

SURREY HILLS INTERNATIONAL MUSIC FESTIVAL

CONCERTS | WALKS | TALKS



5 - 16 MAY 2026

SURREY HILLS 
INTERNATIONAL MUSIC FESTIVAL

Festival Patrons:
The Duke of Northumberland
Dame Sarah Connolly DBE
Nicola Benedetti CBE

Welcome to the 2026 Surrey Hills International Music Festival


Join us for another wonderful season with the world's finest musicians in beautiful venues across the Surrey Hills. This year award-winning vocal group Tenebrae perform a stunning programme of music from across the centuries, and we make a welcome return to RHS Garden Wisley – the perfect setting for Julian Bliss and his quintet to delight us with jazz classics. Festival favourites, the Sitkovetsky Trio, play Schubert's radiant Trout Quintet and the four pianists from the 2024 Piano Extravaganza are back to create virtuosic magic with Prokofiev's Cinderella and more!

We are thrilled that Festival Patron, Dame Sarah Connolly will give a recital of exquisite songs from the romantic era in an additional evening concert for 2026, and we celebrate the 3rd edition of the Young Composer Competition with a separate concert for the prize-winners. Guided walks and talks complete the line-up in what promises to be another exceptional year.

Artistic Director: Wu Qian

Festival Patrons

The Duke of Northumberland
Dame Sarah Connolly DBE
Nicola Benedetti CBE



'Music-making of the very highest quality
and enjoyment....Outstanding in every way'

At a glance

MAY 2026

5

Guided Walk &
Emerging artists
Lunchtime Concert
with talk by Kate
Williams

West Horsley Place
10.30AM Walk
12.30PM Concert & Talk

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Julian Bliss Quintet
Pioneers of Jazz

Garden Room at RHS
Garden Wisley
7.30PM

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Tenebrae
A Celestial Gift

Holy Trinity Church,
Guildford
7.30PM

11

Guided Walk &
Young Artists
Lunchtime Concert

St Michael's Church,
Betchworth

10.30AM Walk
12.30PM Concert

14

A Fairytale in Paris
Two-Piano
Extravaganza

The Menuhin Hall,
Stoke d'Abernon

7.30PM

15

Songs of Love
& Longing
Dame Sarah Connolly
& Julius Drake

Holy Trinity Church,
Guildford

7.30PM

16

Festival Finale:
Vienna
Sitkovetsky Trio

The Menuhin Hall,
Stoke d'Abernon

6.15PM Young composer concert
7.30PM Concert



La Dolce Vita: Guided Walk & Emerging Artists Concert

Tuesday 5 May

10:30am Walk

12:30pm Concert & Talk

Stone Hall, West Horsley Place,
Epsom Road, West Horsley KT24 6AN

Italy has been the birthplace of many people that have influenced the evolution of Western music for the past 700 years. This programme celebrates some of Italy's finest composers over the centuries. Historian, writer and TV broadcaster Kate Williams, together with the Flutes and Frets Duo explore a chronological journey of Italian music in words and music.

Kate Williams Speaker

Flutes and Frets Beth Stone & Daniel Murphy

Italian music from the 15th to the 19th centuries including works by **Palestrina, Monteverdi, Vivaldi** and **Rossini**.

A publicity partnership with Guildford Book Festival



WEST
HORSLEY
PLACE

Charles
Russell
Speechlys

£30 Walk, Concert & Talk
£20 Concert & Talk only
<https://tickets.shimf.co.uk>



“The Julian Bliss Quintet brings irresistible energy, dazzling virtuosity, and pure joy to the stage.”



Julian Bliss Quintet Pioneers of Jazz

Thursday 7 May 7:30pm

Garden Room at RHS Hilltop,
RHS Garden Wisley, GU23 6QB

Concert held in association with our sponsors



**Brewin
Dolphin**

The Pioneers of Jazz were the trailblazers who revolutionised the musical landscape, shaping a genre into a force of artistic expression and cultural significance.

