

BILL CARSLAKE Artistic Director

Bill composes music inspired by fieldwork, in collaboration with artists, scientists and outdoor specialists. He maintains a busy conducting career. He is also passionate about eco sail travel and trade.

Bill's latest composition is *Carrownagappul*, commissioned by the Harry Woolhouse Trust for the 25th anniversary of Imperial College Sinfonietta, and inspired by fieldwork on Carrownagappul raised bog, East Galway. He collaborated with renowned Irish photographer Tina Claffey, whose photographs inform the work. The premiere was in June 2024, in Imperial College Great Hall, London.

In 2018/19 Bill won a Finzi Scholarship to compose a piece inspired by Mountain Hares. *Disco Ball - Mountain Hare* was premiered by Farnborough Symphony Orchestra in 2022. The research trips for this piece inspired the travel essay, *Composing in the Cairngorms*, and the project features in a Finzi Trust podcast.

In 2016 Bill collaborated with the poet, Helen Mort, on an exploratory climbing expedition in East Greenland for a piece commissioned by The Little Baroque Company. *The Singing Glacier* includes original spoken poetry by Helen and film by Richard Jones. Helen's poetry and the project were celebrated by Hercules Editions in a chapbook, *The Singing Glacier*, with paintings by Emma Stibbon RA.

2024 sees the launch of 'The Sea of Trees', a project inspired by the 6th century voyages of St Brendan. This will include sailing from Kerry to the Faroe Islands, and will highlight the plight of phytoplankton - the so-called 'marine forest'.

Bill is Artistic Director of Farnborough Symphony Orchestra and St Albans Symphony Orchestra, and he guest conducts widely. He is co-founder of Guild of Ships - a booking system and circular economy platform for eco sail travel and trade. He is continually inspired by this visionary and hard-working community.

Photo by Ali Eisa



TICKETS

Apart from the New Year's Day concert, please book at www.ticketsource.co.uk or via www.saso.org.uk/concerts. Email tickets@saso.org.uk or call 07753 742543 to reserve, or buy on the door.

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

BECOME A FRIEND

Become a Friend of SASO for a minimum donation of £30 single, £35 double, and receive the following benefits -

- 10% Discount on the Friend's own ticket;
- Priority booking, including for the New Year's Day concert;
- Invitations to social events, AGM, open rehearsals and concerto evening;
- Free concert programme and a free interval drink, from our Friends table;
- Opportunities to meet the conductor/soloist/ members of the orchestra at the interval;
- Friends are listed by name in the programmes.

Further details from: Philippa MacKenzie
07878 529210, friends@saso.org.uk

ABOUT THE ORCHESTRA

Founded in 1932 The Orchestra comprises high-standard musicians of all ages from throughout Hertfordshire and beyond; they include amateurs, professionally-trained musicians, teachers and music college students.

SASO is one of the UK's leading non-professional ensembles. For news and up-to-date information, please visit www.saso.org.uk.

SASO has occasional vacancies for high-standard musicians, and opportunities to deputise or play as an extra. Please contact secretary@saso.org.uk to register an interest.

Follow us: Facebook: St Albans Symphony Orchestra

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

Leaflet details may change, so please check concert details at www.saso.org.uk before booking.

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St
Albans
Symphony
Orchestra



CONCERT SEASON 2024-25



ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Bill Carslake

LEADER

Charlotte Fairbairn

PRESIDENT

David Utting

CONCERT SEASON 2024-25



7.30PM, SATURDAY 12TH OCTOBER 2024

St Paul's Church, Blandford Rd, St Albans AL1 4JP

Moberg *Sunrise from Sunrise Orchestral Suite*
Arutiunian *Trumpet Concerto*, soloist Shannon Harper
Sibelius *Symphony No.2*

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

Ida Georgina Moberg, a Finnish composer and conductor wrote her *Sunrise, Suite for Orchestra* in 1909. This first movement clearly celebrates the dawn of a new day.

Alexander Arutiunian's *Trumpet Concerto* is a virtuoso showpiece, composed in 1949-1950. It was quickly assimilated into the trumpet repertoire worldwide, earning high international praise from audiences, critics and performers.

Jean Sibelius's *Symphony No.2* is the most popular and most frequently recorded of his symphonies. The opening chords with their rising progression provide a motif for the whole work. During a period of Russian oppression, it consolidated Sibelius's reputation as a national hero.

