

THAXTED FESTIVAL



SUMMER CONCERTS 2015

THAXTED FESTIVAL

Thaxted Festival is delighted to present our new season's programme. Featuring established artists as well as exciting new performers, it ranges from early music through classical to jazz and vocal standards.

Thaxted Festival is special because it is held in the magnificent setting of Thaxted Church, in the heart of this beautiful small medieval town. You are assured of a warm welcome, a relaxed and informal atmosphere, superb acoustics, and the very special setting of one of England's most celebrated parish churches.

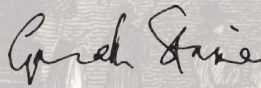
The Festival is opened by our resident orchestra, the **Brandenburg Sinfonia**, with a concert including works by Gustav Holst, who was closely associated with Thaxted. Highlights of our diverse programme include:

- **Red Priest** - extraordinary interpreters of Baroque and early music.
- The **Brodowski and Carducci Quartets** joining in Mendelssohn's joyful Octet.
- Thaxted Church's newly restored and unique **Lincoln Organ**, in a recital by **Catherine Ennis**, President of the Royal College of Organists.
- **Olena Tokar**, an outstanding finalist in the 2013 Cardiff Singer of the World.
- A new take on a traditional tale for our popular **family concert**.
- A **Tribute to Frank Sinatra** with **Matt Ford**, in a unique collaboration with the **Tippett Quartet**.
- The eclectic styles of the **Tim Kliphuis Trio** with **Dave Newton**, and jazz piano greats from **James Pearson**.
- A closing vocal concert from **Tenebrae**, our standout performers of 2013.

We are always pleased to see the many concertgoers who return each year, as well as those of all ages who are sampling our events for the first time. We look forward to welcoming you to our very special local festival in the coming season.



Daniel Fox: *Chairman*



Gareth Stainer: *Artistic Director*

FESTIVAL PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE

FIRST WEEKEND

JUNE	Friday 19 8pm	Brandenburg Sinfonia
	Saturday 20 7pm	Red Priest
	Sunday 21 7.30pm	Brodowski & Carducci Quartets

SECOND WEEKEND

JUNE	Friday 26 8pm	Gould Piano Trio
	Saturday 27 11am	Family Concert Brandenburg Sinfonia
	Saturday 27 8pm	Close to You <i>A Centenary Tribute to Frank Sinatra</i>
	Sunday 28 7.30pm	Opus Anglicanum

THIRD WEEKEND

JULY	Friday 3 8pm	Brandenburg Strings
	Saturday 4 12 noon	Catherine Ennis (<i>Organ</i>)
	Saturday 4 8pm	Olena Tokar (<i>Soprano</i>) & Igor Gryshin (<i>Piano</i>)
	Sunday 5 7.30pm	Tim Kliphuis Trio with Dave Newton (<i>Piano</i>)

FOURTH WEEKEND

JULY	Thursday 9 7pm	Thaxted Primary School
	Friday 10 8pm	Young-Choon Park (<i>Piano</i>)
	Saturday 11 8pm	James Pearson & Friends
	Sunday 12 7.30pm	Tenebrae



Gustav Holst



Friday 19 June 8pm

Martin Sturfält - piano

Robert Porter - conductor

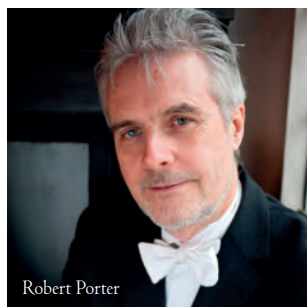
BRANDENBURG SINFONIA

Holst *Brook Green Suite*

Holst *Lyric Movement for Viola and Chamber Orchestra*

Mozart *Piano Concerto in B flat major, K595*

Mendelssohn *Scottish Symphony*



Robert Porter

In *Lyric Movement* (a late work) **Holst** achieves a remarkable eloquence, with shifting harmonies, haunted half-lights and a soaring solo viola. With his *Brook Green Suite* this will be very fitting start to the Festival. **Mozart's** *Piano Concerto K595* is generally thought to be his last, and one of his finest. The Swedish pianist, Martin Sturfält, who won the John Ogden prize in 2004, is the soloist. The concert ends with **Mendelssohn**; after visiting the ruined chapel at Holyrood in 1829, he wrote in his journal *'I found today in that old chapel the beginning of my Scottish Symphony.'* There followed ten bars of manuscript, which did indeed become its opening melody.