Join the Julian Bliss Quintet in the beautiful surroundings of the Hilltop room at RHS Garden Wisley for an exciting and vibrant programme exploring music from Duke Ellington, Charlie Parker, Herbie Hancock and Wayne Shorter amongst others.

With their innovative arrangements, the Julian Bliss Quintet breathe new life into both traditional and contemporary jazz, captivating listeners with their expressive interpretations and undeniable chemistry.



£45 Concert | £10 aged 8-30yrs
<https://tickets.shimf.co.uk>



Tenebrae: A Celestial Gift

Saturday 9 May 7:30pm

Holy Trinity Church, High Street,
Guildford GU1 3RR

Award-winning vocal ensemble Tenebrae presents a wide-ranging programme spanning five centuries of sacred choral music. A Celestial Gift features celebrated choral works such as Holst's majestic *Nunc dimittis* and Allegri's iconic setting of the *Miserere*. Alongside these familiar favourites, this programme showcases a wealth of music by some of today's most exciting and popular composers, with special highlights including *In Winter's House* by Joanna Marsh and James MacMillan's *Miserere*.

Programme

Orlande de Lassus Musica Dei donum
Plainchant Pange lingua
Philip Moore Morning Prayer
Caroline Shaw and the swallow
Owain Park Beati quorum via
Joanna Marsh Evening Prayer
Orlando Gibbons arr. Christian Forshaw
Drop, drop slow tears
Gregorio Allegri Miserere, mei Deus

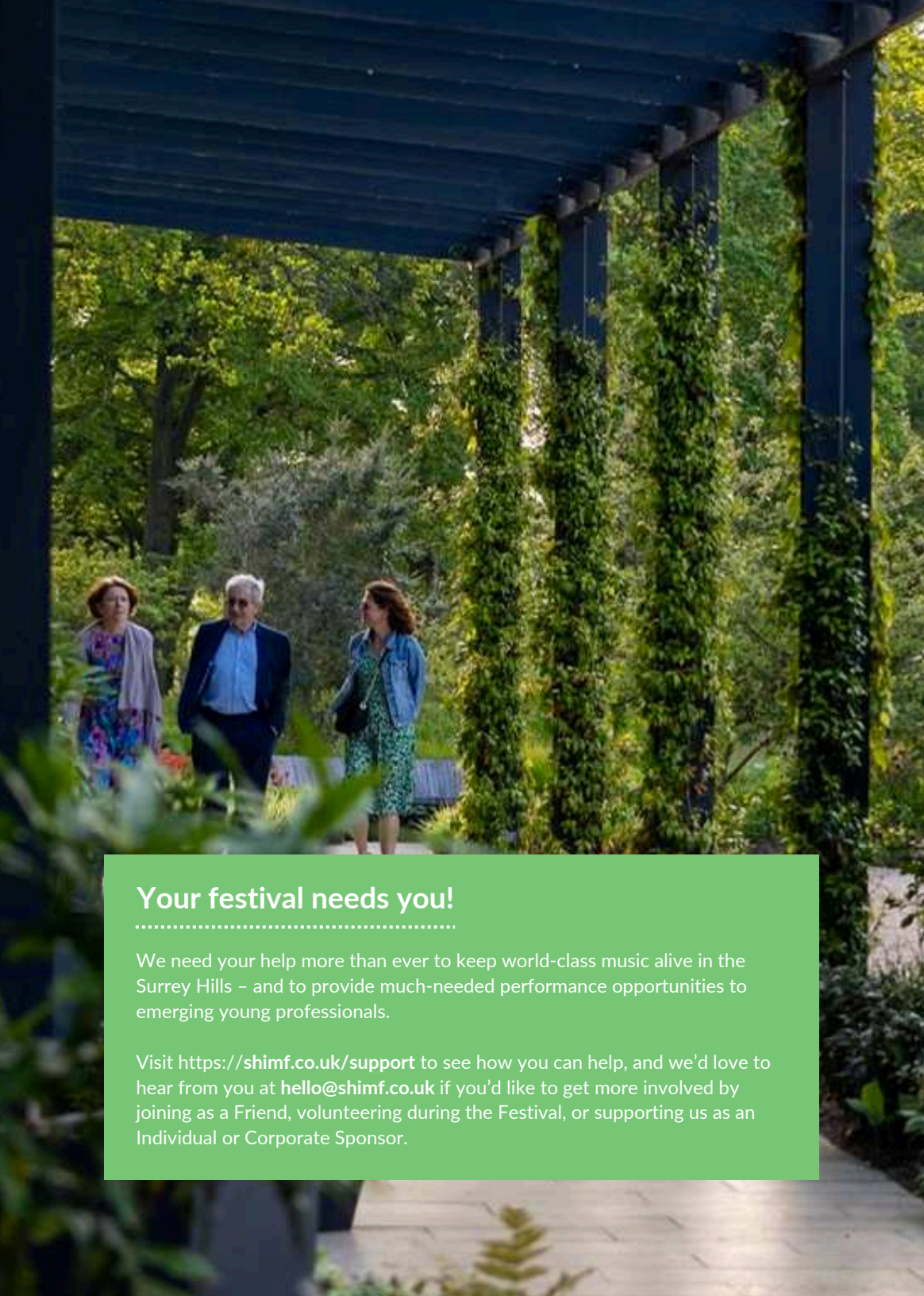
John Tavener Funeral Ikos
Joanna Marsh In Winter's House
Owain Park Caelos ascendit hodie
Sergei Rachmaninov Heruvimskaya pesn
Pavel Chesnokov Svyete tihi
James MacMillan Miserere
Gustav Holst Nunc dimittis

