

BILL CARSLAKE

Artistic Director & Principal Conductor

Bill composes music and words inspired by immersive outdoor projects. He is interested in nature's sonic structures, and in how we interact with the natural world. He is a passionate supporter of sustainable maritime shipping, and maintains a busy conducting career. He is delighted to be the new Artistic Director of St Albans Symphony Orchestra. Bill is also Artistic Director of Farnborough Symphony Orchestra.



Bill's current composition commission is for the 25th anniversary of Imperial College Sinfonietta. *Bog Music* (provisional title) is inspired by raised bogs in Ireland and will premiere in December 2023. In 2018/19 he won a Finzi Scholarship to compose a piece inspired by Mountain Hares. *Disco Ball - Mountain Hare*, premiered by Farnborough Symphony Orchestra in January 2022. The research trips inspired a travel essay, *Composing in the Cairngorms*; the project features in a Finzi Trust podcast.

In 2016 Bill collaborated with the poet, Helen Mort, on an exploratory expedition in East Greenland. This inspired *The Singing Glacier* for The Little Baroque Company, with original, spoken poetry by Helen, and film by Richard Jones. Performances have included the Totally Thames Festival and the Aldeburgh Poetry Festival. Helen's poetry and the project were celebrated in a publication by Hercules Press. 2024 will see the launch of *The Sea of Trees*, a project inspired by the 6th century voyage of St Brendan. This will include a journey by sailing ship from Kerry to the Faroe Islands, and will highlight the plight of phytoplankton - the so-called 'marine forest'.

Bill is the Founder and a Director of the business support agency, Clarity & Hart, which works exclusively with the sustainable maritime shipping sector. He is Co-founder of the Guild of Ships, a booking system and circular economy platform for sustainable shipping. He is continually inspired by this incredibly hard-working community.

billcarslake.com

Photo by Ali Eisa

TICKETS

For ticket enquiries please call: **01525 862097** or **07976 800445**, visit: www.saso.org.uk or email: tickets@saso.org.uk

Tickets can be bought online from: www.ticketsource.co.uk (booking fee applies)

Tickets for 1st January will be available from St Albans Cathedral Box Office: **01727 890290**, or online: www.stalbanscathedral.org

BECOME A FRIEND

Become a Friend of SASO for a minimum donation of **£30 single, £35 double**, and receive extra benefits.

- 10% discount on Friend's own ticket
- Priority booking for the New Year Concert
- Invitations to social events
- Invitations to AGM and open rehearsals
- Listed by name in the concert programmes

Further details from: **Philippa MacKenzie**: **01727 760661**, email: friends@saso.org.uk

ABOUT THE ORCHESTRA

Founded in 1932 The Orchestra comprises high-standard musicians of all ages from throughout Hertfordshire and beyond. Its members include amateurs, professionally-trained musicians, teachers and music college students. The Orchestra is one of the UK's leading non-professional ensembles. For news and up-to-date information, visit us at www.saso.org.uk

SASO has occasional vacancies for high-standard musicians, especially strings, and opportunities to deputise or play as an extra. Contact: secretary@saso.org.uk

Follow us: [@sasotweet](https://twitter.com/sasotweet), Facebook: St Albans Symphony Orchestra

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

Brochure details are subject to change. Please check concert details at www.saso.org.uk.

making music

St
Albans
Symphony
Orchestra

CONCERT SEASON 2023-24

PRINCIPAL CONDUCTOR
Bill Carslake

LEADER
Charlotte Fairbairn

PRESIDENT
David Utting

CONCERT SEASON 2023-24



7.30PM, SATURDAY 14TH OCTOBER 2023

St Saviour's Church, St Albans AL1 4DF

'Sun and Dance'

Jenkins And The Sun Stood Still
Nielsen Helios Overture
Sibelius Nightride and Sunrise
Rachmaninov Symphonic Dances

TICKET PRICES: £18 (nave), £13 (aisle), £5 students, £2 accompanied child

SASO is delighted to feature contemporary composer Sarah Jenkins; her 2018 piece was inspired by the winter solstice and the primal, prehistoric resonance that it holds.

A stay in Athens gave Nielsen the inspiration for the *Helios Overture*, depicting the sun rising and setting over the Aegean Sea.

Sibelius's inspiration was a sleigh ride from Helsinki to Kerava during which he saw a striking sunrise.

Rachmaninov's richly-orchestrated *Symphonic Dances* was his last major composition, written in exile but full of nostalgic longing for his Russian homeland.

