

7.30pm Saturday 31st October 2015 St Albans Abbey

Biennial Concert of the St Cecilia Festival Society
The Hardyngs Choir, Radlett Choral Society and St Albans Chamber Choir join St Albans Symphony Orchestra

Dvorák Requiem

Geraldine McGreevy, soprano
Deborah Miles-Johnson, alto
Mark Wilde, tenor
Jeremy White, bass
Alex Flood, conductor



Dvorák composed his *Requiem* in the final decade of the 19th century. Despite the specifically religious nature of its text, the work, with its large scale, its many performers and its construction in two parts so as to allow for an intermission, was always intended for the concert hall rather than the church.

Ticket prices: £25, £20, £15, £10
Abbey box office: 01727 890290 or online at www.stalbanscathedral.org



7pm Friday 1st January 2016 St Albans Abbey

Bernstein Symphonic Dances from West Side Story
Mascagni Intermezzo from Cavalleria Rusticana
Saint Saëns 'Bacchanale' from Samson et Delila
Sibelius Valse triste
Offenbach Overture to Orpheus in the Underworld
J Strauss jnr Blue Danube
Korngold The Sea Hawk
Torke Javelin
Lehar Merry Widow Waltz

Welcome the New Year with a concert for all the family in the glorious surroundings of St Albans Abbey and hear some of the most exciting music ever written.

Ticket prices: £25, £20, £15 reserved
£8 unreserved (restricted view)
£1 accompanied child, £5 students



7.30pm Saturday 5th March 2016 St Saviour's Church, St Albans

Glinka Overture 'Ruslan and Ludmila'
Mendelssohn Violin Concerto
Cristian Grajner De Sa, violin
Britten Four Sea Interludes
Hindemith Symphonic Metamorphosis of Themes by Weber



Cristian Grajner De Sa began violin and piano lessons at the age of seven and since then has enjoyed performing in recitals and as a concerto soloist on the violin. He has appeared as a String Finalist in the televised BBC Young Musician of the Year 2012 competition.

Mendelssohn's *Violin Concerto* is possibly the most popular work ever written for violin, with glorious melodies displaying the soloist's virtuoso technique.

Britten's *Sea Interludes* are scene changes from his opera *Peter Grimes*, and he always intended for them to be published separately.

Hindemith sketched a series of movements based on themes by Weber to be used in a ballet for a dance company, but the ballet never came to fruition.

**Ticket prices: £15 (nave),
£10 (aisle) unreserved
£1 accompanied child, £5 students**



7.30pm Saturday 14th May 2016 St Saviour's Church, St Albans

In memory of Babs Yule (1920-2010)
Elgar Symphony No.2
Guest conductor: Bjorn Bantock



A weekend orchestral workshop to prepare and perform Elgar's spectacular Symphony No.2. The workshop starts on Friday. Sectional tutorials led by professional tutors will take place on the Saturday morning, followed by further rehearsal and an evening performance.

Ticket prices: £5 to include pre-concert talk and cheese and wine

7.30pm Saturday 25th June 2016 St Saviour's Church, St Albans

Bloch Schelomo: Rhapsodie Hébraïque for Violoncello and Orchestra
Bjorn Bantock, violoncello
Mahler Symphony No.5



Bjorn Bantock trained as a professional 'cellist and is Head of Strings at Bedford School.

Schelomo was the final work completed by Bloch before coming to America in 1916. It was initially meant to be a vocal work but the composer didn't know which language to use, so he scored it for solo 'cello instead. The fourth movement of Mahler's epic Symphony No.5 may be his most famous composition and was used in the 1971 film *Death in Venice*.

**Ticket prices: £15 (nave), £10 (aisle) unreserved
£1 accompanied child, £5 student**

7.30pm Wednesday 6th July 2016 Homewood Road Church, St Albans Concerto Evening and End of Season Friends Night

Join us and hear leading players from the Orchestra play their favourite concertos accompanied by the Orchestra.



Free Admission!

Little Monsters! Concerts for Children

Sunday 11th October 2015
at 2.00pm and 3.30pm (two concerts)
St Saviour's Church, St Albans

Hear a full-scale symphony orchestra close up playing an exciting selection of music! Try out the instruments!
Come dressed as your favourite monster or superhero!

Guest conductor: Michael Thorne

Tickets: CHILDREN only £1 Grown ups £5

Tickets

All tickets, except 31st October, are available from SASO Ticket Secretary:

Simon Healy

Enquiries: 01727 852768 email: tickets@saso.org.uk
online: www.saso.org.uk (booking fee applies)

Tickets for 31st October available from Abbey Box Office:
01727 890290 or online: www.stalbanscathedral.org



Season Tickets

Season tickets are available from the SASO Ticket Secretary with a choice of Abbey seat pricing. Season tickets do not include 31st October 2015.

Top price seats in all venues:

£48 for five Concerts

Second price seats in Abbey, top price elsewhere:

£45 for five Concerts



Become a Friend

Become a Friend of SASO for a minimum donation of £25 single, £30 double, and receive extra benefits. Season tickets do not include 31st October 2015:

- 10% discount on Friend's own ticket and season tickets
- Priority booking
- Reserved seats in the front few rows of the Abbey for the New Year concert – an offer extended to any friends that you invite
- Social events and after concert parties
- Invitation to AGM and open rehearsals
- Listed by name in the concert programmes

Further details from Christine Drury: 01727 858963
email: friends@saso.org.uk



Join the Orchestra

SASO has occasional vacancies for high-standard musicians, especially strings, and opportunities to deputise or play as an extra.

Information from Gillian Stansfield: 01727 867045
email: secretary@saso.org.uk

St Albans Symphony Orchestra

The Orchestra was founded in 1932 and comprises high-standard musicians of all ages from throughout Hertfordshire and beyond.

Its members include leading amateurs, professionally-trained musicians, teachers and music college students. The Orchestra is developing into one of the UK's leading non-professional ensembles.

For news and up-to-date information, visit us on the web at www.saso.org.uk



Following the announcement by Bjorn Bantock that our 2014–15 season will be his last with the orchestra, SASO is seeking a new Principal Conductor. We expect to make an announcement about his successor in the spring of 2016. Until then we are delighted that Michael Thorne – who conducted the orchestra in last season's critically acclaimed performance of *Die Meistersinger* in Saffron Walden – will be at the helm for our popular Concerts for Children on Sunday 11th October. Alex Flood, conductor of Radlett Choral Society, will be taking charge of the biennial St Cecilia Festival Society concert on Saturday 31st October 2015 and has kindly agreed to prepare the orchestra for the performance of Dvorak's Requiem, as well as his own choir. Guest conductors will be announced in the autumn for our concerts in 2016, including New Year's Day in the Abbey. But we look forward to welcoming Bjorn Bantock back in May as our visiting conductor for Elgar's Symphony No.2.

St Albans Symphony Orchestra is a registered charity number 1038283 and is affiliated to Making Music.



@sasotweet



Brochure details are subject to change.
Please check concert details in advance.

St Albans Symphony Orchestra



Leader
Jennifer Wigram

President
Anthony Harris

Concert Season 2015-16

www.saso.org.uk