



Eastbourne  
**CONCERT** :: **ORCHESTRA** || **75<sup>th</sup>**  
ANNIVERSARY

# *Christmas* **CONCERT**

## Programme



# Welcome

**Welcome to the Christmas concert of our 75th anniversary season. We're excited to bring you a truly festive programme to kick-start your Christmas celebrations.**

The first half begins with Mozart's overture to his comic opera *Cosi Fan Tutte*. It 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.

John Foulds was a successful composer of Light Music and theatre scores, although he had an experimental and serious streak that was ahead of his time. He also had a bone to pick with the BBC for only playing his light music and ignoring his serious works. The Suite Fantastique, from the Music to a French Pierrot Play falls into the theatre music category. The story follows the characters Pierrette and Pierrot as whimsical, wayward figures, both winsome and romantic, tragic and humorous. The Chanson Plaintive movement follows Pierrot's long and arduous journey 'tramping' the roads of Russia, Poland and Hungary in pursuit of an elusive livelihood. The Wayside Cross describes an episode in which the man behind the pierrot-mask is glimpsed. For "is not the actor a man with a heart like you?" The fourth and final movement is 'just a gay revel, a riot of fun, fantastic, merry full of quips and cranks and unflagging good humour.'

Ronald Binge was also a successful light music composer. He started as a cinema organist in Blackpool and Great Yarmouth before going on to become an arranger for many of Mantovani's most famous pieces as well as a composer in his own right. His Elizabethan Serenade was used by the BBC as the theme for the 1950s 'Music Tapestry' Series and as the play-out on British Forces Network Radio. 'Sailing by' was used by the BBC as the theme to the Shipping Forecast, which celebrates it's 100th anniversary as a BBC radio broadcast this year.

Delibes' Ballet *Sylvia* premiered on 14 June 1876 at the Palais Garnier in Paris, the first ever ballet performed at the newly built theatre. It went unnoticed by the critics and was unsuccessful with audiences mostly down to the poor lighting and problems with the choreography. In the end it was Delibes' score that saved the first production and encouraged several revivals. Without such highly esteemed music, the ballet would have soon drifted into obscurity. Tchaikovsky remarked upon the ingenuity of *Sylvia*, calling it

*"... the first ballet, where the music constitutes not only the main, but the only interest. What charm, what elegance, what richness of melody, rhythm, harmony".*

The second half is where we ramp up the Christmas music and the Christmas cheer! There are opportunities for you to test drive your Christmas carolling with a couple of sing-a-longs so don't forget to warm up in the interval!

Christmas at the Movies, as the name suggests, takes us on a musical journey through some top Christmas Films, including *Miracle on 34th Street*, *The Polar Express* and *Home Alone*.

We couldn't have a festive concert without some Strauss. Venerated in the annual Vienna New Years' concert, the Strauss composing dynasty was known for their marches, waltzes and polkas. Tonight we play Johann Strauss senior's *Radetzky March* from 1848, written to celebrate the Victory of the Austrian Empire over the Italians at the Battle of Custoza during the First war of Independence. Best known now as the encore in the aforementioned New Years' Day concerts.

The second half isn't all festive though. Shostakovich's Suite for Variety Orchestra was actually put together by Levon Atovmyan sometime after 1956. Atovmyan was regularly entrusted with arranging concert suites of Shostakovich's film music, and although made with Shostakovich's approval and based on his music, Atovmyan's arrangements incorporated extensive alterations and newly-composed material.

The instantly recognisable material for the Waltz no. 2 is an arrangement of cues composed for the soundtrack to 1955 film 'The First Echelon'. We play this at the request of one of our Eastbourne Concert Orchestra Friends and you too can become a Friend and request a piece! More details can be found within this programme.

The Musical Chicago was first performed on Broadway in 1975 and was a commercial hit for the duo Kander and Ebb. The Jazz hall melodies, murderous leading ladies, based on real crimes committed in the 1920s and vaudeville inspired scenes caught the imagination of the general public. The Broadway and West End revivals won the Tony and Olivier awards for best revivals in 1997. The 2002 film, starring Catherine Zita Jones, Renee Zellweger and Richard Gere won the Best Picture Oscar.

The medley heard tonight features some of the hit songs from the show, including All that Jazz and the Cell block Tango.

We end the concert with two Christmas pieces by Leroy Anderson - it just wouldn't feel like Christmas without them! The first, A Christmas Festival is a wonderful arrangement of well known Christmas Carols, followed by the frolicsome Sleigh Ride. This year we play Sleigh Ride in honour of Mike Goss, a very long standing member of the orchestra both as a player and as a friend, who sadly passed away this year. He really enjoyed playing this piece every year so we feel it is a fitting tribute to him.