Children's Concerts 'On the Sea'

St Saviour's Church, St Albans AL1 4DF

SUNDAY 12TH NOVEMBER 2023

at 2.00pm and 3.30pm

An introduction to the orchestra featuring well-known sea-themed pieces. Hear a full-scale symphony orchestra close up, playing an exciting selection of music! Try out the instruments in the interval!

TICKET PRICES: Children only £2, Grown ups £8, Under 2s FREE

Fancy Dress invited (for children and orchestra members!).



7PM, MONDAY 1ST JANUARY 2024

St Albans Cathedral AL1 1BY

'An offer you can't refuse'

Johann Strauss II Die Fledermaus Overture
Josef Strauss Moulinet Polka
Johann Strauss II Im Krapfenwald
Josef Strauss Plappermälchen, Polka schnell
Johann Strauss I Loreley-Rheinklänge
Brahms, arr. Schmeling Hungarian Dances: Nos 5, 6 & 7
Delibes Coppelias: Waltz from Act I, Mazurka
Rota The Godfather: 'Love Theme', Waltz
Kander (orch. Gibson) Entr'acte from Cabaret
Shostakovich Jazz Suite No. 2
Mascagni Cavalleria Rusticana, Intermezzo
Johann Strauss I Radetzky March

Cathedral Box Office: 01727 890290

or online: www.stalbanscathedral.org

SASO's traditional New Year concert will fill the cathedral with celebratory music, including traditional Viennese waltzes and polkas. The title 'An offer you can't refuse' refers to Nino Rota's haunting music for *The Godfather* films.

7.30PM, SATURDAY 2ND MARCH 2024

St Saviour's Church, St Albans AL1 4DF

'Rimsky and his pupils'

Guest conductor - Dan Shiladay

Rimsky-Korsakov Suite: Snow Maiden
Glazunov Violin Concerto
Soloist, Charlotte Fairbairn
Liadov Kikimora
Respighi Pines of Rome

TICKET PRICES: £18 (nave), £13 (aisle), £5 students, £2 accompanied child

Rimsky Korsakov's *The Snow Maiden* (subtitle: *A Spring Fairy Tale*) is an opera composed during 1880-1881. Revised in 1898, it was his favourite composition.

The soloist for Glazunov's lyrical and technically dazzling Violin Concerto will be SASO's leader, Charlotte Fairbairn.

Liadov's 'fantastic scherzo' *Kikimora* concerns a sprite who lives with her guardian, a wizard. The music depicts strange fairy tales, related to her by the wizard's cat!

Respighi's *Pines of Rome*, completed in 1924, has four movements, portraying famous and historic locations with pine trees.

7.30PM, SATURDAY 11TH MAY 2024

St Saviour's Church, St Albans AL1 4DF

'War and Peace'

Guest conductor: Orlando Jopling

Bacewicz Overture
Walton Cello Concerto
Soloist, tbc
Vaughan Williams Symphony No. 6

TICKET PRICES: £18 (nave), £13 (aisle), £5 students, £2 accompanied child

Grażyna Bacewicz's dramatic *Overture* packs the power of a large symphonic work into a compact six minutes; she wrote it in 1943, during the German occupation of Poland.

Walton's *Cello Concerto* is a colourful and expressive masterpiece written relatively late in the composer's career (1956) for the distinguished Russian cellist Gregor Piatigorsky.

Vaughan Williams' 6th Symphony was written during and immediately after World War II. It combines moments of tuneful lyricism with some of the most jagged and unnerving music that the great English composer ever produced.

7.30PM, SATURDAY 29TH JUNE 2024

St Saviour's Church, St Albans AL1 4DF

'Five beats for nature'

Saariaho Forty Heartbeats
Sibelius The Dryad
Liszt Piano Concerto No. 2 in A
Soloist, tbc
Smetana From Bohemia's Woods and Fields
Janáček arr. Talich Suite: The Cunning Little Vixen

TICKET PRICES: £18 (nave), £13 (aisle), £5 students, £2 accompanied child

Kaija Saariaho wrote *Forty Heartbeats* in 1998, for the 40th birthdays of her fellow Finnish composers Esa-Pekka Salonen and Magnus Lindberg. The order in which its 12 pages of music are played is chosen by the conductor.

Sibelius's *The Dryad* is an impressionist miniature, proceeding from fragments to a dance-like theme.

Liszt's much revised second piano concerto is held to be one of the most beautiful and stunning concertos of all time, full of emotion, virtuosity and passion.

From Bohemia's Woods and Trees, depicting the beauty of the Czech countryside, is the fourth movement of *Má Vlast* Smetana's sequence of patriotic tone poems.

Janáček's charming opera *The Cunning Little Vixen* incorporates Moravian folk music and rhythms as it recounts the life of a clever fox, other wildlife, and a few humans.