2PM and 3.30PM SATURDAY 9TH NOVEMBER 2024

St Paul's Church, Blandford Rd, St Albans AL1 4JP

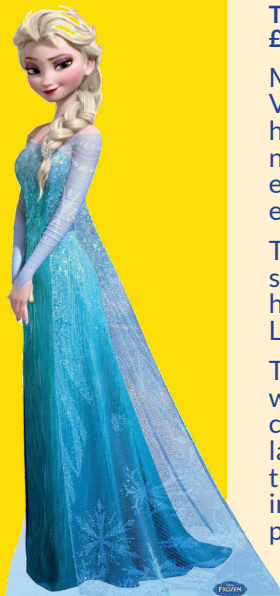
Family Concert 'Outdoor Adventures'

An introduction to the orchestra, featuring well-known pieces, including extracts from Ravel's *Mother Goose suite*, music from *Frozen*, and the storm passage from Beethoven's *'Pastoral' Symphony No.6*.

Hear a full-scale symphony orchestra playing an exciting selection of music up-close! Try out the instruments in the interval!

Tickets: Children £2, Adults £8, Under 2s FREE.

Fancy Dress welcomed - both for audience and orchestra members!



7PM, WEDNESDAY 1ST JANUARY 2025

St Albans Cathedral AL1 1BY

'Stage and Screen'

Williams *Flying Theme from ET*
Bliss *March from Things to Come*
Zimmer *No Time for Caution from Interstellar*
Bernstein *The Magnificent Seven*
Moross *The Big Country*
Shostakovich *Romance from The Gadfly*
Burgon *Theme from Brideshead Revisited*
Goodwin *The Trap*
Williams *Superman*
Bizet *2 movements from Carmen, Suite No. 1*
Rossini *Overture - Barber of Seville*
Sullivan *3 movements from Pineapple Poll Suite*
Rogers & Hammerstein -
Overture - South Pacific
Overture - Oklahoma
Williams *Star Wars*

Tickets from www.stalbanscathedral.org, 01727 890290.

A fabulous selection of film and stage music to stir the emotions and memories, and set us up for a great 2025.

7.30PM, SATURDAY 1ST MARCH 2025

St Paul's Church, Blandford Rd, St Albans AL1 4JP

Guest conductor: Daniel Hogan

Mendelssohn *Ruy Blas Overture*
Dvořák *Cello Concerto*, soloist John Myerscough
Franck *Symphony in D minor*

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

Mendelssohn composed the *Overture for Ruy Blas* (a play by Victor Hugo) over three days and had it in the musicians' hands just before the final dress rehearsals and opening night. The overture is a skillfully composed example of an early romantic concert overture which serves as an excellent curtain-raiser.

The Cello Concerto in B minor, Op. 104, B.191, is the last solo concerto by Antonín Dvořák. It was written in 1894 for his friend, the cellist Hanuš Wihan, but was premiered in London on March 19, 1896, by the English cellist Leo Stern.

The 1888 *Symphony in D minor* is the best-known orchestral work and the only mature symphony written by the 19th-century composer César Franck. In a departure from typical late-romantic symphonic structure, the Symphony is in three movements, each of which makes reference to the initial four-bar theme introduced at the beginning of the piece.

7.30PM, SATURDAY 10TH MAY 2025

St Saviour's Church, Sandpit Lane, St Albans AL1 4DF

Guest conductor: Charlotte Politi

Sullivan *Overture, di Ballo*
Bruch *Violin Concerto No. 1 in G minor*, soloist Emmanuel Bach
Tchaikovsky *Symphony No. 2*

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

The *Overture di Ballo* concert overture by Arthur Sullivan was first performed in August 1870, at the Birmingham Triennial Festival. It predates all Sullivan's work with W. S. Gilbert, and is his most frequently recorded concert work for orchestra.

Max Bruch's *Violin Concerto* is one of the most popular violin concertos, and, along with the *Scottish Fantasy*, the composer's most famous work.

Tchaikovsky's *Symphony No.2* was composed in 1872. One of Tchaikovsky's joyful compositions, it was successful right from its premiere. Despite its initial success Tchaikovsky was not satisfied with the symphony. He revised the work extensively in 1879-80, substantially rewriting the opening movement and shortening the finale.

7.30PM, SATURDAY 5TH JULY 2025

St Saviour's Church, Sandpit Lane, St Albans AL1 4DF

Walton *Portsmouth Point Overture*
Grieg *Piano Concerto*, soloist Gabrielè Bekerytė
Shostakovich *Symphony No. 10*

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

Composed in 1925 the *Portsmouth Point Overture* was inspired by Thomas Rowlandson's print depicting Portsmouth Point. Walton recalled that the main music had come into his mind whilst riding on a route 22 bus in London.

The *Piano Concerto in A minor*, Op. 16, composed by Edvard Grieg in 1868, was the only concerto Grieg completed. It is one of his most popular works, and is among the most popular of the genre. Grieg, being only 24 years old at the time of composition, had taken inspiration from Robert Schumann's piano concerto, also in A minor.

Shostakovich's *Symphony No.10* was premiered in December 1953. The symphony is often seen as the composer's commentary on the recent Stalinist era. But as so often in Shostakovich's art, the exposition of external events is counter-opposed to the private world of his innermost feelings.