op. 44 No.1 (30')

David Bruce

'Gumboots' (25')

Brahms

Clarinet Quintet in B minor
Op. 115 (36')

'[The Carducci Quartet] have a distinctive tone, rich and darkly burnished with real complexity and depth, and they bring a keen interpretive sensibility to every phrase.' *The Arts Desk*

'Julian Bliss's performances are immaculate.' *The Guardian*



Marco Borggreve



Music Productions

We welcome again the splendid Cheltenham-based Carducci Quartet, joined by one of the world's finest clarinetists, Julian Bliss. In addition to a Mendelssohn quartet rarely performed at our concerts, and the exquisite clarinet quintet by Brahms, the musicians will give another airing to David Bruce's 'Gumboots', a work inspired by the Gumboot Dancing of black South African miners under apartheid, which they performed during the 2019 Music Festival.

Tickets £29 & £24, 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 23 February 2027
at 7.30pm
at Pittville Pump Room

A winner of the 2023 Young Classical Artists Trust and Concert Artists Guild International Auditions, one of Classic FM's Rising Stars of 2024, recipient in 2024 of an ongoing Borletti-Buitoni Fellowship, and BBC New Generation Artist, Hana Chang is an exceptional talent. Arthur Hinnewinkel was a major prize-winner at the 2025 Queen Elisabeth competition, after taking prizes in previous Clara Haskil and Gstaad competitions.

'Impeccable, authentic, and gracious playing – Hana's focus is at all times on the substance of the music...' *The Violin Channel*
'... a blend of authority and spontaneity, rich, luminous sounds and finely articulated playing.' *Queen Elisabeth Competition press review*

Hana Chang (violin)
Arthur Hinnewinkel
(piano)

Mozart

Violin Sonata in E minor K304 (15')

Sibelius

Five Pieces for violin
and piano Op. 81 (15')

Grieg

Violin Sonata No. 2
in G major Op. 13 (20')

Lili Boulanger

Deux Morceaux for violin
and piano (5')

Prokofiev

Violin Sonata No. 2
in D major Op. 94bis (23')



Yannick Perrin



Kaupo Kikkas

Tickets £29 & £24, under 26 £5, from *Leisure at Cheltenham Box Office*
or at door (or buy a series ticket at 34% discount - see back of brochure)

Fibonacci Quartet

Haydn

String Quartet in C major
Op. 76 No. 3 'Emperor' (27')

Berg

Lyric Suite (30')

Tchaikovsky

String Quartet No. 3 in
E flat minor Op. 30 (43')

Wednesday 10 March 2027

at 7.30pm

at Pittville Pump Room

Prolific prize-winners and already with residencies and teaching posts, this young ensemble is taking the quartet world by storm. In 2024 they were overall winners in the highly selective Young Classical Artists Trust (YCAT) international auditions. Their programme for us, featuring late Haydn, less familiar Tchaikovsky and Berg's intensely dramatic love-letter to his mistress, is a testament to their ambition and virtuosity.



Kaupo Kikkas

'...four brilliant young musicians who share a passion for the impossible!'
The Journal of Music

Tickets £29 & £24, 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 14 April 2027
at 7.30pm
at Pittville Pump Room

The Fidelio Trio unfailingly attracts plaudits for its virtuosity, precision, enthusiasm and eloquence. All of these will be on display in a programme that features the precociousness of the 12-year-old Korngold and brings together two established masterpieces of the repertoire: Ravel's glorious trio written in 1914 just as the First World War was taking hold and Beethoven's ever popular 'Archduke' with its wonderful slow movement.

Fidelio Piano Trio

Korngold

Piano Trio in D major Op. 1 (30')

Ravel

Piano Trio (30')

Beethoven

Piano Trio in B flat major
Op. 97 'Archduke' (40')



Christopher Baines

'...their interpretative touch is secure, their rapport instinctive. Together with their eloquence and passion, this all adds up to something special.'
Gramophone

Tickets £29 & £24, 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 2026-27 membership card showing name and seat number. A season ticket costs £135 for the A seats or £110 for the B seats, a discount of 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 can purchase half-price tickets to bring up to two guests to any concert. Please use box office code CMS262750.

Membership applications must be received by **21 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 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 CMS262710.

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@cheltmusicoc.co.uk and ask to be added to the list.

SEASON TICKETS

Season tickets can be purchased by sending the form overleaf to the Membership Secretary Mike O'Connell (Tel 01242 234791) by **21 September 2026**:

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

Subscribers will receive membership cards showing seat numbers for the season.

Bank transfer is our preferred means of payment. BACS payments should be made to Cheltenham Music Society
Sort code 40-17-53 Account number 61067699

Please use your surname and initials as the reference.

Alternatively you can pay by cheque or debit/credit card. For cheque payment, please enclose the cheque with your form. For debit/credit card, please tick the appropriate line on the form and the Membership Secretary will contact you with payment details.

Holders of a membership card for 2025-26 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. Larger donations are welcome and will help to extend the life of the Society. Please allow us to increase the value of your donation by means of 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.