£40 | £10 aged 8-30yrs
<https://tickets.shimf.co.uk>



"For purity and precision of tone, and flawless intonation, Nigel Short's chamber choir Tenebrae is pretty much unbeatable."

The Times



Your festival needs you!

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We need your help more than ever to keep world-class music alive in the Surrey Hills – and to provide much-needed performance opportunities to emerging young professionals.

Visit <https://shimf.co.uk/support> to see how you can help, and we'd love to hear from you at hello@shimf.co.uk if you'd like to get more involved by joining as a Friend, volunteering during the Festival, or supporting us as an Individual or Corporate Sponsor.

Guided Walk & Young Artists Concert

Monday 11 May 10:30am Walk | 12:30pm Concert & Talk

St Michael's Church, Betchworth, Church Street, Betchworth, RH3 7DN

St Michael's church in Betchworth has become a regular favourite venue of the festival for our annual lunchtime concert by the students of the Yehudi Menuhin School. There will be a delightful mix of instrumental solos and duos by these incredibly talented young musicians.

Then why not experience the full pleasure of the Surrey Hills by adding a pre-concert guided walk in the stunning local countryside to your musical experience?

Students from
The Yehudi Menuhin School



Tickets for the walk go very fast so don't leave it too late to book.

£30 Walk & Concert
£20 Concert only
<https://tickets.shimf.co.uk>





A Fairytale in Paris

Thursday 14 May 7.30pm

The Menuhin Hall, Cobham Road,
Stoke d'Abernon KT11 3QQ

Through the hands of four brilliant pianists we are transported into a fairytale world with a distinct French flavour, for another two-piano, four-hand extravaganza. Ravel's enchanting Mother Goose Suite is matched with his Daphnis et Chloé, painting an impressionistic soundscape of love, nature, and ancient myth with shimmering colour. Chaminade's elegant Six Pièces Romantiques and popular works from Mozart, Bach and Mendelssohn complete a magical programme where intimacy meets virtuosity.

