

Thames Concerts 2026/27 Series

Artistic Director's notes



It gives me great pleasure to present this series of concerts, taking place in the wonderful home of the series, St Andrew's Church, Surbiton. Thames Concerts' position as the premier long-term promotor and organiser of high-quality chamber music performances in the Borough since 1961 remains unrivalled. Our attractive ticketing options continue of course, and the 10% discount scheme on the concert days continues at nearby establishments. All evening concerts start at 7.30pm, with doors (and the excellent value bar) opening at 6.45pm. As always, we are proud to give a platform to emerging young artists, alongside the welcome return of several exceptional, more seasoned performers.

Thames Concerts has not always been the quickest to embrace the online world, but we are at thamesconcerts.com, and on Facebook and Instagram, so do feel free to check these out in an idle moment....

The series begins on **Saturday 12 September** with us welcoming back the fine **Halcyon String Quartet**. The quartet plays Haydn, Korngold, Shaw and the fifth quartet by Leonard Salzedo. Salzedo (best known for his Open University brass theme) enjoyed a remarkable career as a performer, conductor and composer, with his music now enjoying a well-deserved renaissance. We are hugely grateful to The Leonard Salzedo Society for their most generous support of this concert.

Saturday 17 October sees **Kryštof Kohout** (violin) and **Edward Leung** (piano) in an inspiring programme of music by Prokofiev, Suk, Novák and Franck's great *Sonata*.

On **Saturday 21 November** we are proud to welcome Thames Concerts' distinguished Vice-President cellist Jamie Walton, and his duo partner **Daniel Lehardt** (piano), in a programme of Beethoven, Janáček, Fauré and Rachmaninoff's sublime and much-loved *Sonata*.

The talented young pianist **Rieko Makita** takes the **Sunday 12 December** slot in her self-curated *Night and Reflections*, a spellbinding nocturnal programme of music by Schumann, Debussy, Ravel, Liszt, Yoshimatsu and others.

A recital on the church's fine Hunter organ has long been a memorable feature of every series and taking us into 2027 on **Saturday 16 January** we welcome the new Director of Music at Hampton Court Palace, **Alexander Hamilton**, in a programme of music by Bach, Franck, Liszt and others.

Making a welcome return to the series on **Saturday 30 January**, **Emma Halnan** (flute) and **Antonio Oyarzábal** (piano), in their newly formed duo, present a ravishing programme of French modernism and impressionism, including works by Poulenc, Debussy, Bonis and Dutilleux.

The series will close on **Saturday 13 February** with the internationally renowned President of Thames Concerts Roderick Williams OBE performing Schubert's *Winterreise*. It is a huge pleasure for me to be at the piano for this performance.

Thames Concerts enjoys a reputation for supporting young up-and-coming musical talent in the local community. This includes those from disadvantaged backgrounds, those who experience other barriers to participation, and students from the local schools and colleges. In 2015 I introduced admission-free Surbiton Farmers' Market Day morning concerts (all at 10.30am), running parallel to the main evening series, intended to showcase this work, as well as allowing audiences to experience chamber music on a smaller scale. Those involved are free to present a programme of their choosing from any musical styles and genres. So far, many hundreds of students from over 15 local schools have taken part, and audiences are continually impressed by the high standard of performance they present.

This season, we will be treated to a visit from **Kingston Grammar School** students on **Saturday 17 October**, followed by **Hinchley Wood School** students on **Saturday 21 November**, the annual visit from students from across the borough studying with **Kingston Music Service** on **Saturday 19 December**, and post-graduate music students studying at **Kingston University** on **Saturday 16 January**.

On behalf of my fellow director-trustees, we look forward to meeting you at some point during the series. More details may of course be found as usual at thamesconcerts.com.

Ben Costello
Artistic Director and Company Secretary
22.vi.26