The **Brandenburg Sinfonia**, under the baton of **Robert Porter**, will delight in the range and varied palette of musical styles which this programme requires. You can expect even more variety if you come to one of the informal pre-concert gigs, which reflect the enthusiasm of the musicians for the privilege of being our **resident orchestra** (and also their generosity).

Tickets:

£27 ■ £21 ■

£16 un-numbered

£14 un-numbered concessions

In association with Orchestras Live



George Frideric Handel



RED PRIEST

Handel in the Wind

Red Priest is the only early music group in the world to have been compared to the Rolling Stones, Jackson Pollock and the Marx Brothers. The players perform from memory with swashbuckling virtuosity, heart-on-sleeve emotion and compelling stagecraft. Critics have called them ‘visionary, heretical, outrageous, wholly irreverent, highly enlightened’. Their previous Thaxted performances have been outstandingly successful (the Church has a long association with ‘red priests’!)

Handel in the Wind is a whirlwind tour through the music of that titan of the baroque, **George Frideric Handel**. The programme includes *sonatas, chaconnes* and virtuoso *variations*, transcriptions both sublime and tempestuous and an audacious suite drawn from his most celebrated work, *Messiah*.



Following the Red Priest Concert there will be our traditional display of Morris & Country Dancing outside the Church as part of the Church’s Patronal Festival. The famous Abbots Bromley Horn Dance will take place at approximately 10.15pm.

Saturday 20 June 7pm

Piers Adams - recorder

Julia Bishop - violin

Angela East - cello

David Wright - harpsichord

Tickets:

£24 ■ £19 ■

£14 un-numbered

£12 un-numbered concessions



Felix Mendelssohn



Franz Schubert

Sunday 21 June
7.30pm

BRODOWSKI & CARDUCCI QUARTETS

Shostakovich	<i>Prelude and Scherzo for String Octet Op. 11</i>
Mendelssohn	<i>Octet in E flat major, Op. 20</i>
Schubert	<i>Quintet in C major D.956</i>

Shortly after he completed the Scherzo (when 19), **Shostakovich** described it as *'the very best thing I have written'*. **Mendelssohn** was only 16 when he wrote his Octet, yet in the words of one respected critic *'Its youthful verve, brilliance and perfection make it one of the miracles of nineteenth-century music'*. The **Brodowski Quartet** (who gave an excellent Thaxted concert three years ago) have teamed up on a number of occasions recently with the **Carducci Quartet**, so we have mature interpretations of these youthful masterpieces.

Schubert's two-cello *Quintet*, by contrast, was written at the end of his short life and completed only a couple of months before he died. It is now generally regarded as Schubert's finest chamber work and indeed one of the greatest compositions of all chamber music. It remained unpublished for 25 years after his death.

Tickets:

£24 ■ £19 ■

£14 un-numbered

£12 un-numbered concessions

This concert is supported by THAXTED MUSIC LOVERS



GOULD PIANO TRIO

Ireland	<i>Phantasie Trio in A minor</i>
Mendelssohn	<i>Trio in D minor, Op. 49</i>
Schubert	<i>Trio in B flat Major, Op. 99</i>

Friday 26 June
8pm

The **Gould Trio** was chosen as a **British Rising Star** in 1998, a citation that established it across the globe. The Trio tours regularly in the US, Europe and Asia, has recorded frequently for major labels like Naxos and Chandos and has a full diary in the UK. This is their Thaxted debut, but some will remember **Alice Neary's** delightful cello recital during the 2002 Festival.