Katya Apekisheva, piano
Charles Owen, piano
Juho Pohjonen, piano
Wu Qian, piano

Mozart Sonata for two pianos in D
Ravel Mother Goose Suite
Mendelssohn Andante and Allegro brilliant
Chaminade Six Pièces Romantiques
Ravel Daphnis et Chloé
J.S. Bach Passacaglia and Fugue in C minor


Menuhin Hall

£38 Concert
£10 aged 8-30yr
<https://tickets.shimf.co.uk>





“Whatever she sings,
you get singing straight
from the heart.”

The Times



Songs of Love & Longing Dame Sarah Connolly (mezzo-soprano) & Julius Drake (piano)

Friday 15 May 7:30pm

Holy Trinity Church, Guildford. GU1 3RR

A wonderful opportunity to hear a recital by the legendary Dame Sarah Connolly, world-renowned singer and Festival patron, together with leading pianist Julius Drake. Songs of Love and Longing brings together composers who gave musical voice to the most intimate reaches of the human heart. From Brahms's tender meditations and Schumann's poignant reflections on loss, to Mahler's bittersweet scenes of the earthly and eternal, Dame Sarah's velvety tones take the listener on a beautiful journey through some of the most expressive and captivating songs ever written.

Brahms Songs including Wie Melodien,
O Kähler Wald, Von ewiger Liebe
Schumann Maria Stuart lieder
Mahler Songs from Des Knaben
Wunderhorn:
Debussy Chansons de Bilitis
Duparc L'invitation au voyage
Mozart Abendempfindung

£40 Concert
£10 aged 8-30yr
<https://tickets.shimf.co.uk>





“...a shared spirit of playfulness...
Top quality chamber playing
from the experts.”
Edinburgh Music Review

Festival Finale

Saturday 16 May

6:15pm Early Concert: Young
Composer Competition 2026

7:30pm Concert: Vienna

The Menuhin Hall, Cobham Road,
Stoke d'Abernon KT11 3QQ

6:15pm-7pm Early concert:

The winning composition from our third Young Composer Competition, alongside some of the other entries in this short early evening concert, will be performed by local students arranged by Surrey Arts. The concert will be followed by a presentation of the prizes.

Entry is included in the ticket for the Sitkovetsky Trio concert at 7.30pm.

Concert held in collaboration with

SURREY
MUSIC HUB

Vienna

Mozart, Schubert, and Mahler all had strong ties to Vienna, the focus of this evening's concert. Schubert lived all his life in the city, and his 'Trout' Quintet is a work overflowing with melody, warmth, and playfulness — not least in the sparkling set of variations on his much-loved song Die Forelle (The Trout). Mahler came to Vienna as a student and Mozart made the city his home in the final decade of his life, creating many of his greatest works there including the stormy G minor Piano quartet.

Experience three musical gems in the company of the Sitkovetsky Trio who have invited four outstanding students from the Yehudi Menuhin School to join them on the stage.

Mahler Piano Quartet in A minor
Mozart Piano Quartet in G minor, K.478
Schubert Quintet in A major, D.667 'Trout'

Sitkovetsky Trio:
Alexander Sitkovetsky, violin
Isang Enders, cello
Wu Qian, piano

Students from the Yehudi Menuhin School:
Jackson Kou, viola
Miffy Sun, piano
Bobbie Chan, viola
Doruk Oztosun, double bass

£40 | £10 aged 8-30yrs
(includes admission to both concerts)
<https://tickets.shimf.co.uk>





Booking information

For 14 and 16 May only, you will be re-directed to The Menuhin Hall's online box office at www.themenuhinhall.co.uk.

You can also contact them for these two events only at 01932 559400 (Mon - Fri 10am-3pm, closed 12.15-12.45).

Please email hello@shimf.co.uk with any ticketing queries, to reserve wheelchair or carer seats or advise us of any special access needs.

Public booking opens on 7 January 2026
at <https://tickets.shimf.co.uk>



Surrey Hills International Music Festival is a Registered Charity No. 1171264

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We *work together* to build deep and trusted relationships that deliver meaningful value to our clients. We know what *matters*.

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