Striking a Chord: Musical Resonance

Welcome to the Chiltern Arts Festival 2021 – a festival that, in these current uncertain times, may or may not happen exactly as planned (as demonstrated by the rescheduling of these events!)... but we're delighted and proud to be doing everything in our power to continue to bring you joy through sharing live music.

The theme of musical resonance, or musical connotations, was born some time before the pandemic – but seems more relevant now than ever in its poignance of reminding us how music can be a form of escapism in taking us to another time or another place, recalled or imagined. Many of us have turned to music over the past year, and this festival explores how music can tell a story, paint a picture or send a message – and moreover, how music is capable of meaning different things to different people.

Pianist Clare Hammond explores how music can help and heal us, with a programme inspired by her work in prisons, including music from Brahms and Szymanowski. The City of London Sinfonia explore the idea of musical identity: with a programme that features Mendelssohn, Britten and Wagner, we hear works written by two composers who were still in their teens and discovering their own musical identities, and one that absolutely paints a picture of a time, place and person. Internationally-acclaimed harpsichordist Mahan Esfahani plays Bach's famous *Goldberg Variations* – written to soothe a sleepless Count.

Returning for the second time to Chiltern Arts, previous Take Note ensemble Echo premiere a theatrical performance entitled *Listening to Lassus*, exploring how we all listen differently to the same style of music – in this instance, diving into gorgeous choral Renaissance music. Our Concert and Dinner event returns, this year whisking you away to Argentina with the Nuevo Tango Quintet, Argentinian cuisine – and the option to add an Argentinian wine tasting to give the evening some extra sparkle.



Photo: Matthew Johnson

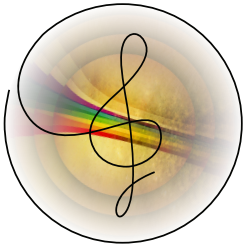
On the final night of the Festival, The Sacconi Quartet treat us to glorious string quartets by Dvorak and Shostakovich – a collection of Diaries and Love Letters presenting snapshots of these wonderful composers' lives – and a gem of a quartet from Haydn.

Differing a little from our usual style, and in light of the lack of public funding available to us, we have not produced a full brochure this year, and instead this little leaflet provides a festival overview. For full information, and to buy tickets, please go to **chilternarts.com/whats-on**

Join Chiltern Arts this May for something we will never again take for granted: the luxury of experiencing a week of live in-person concerts – the vibrations of the room, those real human moments, and the sheer joy of sharing the experience with others.

We're looking forward to welcoming both new friends and familiar faces to what we promise will be a safe, comfortable environment.

— Naomi Taylor, Chiltern Arts Founder and Creative Director



Covid-19: Our Promise to You

All our events and venues have undergone rigorous risk assessments, and we are doing everything we can to keep you safe whilst attending our events. Details of the measures in place can be found on our website, and include pre-ordering your drinks and programmes, non-contact e-ticket scanning, socially-distanced seating and myriad other things to keep you safe and comfortable and to set your mind at rest.

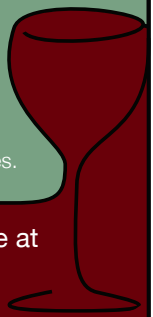
We understand that in these unprecedented times that committing to something next week might feel like too much, let alone booking tickets to a festival that's still weeks away. Our promise to you is that if these events are cancelled due to changes in Covid-19 regulations, or for whatever reason we no longer feel it is safe to present these concerts, we will offer all ticket buyers a full refund.

We also promise that if you are unable to attend a concert because you are self-isolating due to an NHS contact-tracing communication, or a positive test result, we will do our very best to offer you at least a partial refund, or a full refund if we can resell the ticket.

We know it's difficult at the moment – your support is invaluable to us, and is helping us to support the artists and freelancers we work with. From the bottom of our hearts: thank you, and stay safe!

Get the most out of the 2021 Festival

- All purchases, including drinks and programmes, must be made in advance; we will not be accepting door sales.
- We ask that you purchase only in groups of up to 6 (maximum two households) and that you do not mingle with other groups whilst at the event.
- As per government guidelines, you must wear a mask at all events except when consuming refreshments while seated.
- Ticket prices shown on this leaflet are for Standard Tickets. Premium and Restricted View Tickets may be available online for some events.
- Pre-purchased drinks and programmes will be available to collect on arrival at the venue.
- All concerts will run straight through with no interval, and will last approximately 70 minutes.