Mendelssohn's *D minor Piano Trio* is one of his most attractive chamber compositions, comparable in inspiration to his brilliant *Octet*. **Schubert's** *Opus 99 Trio* is similarly revered in this repertoire. Schumann said of it: *'One glance and the troubles of our human existence disappear and all the world is fresh and bright again.'* Yet Schubert was at the same time, only a year before he died, composing *Winterreise*, the darkest of all his works.

Tickets:

£20 ■ £16 ■

£12 un-numbered

£10 un-numbered concessions



Paul Patterson



© evanira.deviantart.com

Saturday 27 June
11am

FAMILY CONCERT

Brandenburg Sinfonia

Patterson *Little Red Riding Hood*

Paul Patterson's setting uses Roald Dahl's inspired re-telling of the story of **Little Red Riding Hood and the Wolf**. At the beginning the orchestra becomes an enchanted forest, through which the Narrator makes his way to begin the story, which is thereafter illustrated with musical themes to match the characters and the action. The music is straightforward, easy for a child to follow and very tuneful.

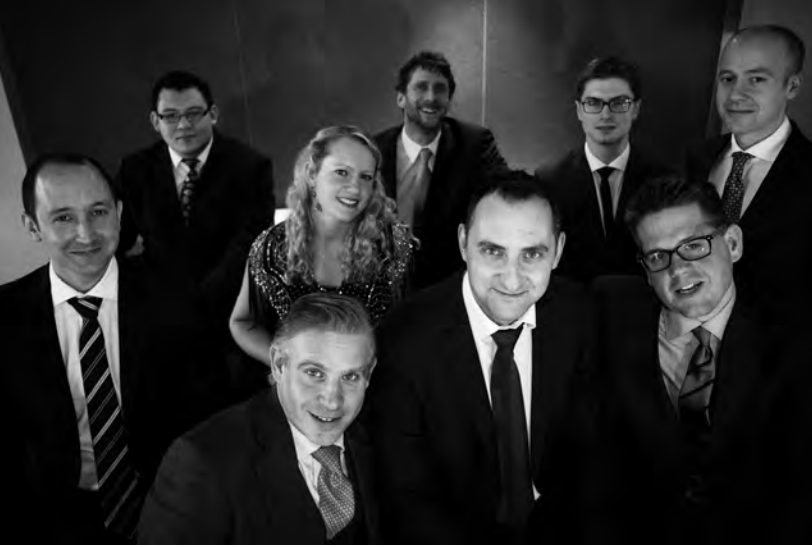
For adults, there are some subtle jokes; Wagner's Isolde is scandalously identified with a 'juicy cow'; Grandma's doorbell has unexpected classical aspirations; the wolf's burp takes on musical form (maybe with some help from children in the audience) and there is 'cat-walk' music for Little Red Riding Hood's final appearance. The select **Brandenburg Sinfonia** ensemble will encourage suitable forms of participation from this special audience and bring the story and the music to life.

Tickets:

Adults £11

Accompanied children £1

In association with Orchestras Live



CLOSE TO YOU

A Centenary Tribute to Frank Sinatra

Matt Ford, *vocals* plus an ensemble of 10, including the Tippet Quartet, Callum Au, *trombone*, Matt Skelton, *drums* and James Pearson, *piano*

Frank Sinatra recorded *Close to You* in 1956. The album is a masterpiece, one of the great Sinatra discs. It is brought back to life tonight by an ensemble of handpicked musicians, chosen both for their authentic sound and their empathy with this extraordinary music.

Matt Ford was nominated for best UK male vocalist at the inaugural Ronnie Scott's Jazz Awards. The acclaimed Tippet Quartet, one of the UK's top chamber ensembles, are also passionate about great Hollywood music of the 20th century. Amongst their colleagues are project producer, Matt Skelton and Ronnie Scott's artistic director, James Pearson. The original Hollywood Quartet scores have been painstakingly and brilliantly transcribed by Callum Au.

