





Programme

Welcome

Welcome to the first concert of our special 75th anniversary season. It is a great honour to kickstart our anniversary season sharing the stage with Phoenix Choir and members of the Eastbourne Choral Society. Four amazing soloists: Sian Sulke and Samuel Mills, both winners in The Eastbourne International Singing Competition, as well as the multi-talented Chris Dixon and Yvonne Lloyd, both well known in the area, join us to bring you a true celebration of two of the greatest composers of all time. Music is best shared and it is a true pleasure to bring so many instrumentalists, singers and audience members together for this concert.

Mozart's overture to his comic opera Cosi Fan Tutte sets the scene for this compelling tale of deception. Two young men are prompted by a wager to trick their respective girlfriends into betraying them. The title, which refers back to a line from The Marriage of Figaro, translates as "all women are like that." Yet despite the misogyny of the phrase, both genders prove to fit the pattern and it reveals an unsettling truth about blind faith in love.

Mozart's Divertimento for two horns and string quartet, *Ein musikalischer Spaß (A Musical Joke)* is peppered with intentional mistakes and unusual harmonies, rhythms and phrasing.

He never revealed his exact motivation behind this work, but it's thought to be a bit of a dig at composers and players of the era that did not live up to the same musical standards as Mozart. The music is often clumsy with repetitive and mismatched musical phrases and passages that mimic the wrong notes found in a particularly poor performance.

The Surprise Symphony needs very little introduction. Written initially to please London audiences in 1791, Haydn was thrilled with the success of the symphony, so much so that he really didn't mind the moniker 'The Surprise' that the London audience gave it. After all there isn't anything particularly surprising in the Symphony as a whole, indeed the 'surprise' of the loud 'wake-up' chord in the soft second movement has been described as "the most unimportant feature in all Haydn's mature works" by some scholars.

So, whilst there is nothing overly surprising about the symphony there is still a lot of musical brilliance. The opening movement begins with a slow introduction before launching into an exciting full-throttle orchestral gallop. The nursery rhyme simplicity of the second movement is coloured with character throughout the variations and the third Minuet and Trio movement is more akin to a dance of the ordinary people rather than the upper classes marking a distinct move towards the scherzos of the romantic symphony. But the finale is Haydn at his symphonic best - both witty and brilliant, and filled with those twists and turns, yet logical surprises, that only Haydn could capture.

Often rumoured to be written to honour Nelson's great victory over the Napoleonic Fleet at the battle of the Nile, Haydn's Nelson Mass had no real connection to the battle, especially as news of it only reached Vienna two months after the completion of the Mass. Haydn had already named the piece Missa in Angustiis (Mass in Troubled Times) which could link the work to the Napoleonic war, but it really became known as the Nelson Mass after a visit from the Admiral to the Esterhazy estate in 1800 where this work was performed in his honour.

Whilst later editions saw the reintroduction of woodwind instruments, as heard tonight, and organ, the original orchestration of the Mass is quite distinct and particularly unusual for the time. Strings, trumpets and timpani combine to give an almost militarian tone across the work. This wasn't because of some attempted musical link to the Napoleonic war, but was more a result of budget cuts. Prince Esterhazy had dismissed nearly all of the wind players from his court orchestra, but what could have been a disadvantage actually has rendered this mass unique and instantly recognisable.

Haydn biographer HC Robins Landon, described the work as 'arguably Haydn's greatest single composition' and I do hope you enjoy it as much as he did!

Simon Polton-Gower

Conductor & Musical Director
Eastbourne Concert Orchestra



Yvonne Lloyd Soprano

Sian Sulke Mezzo-Soprano



Yvonne is a soprano based in East Sussex. She studied music as a pianist at the Universities of Manchester and Middlesex, graduating with a First-Class Honours degree and winning the David Turton Memorial Performance Prize. In 2020, Yvonne achieved the LTCL diploma in singing from Trinity College London. She has studied with Aanna Colls and Christopher Dixon.

Alongside a number of recitals, recent oratorio performances include Mozart's Requiem with Seaford Choral Society and Schubert's Mass in G with Battle Choral Society. In June 2025 Yvonne played the title role in Eastbourne Gilbert and Sullivan Society's production of 'Patience'. Yvonne is Musical Coordinator for The Eastbourne International Singing Competition. She enjoys editing, working regularly for a hymn-book publication, and walking her dog in the Sussex countryside.

Sian is currently studying for a Masters in performance at the Royal College of Music under the tutelage of Miranda Wright and lan Tindale, having graduated from the University of Oxford with a degree in Philosophy. Politics and Economics. Recent oratorio appearances include Mendelssohn's St Paul and Bach's Mass in B Minor. Operatic roles have included the Forester's Wife (The Cunning Little Vixen), Zita (Gianni Schicchi), and Tisbe (La Cenerentola). An accomplished chamber musician. Sian has recorded for BBC Radio 3 and toured extensively across the UK, Europe, and the United States with the choirs of St Luke's Chelsea and St Peter's College, Oxford. This season, she will appear as soloist in Duruflé's Requiem and take part in a masterclass with Brindley Sherratt, Sian was a Semi-Finalist in The Eastbourne International Singing Competition 2025.



Samuel Mills Tenor

Samuel Mills is a British tenor currently studying at the Royal Academy of Music with Adrian Thompson where he is the recipient of the prestigious Sir Elton John Award. Born and raised in Leeds, he has worked with Leeds Lieder and Opera North. In the last year Samuel has taken part in a masterclass with David Butt Philip, played the role of Rinuccio in Puccini's Gianni Schicchi and First Armed Man in Mozart's Zauberflöte. He has performed in such venues as Leeds Town Hall. The Howard Assembly Room, Regent Hall, Sinfonia Smith Square, The Sage Gateshead, Saffron Hall and The Royal Albert Hall. Samuel was awarded 2nd Prize in The Eastbourne International Singing Competition 2025.