Tickets, drinks and programmes are all available to pre-purchase at

chilternarts.com

or by calling 01442 920303

CHILTERN ARTS FESTIVAL 2021



Striking a Chord: Musical Resonance

CLARE HAMMOND • MAHAN ESFAHANI
NUEVO TANGO QUINTET • SACCONI QUARTET
ECHO • CITY OF LONDON SINFONIA

RESCHEDULED: 21ST – 27TH MAY 2021



Photo: Julie Kim

Clare Hammond (piano)
Helping and Healing

Friday 21st May, 7.30pm

St Mary's Church
Princes Risborough

Tickets £28

Clare Hammond explores a programme of music inspired by her work in prisons, including *6 Piano Pieces* by Brahms and Syzmanowski's Variations on a Polish theme, complemented beautifully by music from *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by Piazzola and *Etudes* by Hélène de Montgeroult.

City of London Sinfonia
Musical Identities

Saturday 22nd May, 7.30pm

St Mary's Church
Old Amersham

Tickets £28

Mendelssohn's youthful and brilliant *Octet* and Britten's joyful *Sinfonietta* were both written when their respective composers were teenagers: the very beginnings of musical identities are visible here, in their earliest, most genuine form. And Wagner's glorious *Siegfried Idyll* ties the theme together, painting a picture of time, place and person...

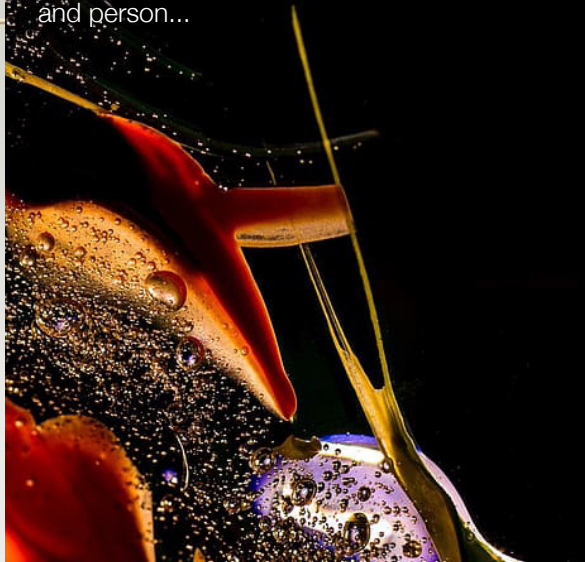




Photo: Kaja Smith

Mahan Esfahani (harpsichord)
Goldberg Variations

Monday 24th May, 7.30pm

All Saints' Church
Marlow

Tickets £28

The *Goldberg Variations*, played by one of the world's finest harpsichord players. Written to soothe a sleepless count, Mahan Esfahani expertly recounts this tale through Bach's glorious music.

Echo
Listening to Lassus

Tuesday 25th May, 7.30pm

St Mary's Church
Henley-on-Thames

Tickets £28

Taking the music of Orlandus Lassus as a starting point, former Chiltern Arts Take Note ensemble Echo explore Renaissance polyphony and its appeal, the act of singing and listening, and challenge our ideas of what a classical performance can be. The premiere of an original, honest and charming piece of music theatre, created in collaboration with documentary theatre-maker Miriam Sherwood and vocal artist Aminita Francis.



An Argentinian evening with the Nuevo Tango Quintet Concert, Dinner and Wine Tasting

Wednesday 26th May, from 6pm

The Gatsby
Berkhamsted

Concert & Dinner only £60
Wine Tasting, Concert & Dinner £80

In Piazzola's centenary year, visit the dark streets of late-night Buenos Aires in this immersive Argentinian experience. Allow yourself to be whisked away with emotive tango, Argentinian cuisine and an introduction to Argentinian wine with five spectacular wines selected and presented by Tring Winery.



Sacconi String Quartet Diaries and Love Letters

Thursday 27th May, 7.30pm

St Peter & St Paul's Church
Great Missenden

Tickets £28

Dive into the personal worlds of Dvorak, Shostakovich and Webern with the Sacconi Quartet. Dvorak recounts and describes his travels to the 'new world' with his *American* Quartet; and Shostakovich's 8th string quartet is a glorious example of how the great man allowed himself to be entirely *him* in his string quartets – a sort of secret diary, shared here with us. And we open with a majestic work from the 'father of the string quartet': Joseph Haydn.



Photo: Emilie Bailey