Saturday 27 June
8pm

Tickets:

£24 ■ £19 ■

£14 un-numbered

£12 un-numbered concessions

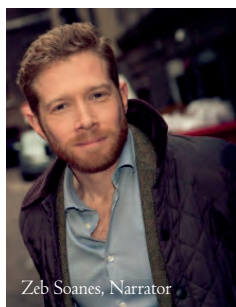


Sunday 28 June
7.30pm

OPUS ANGLICANUM

The House

Opus Anglicanum is an ensemble of five male voice singers and a narrator. The members have developed a unique story-telling style in which unaccompanied music and the spoken word complement and illuminate each other. They use the full historical European repertoire of part-songs, polyphony, street song, music hall, traditional song and arrangements, with texts drawn from Beowulf to Noel Coward. **The House** is a glorious and joyful historical evocation of an imaginary country Manor. The music is drawn from English Saxon chant, **Dunstable** and **Tallis** through to **Elgar** and **Vaughan Williams**. Documents and writings present a varied historical landscape of amusement, boredom, tragedy and hilarity, woven into a timeless English fabric exemplified by 'Greensleeves'.



Zeb Soanes, Narrator



Tickets:

£20 ■ £16 ■

£12 un-numbered

£10 un-numbered concessions

*This concert is supported by FRIENDS of the Festival
who wish to remain anonymous.*

BOOKING INFORMATION

SUBSCRIBERS' PRIORITY BOOKING PERIOD starts immediately upon publication of this brochure, and continues until **Friday 13 March**.

THAXTED FESTIVAL SUBSCRIBERS receive the following benefits:

- * A 4-week Priority Booking period ahead of General Booking
- * Discounts on tickets for three or more concerts (as indicated on the Booking Form)
- * An invitation to book our pre-season party on Sunday 15 March

To take advantage of these benefits your 2015 Subscription can be added to your ticket order. **Single Subscriber is £20; Double Subscriber £30.**

GENERAL BOOKING PERIOD commences **Monday 16 March**.

Please be aware that numbered seats for some of the popular concerts are likely to sell out to Subscribers during their Priority Booking Period. It is advisable to submit your booking form as soon as possible as all applications will be treated equally and processed in order of receipt following the Priority Booking Period.

TELEPHONE & PERSONAL CALLERS

The **FESTIVAL OFFICE** at **10 Watling Street** will normally open between 9.30am and 12.30pm Monday to Friday during April through to the end of the Festival period. Please note that **Telephone Bookings** and those **made in person**, cannot be accepted until **Monday 30 March**, and will not receive any priority over postal bookings. We regret that presently there is **no email booking facility** but the Booking Form on the website can be printed and posted to the Festival Office. Ticket availability, will be updated regularly, and can be checked at www.thaxtedfestival.org.uk