We hope this Concert puts you in the festive mood and all of us at the Eastbourne Concert Orchestra wish you, and yours, a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

**Simon Polton-Gower**  
**Conductor & Musical Director**  
**Eastbourne Concert Orchestra**

# Upcoming Events

## **75th Anniversary Spring Concert**

A celebration of female composers

Tuesday 24th March 2026 - Eastbourne Town Hall

## **75th Anniversary Gala Concert**

Tuesday 7th July 2026 - Winter Garden, Eastbourne

# Programme

**Mozart** Cosi Fan Tutte - Overture

**Foulds** Suite Fantastique  
I. Pierrette and Pierrot  
II. Chanson Plaintive  
III. The Wayside Cross  
IV. Carnival Procession

**Binge** Sailing By

**Binge** Elizabethan Serenade

**Delibes** Sylvia Selections

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## INTERVAL

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**Krogstad** Christmas at the Movies

**Strauss** Radetzky March

**Traditional English** Here we come a-wassailing

**Carol** Hark the Herald!

**Shostakovich** Suite for Variety Orchestra - Waltz No. 2

**Kander** Chicago - Selections from the Musical

**Carol** O Come All Ye Faithful

**Anderson** A Christmas Festival

**Anderson** Sleigh Ride (*In memory of Mike Goss*)

# The Orchestra

## 1ST VIOLIN

Simon Smith  
Nigel Bland  
Hazel Brewer  
Liz Bux  
Lindsay Cook  
Roz Hall  
Yuliia Lypova  
Alicia Newell  
Jessica Spiteri  
Jill Vaughan  
Tessa Younger

## 2ND VIOLIN

Will Oastler  
Marianne Barber  
Shelia Bellamy  
Lucy Blyth  
Paula Burr  
Julia Carlton-Lowe  
John Caroe  
Lynn Leppard  
Niamh Pearce  
Yvonne Spear

## VIOLA

Sophie Bayman  
Marie-Pierre Bijlani  
Valmai Crane  
Katie Manley

## CELLO

Jonathan Bruce  
Kathryn Anderson  
Ruth Bosworth  
Felix Buser  
Miranda Buser  
Karen Sinstadt

## FLUTE & PICCOLO

Gill Willis  
Sarah Thomson  
Katie Potter

## CLARINET & SAXOPHONE

David Bottom  
Stephanie Bond  
Sally Donegani

## DOUBLE BASS

Julian Baker  
Kaye Colyer

## OBOE & COR ANGLAIS

Gail Taylor  
Sian Russell

## BASSOON

Charlotte Willis  
Jan Townsend  
Theresa Keysell  
Kate Denny

## FRENCH HORN

Aussie Pepper  
Chris Willard  
Andrew Cochlin  
Mike Sarna

## TRUMPET

Andy Trowhill  
Bob Turner

## TROMBONE

Will Roberts  
Chris Thompson

## TIMPANI & PERCUSSION

Ed Bond  
Avril Vegh

# Friends of the Orchestra

## CHAIRMAN

Dr John Caroe

## PRESIDENT

The Worshipful, The Mayor of Eastbourne

## FRIENDS' SECRETARY

Kathryn Anderson

## FRIENDS

*Names correct at time of print.*

Andy Anderson	Pam Dye	Jeanne Hayward	Mike Townsend
Gaurav Bijlani	Ian Ferguson	Barbara Leggett	David Van Leer
Luca Bijlani	Sue Ferguson	Bert Leggett	Brian Waters
Jacqui Bland	Margaret Gardner	Zoe Luck	David Wood
Jean Booth	Patricia Golds	Yvonne McDonald	
Bernadette Chandler	Sue Goss	Richard Miers	
Jenny Cole	Vicky Harwood	Jacqueline Osborn	
Nigel Cole	Peter Harwood	Lori Phillips	
Dr David Cooke	Jill Haughan	Patricia Snowden	
Eva Cram	Maggie Haynes	Jane Stevens	

## BECOMING A FRIEND AND SUPPORTING YOUR ORCHESTRA

Our Season Ticket saves you **£5** compared to buying tickets for concerts separately. An annual season ticket subscription of **£25** (renewed in September) gets you:

- » A ticket to our Christmas, Spring and Summer concerts
- » Advance information about upcoming concerts and other events.
- » Your name in the programme.
- » The opportunity to make further donations to support the orchestra.
- » The opportunity to sponsor a piece through purchasing music for the orchestra.

Please email **friends.eastbourneorchestra@gmail.com** or complete a Friends membership form, available from our front-of-house team, for more information on becoming a friend or renewing your membership for our 75th Anniversary Season (2025-26).

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[enquiries@brufords.com](mailto:enquiries@brufords.com)



01323 725452