

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. His latest orchestral composition was *Carrownagappul*, commissioned by the Harry Woolhouse Trust for the 25th anniversary of Imperial College Sinfonietta, and was inspired by fieldwork at Carrownagappul raised bog, Galway, in collaboration with photographer Tina Claffey, whose photographs inform the work. The premiere was at Imperial College, London in 2024.



In 2018/19 Bill won a Finzi Scholarship to compose an orchestral piece inspired by Mountain Hares. *Mountain Hare* was premiered by Farnborough Symphony Orchestra in 2022. The fieldwork for *Mountain Hare* inspired the travel essay, *Composing with Hares*, and the project features in a Finzi Trust podcast.

In 2016 Bill collaborated with poet, Helen Mort, on an exploratory climbing expedition above glaciers in East Greenland for a commission from The Little Baroque Company. The resulting piece, *The Singing Glacier*, includes original spoken poetry by Helen, and has been performed at festivals in London, Sheffield, Aldeburgh, Wells-next-the-Sea and Inchigeelagh, Cork. Helen's poetry and the project were celebrated by Hercules Editions in a chapbook of the same name, with paintings by Emma Stibbon RA.

Upcoming projects include *The Sea of Trees* which involves sailing to the Faroe Islands to research birdsong and phytoplankton – the so-called 'marine forest'.

Bill is Artistic Director of 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 traditional sail travel.

Photo by Ali Eisa



ABOUT THE ORCHESTRA

Founded in 1932 The Orchestra has performed ever since, including some concerts during the Second World War when many amateur orchestras ceased working. SASO 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 is proud of its record in building new audiences, including its popular annual Family Concerts.

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:  St Albans Symphony Orchestra,  Stalbanssymphony, www.saso.org.uk

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

Leaflet details may alter, so please check concert details at saso.org.uk/ concerts before booking.

making music



2025-26 CONCERT SEASON



7:30PM, SATURDAY 15th NOVEMBER 2025

St Albans Cathedral AL1 1BY

St Albans St Cecilia Festival

A biennial concert of large-scale choral and orchestral works; with professional soloists, the Aeolian Singers, St Albans Chamber Choir, Hardynges Choir, and Radlett Choir.

Howells *Magnificat 'Collegium Regale'*
Dvořák *Stabat Mater*
Mendelssohn *Hear My Prayer*

Herbert Howells' *Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis* from the *Collegium Regale* is a significant work in the Anglican choral repertoire. Composed between 1944 and 1956, it is known for its rich and colourful church music that blends Tudor church music with modern harmony and counterpoint.

Antonín Dvořák's *Stabat Mater*, Op. 58 (B. 71), is an extended setting for vocal soloists, choir and orchestra of the 20 stanzas of the *Stabat Mater* sequence; it has been characterized as a sacred cantata and as an oratorio, and consists of ten movements of which only the first and the last are thematically connected.

Hear my prayer is an anthem for soprano solo, chorus (SATB) and orchestra. The text was derived from Psalm 55.

Tickets, priced at £28, £22, £16, £10 (sides), £5 (students), £1 (children) will be available from www.stalbanscathedral.org, 01727 890290, or the box-office desk in the Cathedral Visitor Centre.

7PM, THURSDAY 1st JANUARY 2026

St Albans Cathedral AL1 1BY

A celebration of American (USA) music -

Copland *Fanfare for the Common Man*
Beach *Bal Masqué (1893)*
Korngold *Straussiana (1953)*
Rodgers *Slaughter on Tenth Avenue*
Sousa *The Stares and Stripes Forever*
Bernstein *Candide - overture*
Tower *Fanfare for the Uncommon Woman (No.1)*
Gershwin *Girl Crazy - overture*
Bernstein *West Side Story: Symphonic Dances*

Space constraints prevent individual commentary here, but expect some interesting introductions on the night.