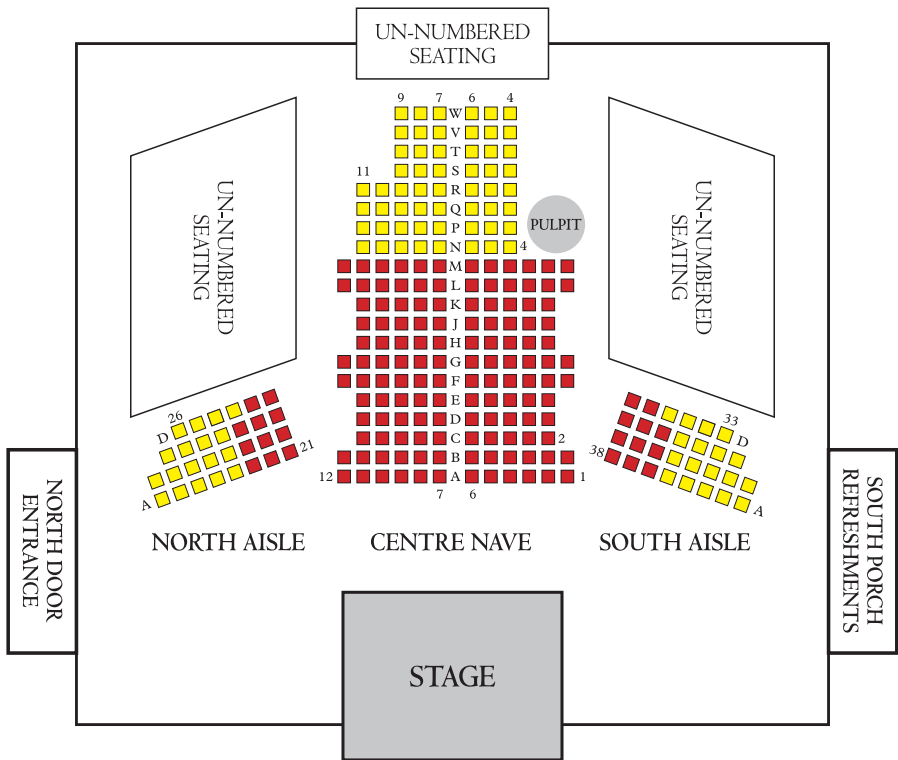
Kindly note that owing to the volume of orders received within the early weeks of the booking period, please **do not expect to receive your tickets before the end of March**.

Refunds incur a handling fee of £1 a ticket and will not be offered **after 30 May** unless a concert is cancelled.

An answer phone (01371 831421) operates when the Office is closed.



SEATING PLAN



Top-price numbered seats are shown in **red**; the lower price numbered seats (which may not have a perfect view of the back of the stage) are **yellow**. Un-numbered seating areas (full price and concessions) are shown as white blocks - some un-numbered seats have a restricted view of the stage, but you can hear well anywhere in the Church.

The main seating area for numbered seats is **Centre Nave**. For most concerts there are four rows of numbered seats at the front of the **North and South Aisles**. For *recitals and smaller ensembles*, two rows of numbered seats may also be available either side of the stage.

You will be allocated the best seats available at the time your order is processed.

If you express a preference for a particular seating area on your order form, you will be allocated seats there, *if available*.

PLEASE NOTE: For concerts involving a large choir and orchestra, the only numbered seats are in the **Centre Nave**: rows A & B are omitted to accommodate the larger stage, and more rows are added at the back of the nave.

If you come early to claim particular un-numbered seats, please remain with them to avoid any confusion.



Johann Sebastian Bach



© Mark Hamilton

Friday 3 July
8pm

BRANDENBURG STRINGS

Bach	<i>Brandenburg Concerto No. 3 BWV 1048</i>
Marcello	<i>Oboe Concerto in D minor</i>
Tchaikovsky	<i>Serenade for Strings in C major Op. 48</i>

Bach's *Brandenburg Concertos* are among his most popular works; this one (No. 3) is highly original in its use of constantly changing combinations of strings. Marcello's *Oboe Concerto* is his best known work. Glorious thematic materials, underpinned by luxuriant harmonies, are encased in three of the most tightly knit ritornello-form movements ever conceived. Tchaikovsky said of his *Serenade* 'I wrote from an inward impulse; I felt it'. He was right: a century of audiences have confirmed that it is a masterpiece; the beautifully elegiac third movement is a particular gem.

The **Brandenburg Strings** will bring verve and brilliance, in the beauty and excellent acoustic of Thaxted Church, to each of these well-loved works. Come early and enjoy one of their informal gigs in Thaxted before the concert starts.

