

CONCERTS | WALKS | TALKS

SURREY HILLS

INTERNATIONAL MUSIC FESTIVAL

6 - 17 MAY 2025



SURREY HILLS 
INTERNATIONAL MUSIC FESTIVAL

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

Welcome to the 2025 Surrey Hills International Music Festival

“The Surrey Hills International Music Festival not only brings top calibre international artists to one of the most beautiful parts of England, but it supports young aspiring musicians and composers who desperately need a platform. The venues are breathtaking and the programmes fascinating. What’s not to like?”

Dame Sarah Connolly, DBE

This season we welcome the Festival debut of the outstanding vocal group VOCES8 with an intoxicating and varied programme of their favourite music. Players from the renowned ensemble, the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center in New York indulge our inner romantic with a delicious programme of late 19th century works, as well as giving us an astonishing display of virtuosity in the Baroque

programme at St Martin’s Church Dorking – a new venue for the Festival. For lovers of the piano, 2021 Leeds International Piano Competition winner Alim Beisembayev plays Chopin, Scarlatti, Liszt and Ravel. Or why not incorporate a guided walk with your lunchtime concert at West Horsley Place or Betchworth? Music in harmony with nature in the glorious Surrey countryside.

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Artistic Director: Wu Qian



“The Festival this year really was wonderful: so many top rate international musicians all performing at the top of their game with such enthusiasm and commitment and all clearly enjoying their music-making hugely. That fed down through to the audience, adding to our enjoyment.”



Guided walk & lunchtime talk with concert

Tuesday 6 May 10:30am Walk | 12:30pm Concert & Talk

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

Onward journeys: music, exile and pilgrimage

Writer and presenter Katy Hamilton explores this fascinating topic with the help of current joint winners of the New Elizabethan Award, the Londinium Consort. Their programme celebrates the music of both Elizabethan ages, with a focus on music from the time of Elizabeth I who was once a visitor to West Horsley Place.

There is also the option to join the pre-concert guided walk through the beautiful countryside around West Horsley.

Katy Hamilton Speaker
Londinium Consort
Emanuele Addis Lute
Rachel Allen Soprano
Otto Hashmi Recorders
Ozgur Kaya Violin
Mikolaj Piszczorowicz Violin



Dowland arr. Ben Finlay
Can she excuse?
Dowland O Sweet Woods;
The King of Denmark's Galliard
Brade Scottish tune
Anon. arr. Delyth Field Death
and the Lady
Robert Johnson Oh, let us howl
Owen Spafford Threshold
(world premiere)

A publicity partnership with Guildford Book Festival



WEST
Horsley
Place

Charles
Russell
Spechlyns

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





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 www.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.



Alim Beisembayev, solo piano

Thursday 8 May 7:30pm

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

Scarlatti Sonatas selection

Ravel Valses nobles et sentimentales

Liszt Après une lecture du Dante

Eleanor Alberga Cwicseolfor

Chopin 24 Preludes, Op.28

Alim Beisembayev won First Prize at the prestigious Leeds International Piano Competition in September 2021 and in 2023 became a BBC Radio 3 New Generation Artist. Now all eyes in the piano world are upon this young musician, who has begun a dazzling career, both in concert and on disc.

At the centre of his programme are Chopin's 24 Preludes, blending deep emotional intensity with technical mastery, complemented by romantic works by Ravel and Liszt. Scarlatti's keyboard sonatas, characterised by their baroque elegance and inventive style and Eleanor Alberga's short work of astonishing virtuosity, are a delightful contrast.



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



VOCES8: Twenty!

20 Songs from 20 years of VOCES8

Saturday 10 May 7:30pm

Holy Trinity Church, High Street,
Guildford GU1 3RR

Concert sponsored by



**Brewin
Dolphin**

Join VOCES8 for a celebration of their first 20 years in a concert of their favourite and most popular pieces. Featuring music from across the centuries that are so often requested - such as Allegri's Miserere, Elgar's Lux Aeterna and Kate Rusby's Underneath the Stars, they look back at some of the music they have grown up with, as well as singing pieces by contemporary composers they are proud to call friends.