Chris was a choral scholar at Clare College. Cambridge where he read Modern and Medieval Languages. He holds a DipRAM in Opera Performance and is a graduand of the UK's National Opera Studio. Chris has performed solo operatic roles for Glyndebourne and Scottish Opera and performed the title role in 'Eugene Onegin' for Welsh National Opera. On the concert platform he has appeared at the Royal Albert Hall, Wigmore Hall, St David's Hall Cardiff and Edinburgh's Usher Hall, Chris lives in Eastbourne, teaches at Eastbourne College and is the Founding Director of both The Eastbourne International Singing Competition and The Eastbourne Community Choir.

Programme

Mozart

Overture - Cosi Fan Tutte

Mozart

A Musical Joke - IV. Presto

Haydn

Symphony no. 94 in G major - 'The Surprise'

- I. Adagio cantabile Vivace assai
- II. Andante
- III. Menuetto: Allegro molto
- IV. Finale: Allegro molto

INTERVAL

Haydn - Mass in D minor - Missa in Angustiis (Nelson Mass)

Kyrie

1. Kyrie eleison (SAT, Chorus)

Gloria

- 2. Gloria in excelsis Deo (SATB, Chorus)
- 3. Qui tollis (SB, Chorus)
- 4. Quoniam tu solus Sanctus (SATB, Chorus)

Credo

- 5. Credo in unum Deum (Chorus)
- 6. Et incarnatus est / Crucifixus (SATB, Chorus)
- 7. Et resurrexit (Chorus)

Sanctus

8. Sanctus (Chorus)

Benedictus

9. Benedictus (Chorus)

Agnus Dei

- 10. Agnus Dei (SATB)
- 11. Dona nobis pacem (Chorus)

The Orchestra

VIOLIN

Simon Smith
Nigel Bland
Hazel Brewer
Roz Hall
Alicia Newell
Will Oastler
Marianne Barber
Paula Burr
Liz Bux
John Caroe
Yuliia Lypova

FLUTE

Gill Willis Katie Potter

VIOLA

Sophie Bayman Marie-Pierre Bijlani Valmai Crane

CELLO

Isobel Cooper Kathryn Anderson Ruth Bosworth Miranda Buser

DOUBLE BASS

Julian Baker

OBOE

Gail Taylor Sian Russell

FRENCH HORN

Aussie Pepper Andrew Cochlin

TRUMPET

Andy Trowhill Bob Turner Stuart Welford

TIMPANI

Ed Bond

BASSOON

Charlotte Willis

Upcoming Events

Eastbourne Choral Society - Advent Concert

Saturday 29th November 2025, 4.30pm - All Saints' Church, Eastbourne

Eastbourne Concert Orchestra - Christmas Concert

Tuesday 2nd December 2025, 7.30pm - All Saints' Church, Eastbourne

Phoenix Choir - The Messiah

Saturday 7th February 2026, 7pm - All Saints' Church, Eastbourne

Eastbourne Concert Orchestra - Spring Concert

A celebration of female composers Tuesday 24th March 2026 - Eastbourne Town Hall

Eastbourne Concert Orchestra - 75th Anniversary Gala Concert

Tuesday 7th July 2026 - Winter Garden, Eastbourne

Phoenix Choir

SOPRANOS

Deborah Adams

Teda Ashdown

Marie Ashford

Pat Booth

Yvonne Chatwin

Fiona Evans

Alison Gibbons

Hilary Goodwin

Trine Hezevi

Jill Merritt

Judith Rhys

Jane Roberts

Val Roberts

Julia Thomas

ALTOS

Fiona Bryer

Jenny Brown

Petina Hapgood

Wendy Kavanagh

Julia Macaffrey

Joyce Pickering

Sheila Piper

Jenny Thompson Chris Wragg **TENORS**

Johnny Aisher

Jeremy Rowett

BASSES

Dave Brabner

Michael Fields

Phil Hamlin

Glyn James

Alan Williams

Eastbourne Choral Society

SOPRANOS

Tracy Anderson

Eleanor Brennan

Marilynne Bromley

Vivienne Carlton

Vivien Jordan

Susan Kerrison

Mary Reilly

Alison Sprigg

Barbara Wight

Brenda Williams

ALTOS

Daphne Allen

Liz Barker

Daphne

Barkworth

Deb Collins

Ruth Kenward

Liz Maloney

Caroline

McCready

Amanda Ritchie
Jan Tucknott

TENORS

Hugh Anderson

Kevin Anderson

BASSES

Kim Adams

Graeme Anderson

Hugh Graham

Richard Rager

Alec Wright

Names correct at time of print.

BRUFORDS

SINCE 1886

LUXURY WATCHES

DIAMOND JEWELLERY

PRE-OWNED AFTERSALES







Established in Eastbourne since 1886, at Brufords we are extremely proud of our reputation for exceptional service, exclusive choice and attention to detail.

Offering the finest jewellery, watches and gifts from acclaimed design houses around the world, our store in The Beacon, Eastbourne, is home to our luxury **Swiss watch** brands, Pre Owned Watch Collection and Gifts. We are also proud to offer an exquisite range of Diamond, Gem-Set and Contemporary Jewellery collections.