Tickets:

£27 ■ £21 ■

£16 un-numbered

£14 un-numbered concessions

In association with Orchestras Live

This concert is supported by THAXTED MUSIC LOVERS



© Michael Ballie

CATHERINE ENNIS (ORGAN)

Her recital, on the newly-restored **Lincoln Organ**, will include:

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| Gibbons | <i>Fantazia of foure partes</i> |
| Handel | <i>Overture to 'Il Pastor Fido'</i> (arr. Walsh) |
| Samuel Wesley | <i>Voluntary Op. 6 No. 9</i> |
| Bach | <i>Piece d'orgue in G, BWV 572</i> (from the Walther MS) |

Catherine Ennis is the current President of the Royal College of Organists and Director of Music at the City of London Church of St Lawrence Jewry next Guildhall. Her career as recitalist and recording artist has taken her to many international venues; as a teacher, she has been involved with three major London Music conservatoires, and with St. Giles International Organ School.

Catherine will play the restored - and historically important - early 19th Century **Lincoln Organ**, the instrument which Gustav Holst and Ralph Vaughan Williams played a century ago, but which even then was probably not in the best of condition. Thaxted Church is now becoming a place of pilgrimage for organists interested in the authentic performance of late classical and early romantic works; it may now be the only instrument which retains the tone and musical character of the Georgian era.

Saturday 4 July
12 noon

Tickets:

£11 all un-numbered
£9 concessions



Saturday 4 July
8pm

**OLENA TOKAR (SOPRANO)
& IGOR GRYSHIN (PIANO)**

Their programme 'Favourite Songs and Operatic Arias' will include:

Verdi	<i>Elena's Bolero (The Sicilian Vespers)</i>
Dvorak	<i>Song of The Moon (Rusalka)</i>
Gounod	<i>Juliette's Aria 'Je veux vivre' (Romeo et Juliette)</i>

and works by Schumann, Fauré, Korngold, Ravel and Massenet



Olena Tokar was born in the Ukraine in 1987. She was voted one of the five best singers in the 2013 Cardiff BBC Singer of the World Competition in the Opera and Song categories; in the same year she was selected for the BBC Radio 3 New Generation Artists Scheme. She is a permanent ensemble member of the Leipzig Opera.

Igor Gryshin was also born in Ukraine. He was admitted to the Special Music School of the Moscow State Tchaikovsky Conservatory in 1996. He has won prizes in international competitions in Japan, Germany and Ukraine and has a blossoming career as a soloist, accompanist and teacher.

Tickets:

£24 ■ £19 ■

£14 un-numbered

£12 un-numbered concessions



TIM KLIPHUIS TRIO WITH DAVE NEWTON (PIANO)

This will be **Tim Kliphuis'** fourth visit to Thaxted. Classically trained as a violinist and widely regarded as Stéphane Grappelli's heir, Tim first made his name playing with fiery European gypsy guitarists. His high-energy blend of classical, gypsy jazz and folk music, coupled with an engaging stage presence, has resulted in a busy international touring schedule. More often than not, Tim's Thaxted appearances have involved **Dave Newton** as an equal partner, so Tim's Trio turns into a Quartet. Dave is one of the heavyweights of British Jazz, frequently voted Best Jazz Pianist in the British Jazz Awards. It is a pleasure to welcome the return of all four musicians.

Sunday 5 July
7.30pm



This concert is supported by MARIE STOTT in memory of her husband Denys who so enjoyed coming to the concerts.

Tickets:

£24 ■ £19 ■

£14 un-numbered

£12 un-numbered concessions



Thursday 9 July
7pm

THAXTED PRIMARY SCHOOL

Yanomamo

Yanomamo describes the crisis in the Amazon Basin - rainforest trees are being felled and the land cleared, while thousands of peasants from Brazil's overcrowded cities arrive in search of a better life. The **Yanomami**, the oldest Indian Tribe living in the forest, lead a way of life in harmony with nature and undisturbed for millennia. Their existence, and that of millions of animal and plant species, is threatened by these changes, particularly the felling of trees; the richness of the jungle is in the trees, not in the soil. Is there the time or the will to save them?

