

7.30pm, Saturday 14th October 2017 St Albans Cathedral

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

<i>Rachmaninoff</i>	The Bells
<i>Tchaikovsky</i>	1812 Overture
<i>Borodin</i>	Polovtsian Dances
<i>Shostakovich</i>	October



John Gibbons, conductor

The Bells is a choral symphony written in 1913. The words are from the poem *The Bells* by Edgar Allan Poe. It was one of Rachmaninoff's two favorite compositions and is considered by some to be his secular choral masterpiece.

Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture was written to commemorate Russia's defence of its motherland against Napoleon's invading Grande Armée in 1812.

Ticket prices:

£25, £20, £15, £10, £5 (accompanied children)

Cathedral box office: 01727 890290 or online at www.stalbanscathedral.org



7pm, Monday 1st January 2018 St Albans Cathedral

<i>Bernstein</i>	Candide Overture
<i>Copland</i>	Four Dance Episodes from Rodeo
<i>Gershwin</i>	An American in Paris
<i>Goodwin</i>	633 Squadron
<i>Coates</i>	By the Sleepy Lagoon (<i>Desert Island Discs</i> theme)
<i>Arnold</i>	Scottish Dances
<i>Coates</i>	Three Bears Phantasy
<i>Wood</i>	Barwick Green (<i>The Archers</i> theme)
<i>Farnon</i>	Westminster Waltz



Welcome the New Year with a concert of favourite American and British music in the glorious surroundings of St Albans Cathedral.

Ticket prices: £28, £22, £16 reserved, £8 unreserved (restricted view), £1 accompanied child, £5 students

Cathedral box office: 01727 890290 or online at www.stalbanscathedral.org



7.30pm, Saturday 10th March 2018 St Saviour's Church, St Albans

<i>Vaughan Williams</i>	Five Variants of Dives and Lazarus
<i>Dvořák</i>	Serenade for Winds
<i>Dvořák</i>	Symphony No.7

Five Variants of Dives and Lazarus is a work for harp and string orchestra, based on a folk tune. Vaughan Williams composed the work on commission from the British Council to be played at the 1939 World's Fair in New York City.

Dvořák's Serenade for Winds evokes the atmosphere of the musical performances in Baroque castles, where the worlds of the aristocracy and the common folk merged. His Symphony No.7 is characteristic for its dramatic expression and sombre atmosphere of uncertainty and defiance. It is a profoundly intimate work where the composer ponders the meanderings of his soul and the answers to elementary issues of human existence.

Ticket prices: £16 (nave), £11 (aisle) unreserved, £1 accompanied child, £5 students

7.30pm, Saturday 12th May 2018 St Saviour's Church, St Albans

<i>Shostakovich</i>	Festive Overture
<i>Tchaikovsky</i>	Piano Concerto No.1 <i>Alissa Firsova, piano</i>
<i>Stravinsky</i>	Firebird (1945 version)



Shostakovich's fizzing Festive Overture was written in 3 days but became an instant hit in and outside Russia. The brilliant St Albans-based pianist, composer and conductor, Alissa Firsova, is the soloist in Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No 1 – one of his best-known works. Stravinsky based his ballet The Firebird on a Russian folk tale about an evil demon who has 13 princesses under his spell. It is the work that elevated him to international fame.

Ticket prices: £16 (nave), £11 (aisle) unreserved, £1 accompanied child, £5 students

7.30pm, Saturday 23rd June 2018 St Saviour's Church, St Albans

<i>Sibelius</i>	Finlandia
	Violin Concerto <i>David Le Page, violin</i>
	Scene with Cranes from <i>Kuolema</i>
	Symphony No.5



Sibelius is widely recognised as his country's greatest composer, and Finlandia is his greatest known work. His Violin Concerto is his only concerto. SASO is excited to welcome back soloist David Le Page after his highly-acclaimed Tchaikovsky performance with the orchestra last season.

Sibelius's Symphony No.5 was commissioned by the Finnish government in honour of his 50th birthday, which had been declared a national holiday.

Ticket prices: £16 (nave), £11 (aisle) unreserved, £1 accompanied child, £5 students

4th July 2018: Concerto Evening and End of Season Friends Night Homewood Road Church, St Albans

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

Children's Concerts

St Saviour's Church, St Albans

Sunday 19th November 2017
at 2.00pm and 3.30pm

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

Tickets: CHILDREN only £1 Grown ups £5

Tickets

For ticket enquiries please call 01582 873920 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 14th October and 1st January are available from Cathedral Box Office: 01727 890290 or online: www.stalbanscathedral.org



Season Tickets

Season tickets are available from the SASO Ticket Secretary with a choice of Cathedral seat pricing. Top price seats in all venues: £40 for five Concerts. Second price seats in Cathedral, top price elsewhere: £37 for five Concerts



Become a Friend

Become a Friend of SASO for a minimum donation of £25 single, £30 double, and receive extra benefits.

- 10% discount on Friend's own ticket and season tickets
- Priority booking for the New Year Concert
- Invitations to social events and the after concert parties
- Invitations 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 Jenny Lines: 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



Tom Hammond became Principal Conductor of SASO in 2016, and holds positions of Music Director with Hertford SO, Essex SO and Yorkshire Young Sinfonia. He also guests with many other orchestras, including the Ernest Read SO, London's Sinfonia Tamesa and the Palestine Youth Orchestra.

Tom founded the Hertfordshire Festival of Music in 2016, is a recording producer for Chiaro Audio, and leads workshops with young people, including for the Britten Sinfonia and the Ingenium Academy International Summer School, Winchester.

The first ever Junior Fellow in Conducting at Trinity Laban Conservatoire (2006–08), Tom was selected and mentored by Sir Charles Mackerras, especially in developing his operatic repertoire.

Recent concerts have included appearances with Stephen Hough (piano), Emma Johnson (clarinet), Robert Murray (tenor), Ray Chen (violin) and Daniel Pailthorpe (flute).

Tom was a prize winner at the 2009 Leeds Conductors' Competition and made an Associate of the Royal Academy of Music in 2010.

www.tom-hammond.org.uk

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



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

St Albans Symphony Orchestra



Principal Conductor
Tom Hammond

Leader
Jennifer Wigram

President
Anthony Harris

Concert Season 2017-18