Programme

Gibbons O Clap Your Hands; Drop, Drop Slow Tears

Arvo Pärt The Deer's Cry

Rachmaninov Bogoroditse Devo

Jake Runestad Let My Love Be Heard

Paul Smith Nunc Dimittis

Ola Gjeilo Ubi Caritas

Mendelssohn Denn er hat seinen Engeln

Caroline Shaw - and the swallow

Elgar arr. James Cameron Lux Aeterna (Nimrod)

Monteverdi 6 madrigals from Book VI: Lagrime D'Amante al Sepolcro Dell'Amata

Weelkes As Vesta Was

Lassus Dessus le marché d'Arras

Kate Rusby arr. Jim Clements Underneath the Stars

Traditional spiritual arr. David Blackwell Steal Away

Allegrì Miserere Mei, Deus

£42 | £10 aged 8-30yrs

<https://tickets.shimf.co.uk>



VOCES 8



Guided walk & Young Artists lunchtime concert

Monday 12 May 10:30am Walk | 12:30pm Concert

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

The Medieval village church of St Michael's Betchworth was such a popular venue for our concert by the Yehudi Menuhin School students in 2024, that we decided to return there this year.

The programme will combine instrumental solos and duos by the phenomenally talented young musicians.

The church, which featured in the film *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, is the starting point for a walk in the beautiful surrounding countryside before the concert.

Students from
The Yehudi Menuhin School



Tickets for the walk go very fast so don't leave it too late to book if you want to add in the walk to your concert experience.

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





The Late Romantic

Thursday 15 May

6.30pm Pre-concert talk by musician and broadcaster Sandy Burnett

7.30pm Concert

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

Musicians from the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, New York:

Kristin Lee violin

Arnaud Sussmann violin/viola

Nicholas Canellakis cello

Sitkovetsky Trio:

Alexander Sitkovetsky violin

Isang Enders cello

Wu Qian piano

Philip Dukes viola

Will Duerden double bass

Barber Adagio for strings

Chaminade Piano Trio No.2

Wagner Altblatt (Romance) for violin and piano

Strauss Metamorphosen

This stunning programme features romantic music of profound emotional depth, from the mournful melodies of Barber's famous Adagio for strings to Strauss's expressive contemplations on loss and transformation. Cecile Chaminard's powerful Piano Trio demonstrates her acute gift for beautiful melodic writing, while the tender intimacy of romance is reflected in Wagner's Altblatt. It's a programme guaranteed to tug at the heart strings.

A special pre-concert talk by musician and broadcaster Sandy Burnett, with musical illustrations by the performers, offers an in-depth look into the evening's performance.

£40 Concert & Talk

£38 Concert only

£10 aged 8-30yrs



M
Menuhin Hall



Festival Finale: Baroque Virtuoso

Saturday 17 May 7:30pm

St Martin's Church Dorking, RH4 1UT

In a programme bursting with Baroque brilliance, Bach steals the spotlight with three of his masterpieces. The much-loved Brandenburg Concertos are trailblazers in the concerto form, while in the Concerto for Two Violins the instruments weave together in an emotionally intense interchange featuring dazzling solo moments and a beautiful slow movement. Vivaldi adds a touch of Italian flair with his Cello Concerto, filled with virtuosic demands and dramatic contrasts that let the soloist's expressive and technical skills shine. The programme opens with Jean-Marie Leclair's Sonata for Two Violins in E minor, a work that highlights Leclair's supreme mastery of lyrical dialogue.

Musicians from the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, New York:

Kristin Lee violin

Arnaud Sussmann violin/viola

Nicholas Canellakis cello

Flute 1 Anna Wolstenholme

Flute 2 Daniel Shao

Violin Natalie Klouda

Violin So-Ock Kim

Viola Benjamin Roskams

Cello Ariana Kashefi

Double bass Will Duerden

Continuo Masumi Yamamoto

Leclair Sonata for Two Violins in E minor, Op.3 No.5

Vivaldi Cello Concerto in C minor, RV 401

Bach Brandenburg Concerto No.5 in D, BWV 1050

Bach Concerto for Two Violins in D minor, BWV 1043

Bach Brandenburg Concerto No.4 in G, BWV 1049

£40 Concert

£10 aged 8-30yrs

<https://tickets/shimf.co.uk>





Booking information

For 8 and 15 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 2025 at <https://tickets.shimf.co.uk>



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INTERNATIONAL MUSIC FESTIVAL

At a glance

May 2025

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Guided Walk &
Emerging artists
Lunchtime Concert
with talk by
Katy Hamilton

West Horsley Place

10.30AM Walk
12.30PM Concert & Talk

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Alim Beisembayev,
solo piano

The Menuhin Hall,
Stoke d'Abernon

7.30PM

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VOCES8

Holy Trinity Church,
Guildford

7.30PM

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Guided Walk & Young
Artists Lunchtime
Concert

St Michael's Church,
Betchworth

10.30AM Walk
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15

The Late Romantic

The Menuhin Hall,
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6.30PM Pre-concert Talk
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