This performance will be a cross-curricular project including Music, Dance and Art. It will involve all the children in Key Stage 2, directed and supported by their teachers and other school staff.

Tickets:

Adults £5

Accompanied children free



YOUNG-CHOON PARK (PIANO)

Mozart	<i>Sonata No. 12 in F major K332</i>
Beethoven	<i>Sonata No. 23 in F minor Op. 57 'Appassionata'</i>
Haydn	<i>Sonata in B minor Hob.XVI:32</i>
Schubert	<i>Sonata in A minor Op. 42, D845</i>

Young-Choon Park opens her recital with one of **Mozart's** best-loved sonatas, before venturing into **Beethoven's** more dramatic and highly-charged soundworld. Beethoven himself considered the *'Appassionata'* (a later nickname) to be the greatest of all his sonatas. With **Haydn** and **Schubert** to follow, her recital is a rich banquet selected from the piano output of the core classical composers.

Young-Choon Park started the piano at the age of four and gave her first full recital when she was seven. She studied at the Juilliard School in New York. She tours extensively, giving over 50 concerts each year in Europe, Scandinavia, South Africa and the United States.

This concert is supported by a FRIEND of the Festival who wishes to remain anonymous.

Friday 10 July
8pm

Tickets:

£20 ■ £16 ■

£12 un-numbered

£10 un-numbered concessions



Saturday 11 July
8pm

JAMES PEARSON & FRIENDS

Tribute to the Trios

In this unique experience **James Pearson** and friends will take a whistle stop tour through the most iconic and important trios in jazz - **Oscar Peterson**, **Erroll Garner**, **Fats Waller** and **Jacques Loussier** to name but a few. The audience will be regaled with stories, music and a potted history of jazz, genre and style all rolled into one.



Tickets:

£24 ■ £19 ■

£14 un-numbered

£12 un-numbered concessions



TENEBRAE

A Hymn of Heavenly Beauty

Including some of the most beautiful choral works ever written:

Allegrï	<i>Miserere</i>
Taverner	<i>Song for Athene</i>
Holst	<i>Ave Maria</i>
Harris	<i>Faire is the Heaven</i>

In 2013 many of our audience thought that the award-winning choir **Tenebrae**, under the direction of **Nigel Short**, gave the outstanding performance of that year's Thaxted Festival. Members of the choir blend their passion for singing as if in a large cathedral with the breath-taking precision of an experienced chamber ensemble.

In 2012 they were the first-ever group to be multi-nominated in the same category for the BBC Music Magazine Awards; their recording of the Victoria *Requiem* secured the accolade for Best Choral Performance and was described as '*devastatingly beautiful*' (Gramophone). Their recent recording of Fauré's *Requiem* with the London Symphony Orchestra was nominated for the 2013 Gramophone Awards, having been described as '*the very best Fauré Requiem on disc*'.

This concert is supported by FRIENDS of the Festival who wish to remain anonymous.

Sunday 12 July
7.30pm

Nigel Short - Director



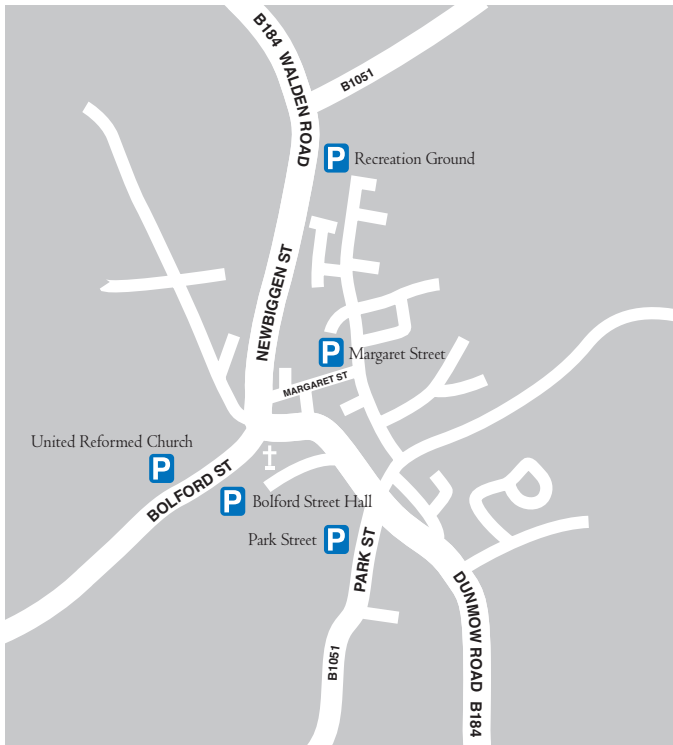
Tickets:

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PARKING FACILITIES



The town's main car park is in Margaret Street, CM6 2QN. There is an additional car park in Park Street CM6 2ND. Both of these are run by Thaxted Parish Council and are free. There is limited additional parking at Bolford Street Hall, CM6 2PY and at the United Reformed Church, Bolford Street, CM6 2PY.

Those travelling from Saffron Walden are advised to take advantage of the overflow parking arrangements offered by Thaxted Parish Council at the Recreation Ground, Newbiggen Street CM6 2QT. This is about five minutes' walk from the Church.

Please leave plenty of time for parking.

Facilities for Disabled People

Disabled people can be accommodated at all events. A ticket for a wheelchair space, if available, will include the cost of one companion seat.

Please inform the Ticket Office when booking to ensure that suitable seats are allocated (in the case of numbered seats).

A limited amount of reserved disabled parking is available in the churchyard for concertgoers. This must be booked at least 24 hours in advance by ringing 01371 830067, giving name, date of concert, make, colour and registration number of car.

VISITOR INFORMATION

REFRESHMENTS

Refreshments will be available in the church during the intervals of all concerts except the two daytime concerts – Family Concert 27 June and Organ Recital 4 July .

RESTAURANTS & PUBS

Farmhouse Inn

Monk Street

01371 830864 - www.farmhouseinn.org

India Villa

20 Watling Street

01371 831205

The Maypole

31 Mill End

01371 831152 - www.themaypolethaxted.co.uk

Ocean Delight (*fish and chips*)

2 Mill End

01371 830909

Parrishes

36 Town Street

01371 830482 - www.parrishes.co.uk

The Star Restaurant & Bar

Mill End

01371 238118 - www.thestarthaxted.co.uk

The Swan Hotel

The Bullring

01371 830321 - www.swanhotel-thaxted.com

ACCOMMODATION

Local accommodation can be viewed at www.visitsaffronwalden.gov.uk and enquiries made at the Saffron Walden Tourist Information Centre: 01799 524002.



www.thaxtedfestival.org.uk



ORCHESTRAS *Live*



Supported by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



Essex County Council

As well as the supporters shown on the pages of this brochure **Orchestras Live** is supporting the concerts on **19 June, 3 July** and the **Family Concert** on **27 June**. Support is received from **Essex County Council** and **Uttlesford District Council** through **Orchestras Live**.

All concerts taking place in **THAXTED CHURCH** are by kind permission of the Vicar and Churchwardens.

Doors will open an hour before the start of each evening concert and half an hour before the Saturday morning events. Tickets will be available from that time.

In the event of unforeseen circumstances **Thaxted Festival Foundation** reserves the right to cancel or alter any performances or substitute performers.

Thaxted Festival is grateful for the help and support of **Thaxted Parish Council**, **United Reformed Church** and **Bolford Street Hall**.

THAXTED FESTIVAL FOUNDATION

Ticket & Administration Office

10 Watling Street, Thaxted

Essex CM6 2PE

Tel: 01371 831421

e-mail: thaxtedfestival@btconnect.com

www.thaxtedfestival.org.uk

The Ticket Office is normally open from 9.30am to 12.30pm
Monday to Friday from April to July.

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Charity Registration 296329