Tickets, priced at £28, £22, £16, £10 (sides), £5 (students), £1 (children) will be available from www.stalbanscathedral.org, 01727 890290, or the box-office desk in the Cathedral Visitor Centre.

7:30PM, SATURDAY 14th MARCH 2026

St Albans High School Townsend Avenue, AL1 3SJ

De Falla *Three-Cornered Hat (suite no.2)*
Damase *Flute Concerto, soloist: Hattie Jolly*
Rachmaninov *Symphony No. 2 (1908)*

TICKET PRICES: TBD £18, £5 students, £2 accompanied children. Please book at www.ticketsource.co.uk. Email tickets@saso.org.uk or call 07753 742543 to reserve tickets, or buy on the door.

The 1917 ballet *El sombrero de tres picos* was produced by Serge Diaghilev with set design and costumes by Pablo Picasso. It derives from *The Three-Cornered Hat* (1874), a novel written by Pedro Antonio de Alarcón.

Damase (1928-2013) was a French pianist, conductor and composer, famous for his bon vivant lifestyle and lyric composition style that was similar to tonal traditions of Fauré, Poulenc and Ravel.

Rachmaninov's *Symphony No.2* was first performed in 1908, and remains one of the composer's most popular and best known compositions.

2PM and 3:30PM SUNDAY 19th APRIL 2026

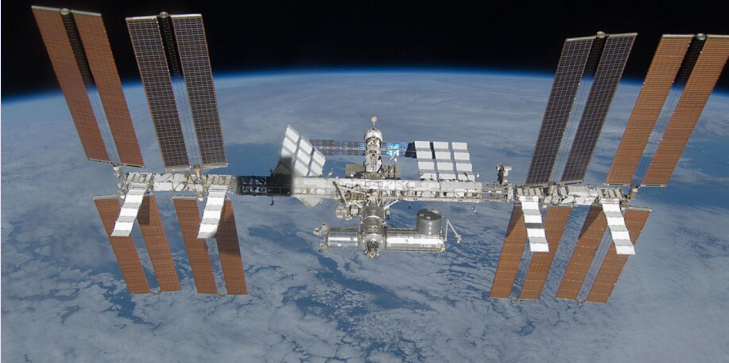
St Paul's Church, Blandford Rd, St Albans AL1 4JP

Family Concert: 'Space'

Guest conductor: Dan Shilladay

An introduction to the orchestra, featuring space-themed pieces and popular Science Fiction film music - extracts from *ET*, *Star Wars*, *2001*, and from other space/planetary themed 'classical' music including Gustav Holst's *The Planets*.

Experience a full-scale symphony orchestra playing an exciting selection of music up-close! Meet the musicians and try out the instruments in the interval!



Ticket prices are **£2 for children, £8 Adults, under 2s FREE.**

Fancy Dress is invited - both for audience and orchestra!



7.30PM, SATURDAY 27th JUNE 2026

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

A Night at the Opera

Guest conductor: Otis Lineham

Verdi *Les Vêpres Siciliennes - Overture*
Verdi *La Traviata - Prelude Act 1, Brindisi, E Strano!, Ah fors' e lu, Sempre Libera*
Verdi *Aida - Act II Grand March*
Puccini *La Bohème - from Che gelida*
Weber *Oberon - Overture*
Donizetti *L'elisir d'Amore - Una Furtiva Lagrime*
Donizetti *L'elisir d'Amore - Chiedi all'aura Lusinghiera*
Dvořák *Rusalka - Měsíčku na nebi hlubokém*
Gounod *Roméo et Juliette - Nuit d'hyménée*
Rossini *Guillaume Tell - Overture*

TICKET PRICES: £18, £5 students, £2 accompanied child. Please book at www.ticketsource.co.uk. Email tickets@saso.org.uk or call 07753 742543 to reserve tickets, or buy on the door.

BECOME A FRIEND OF SASO

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;
- Friends are listed by name in the programmes.

Please contact Philippa MacKenzie 07878 529210, friends@saso.org.uk if interested.