

Ilkley Concert Club

79TH SEASON



OCTOBER 2025 – MAY 2026

Welcome to our 79th Season

We hope that you will find plenty to enjoy in the forthcoming season!

BOOKING INFORMATION

Booking closes 5 July 2025

SEASON TICKETS

There are two methods of booking your season tickets. You can apply now and pay online by going to our website (ilkleyconcertclub.org.uk) and following the menu choices to the Season Ticket Booking Form.

Alternatively, you can, as in the past, fill in the form on the back page of this brochure and send it with your cheque payable to **Ilkley Concert Club** to **Pam Harris, ICC Membership Organiser, 10 Wells Court, Ilkley LS29 9LG.**

Using either method, you must make sure your booking arrives by Saturday 5 July, or risk losing your priority.

All season tickets will be allocated as soon as booking closes. Seats are allocated in the order shown in the next column, also taking into account the date received.

SEASON TICKET PRICES

Hall Position	Season Ticket Price for 8 concerts
Balcony A-D	£115.00
Boxes A-H per seat	£115.00
Auditorium C-P	£102.00
Auditorium Q-T	£90.00

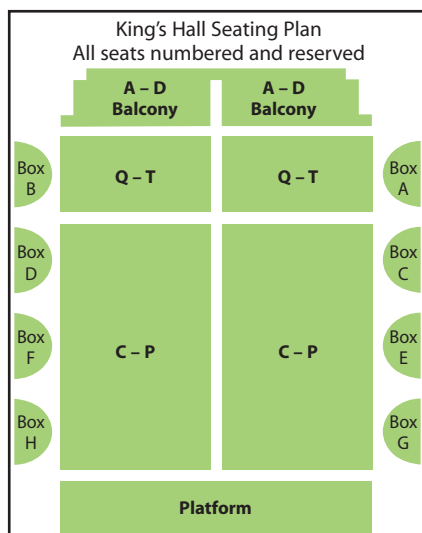
There is no requirement this year for a donation in order to retain your usual seats.

BOOKING CATEGORIES

- 2024/25 MEMBERS asking for the same seats
- 2024/25 MEMBERS who would, if possible, like to change seats
- First time applicants

DONATIONS

Members and applicants have the option of making voluntary donations to support the work of the Club, which is a welcome source of income, particularly if gift-aided.



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If unavoidable, Ilkley Concert Club reserves the right to change artists, dates and programmes without notice.

Wednesday 15 October 2025 7.30pm

NOTOS PIANO QUARTET

Mahler Piano quartet in A minor
Brahms Piano quartet in C minor, op 60
Saint-Saëns Piano quartet in B flat major, op 41



The Berlin-based Notos Piano Quartet has been praised by audiences and critics alike for its 'virtuosic brilliance and technical perfection' as well as 'its sense of balance and interplay'. Since its formation in 2007, the group has won six first prizes in international competitions. The social commitment of the ensemble is reflected in its promotion of young musicians—having taught at RNCM in Manchester and promoting its own Notos Chamber Music Academy.

Their programme for Ilkley contains three contrasting works from the 1870s. The Brahms quartet, his third, is filled with romantic tribulation, references to Clara Schumann abound. After a long gestation the quartet was first performed in Vienna in 1875. The Mahler work—his only piece of chamber music, in just one movement—premiered the following year again in Vienna but at the Conservatory where he was studying. Saint-Saëns' piano quartet is a staple of the repertoire, full of tuneful lyricism, the themes of its four movements coming together at the end in a cheerful fugato.

Wednesday 5 November 2025 7.30pm

WILL DUERDEN double bass SVITLANA KOSENKO piano

Bruch *Kol Nidrei*, op 47 **Montag** Sonata in E minor
Proto Carmen Fantasy **Piazzolla** *Ave Maria*
Fauré *Les berceaux*, op 23 **Botessini** *Alla Mendelssohn*
Tabakov *Motivy*



Will Duerden has been playing the double bass since he was 7 and was finalist in the BBC Young Musician strings category in 2018. He is a Classic FM 'Rising Star' and in June 2023 was selected to join the prestigious Young Classical Artists Trust's (YCAT) roster. He is well set to become a noted virtuoso of the bass, following in the footsteps of Botessini and Chi-chi Nwanoku.

His programme combines modern solo pieces like Emil Tabakov's *Motivy* with accompanied pieces from the wider repertoire like the Carmen Fantasy and the *Alla Mendelssohn* inspired by the Mendelssohn violin concerto. Bruch's *Kol Nidrei* is more familiar on the cello while *Les berceaux* and *Ave Maria* are arrangements of songs.

Svitlana Kosenko is a Ukrainian pianist with a rising reputation as an accompanist, having worked at the Yehudi Menuhin School and the Royal College of Music where Will himself has been a student.



Wednesday 10 December 2025 7.30pm

ALESSANDRO FISHER tenor
JONG SUN WOO piano

English songs by **Bax, Britten, Coleridge Taylor, Finzi** and **Head**

Italian songs by **Bellini, Puccini** and **Tosti** and traditional Neapolitan songs

Italian-English tenor Alessandro Fisher is making a name for himself as an accomplished recitalist as well as in opera and oratorio. He was a BBC New Generation artist between 2018 and 2021 and holds a 2022 Borletti-Buitoni Trust Fellowship. Fanfare magazine describes him as 'already an artist with interpretive depth to match a remarkable voice.' His partner is the collaborative pianist, Jong Sun Woo, praised for her 'poetic and characterful playing' [The Guardian] and winner of the Pianist prize at the Wigmore Hall/Bollinger International Song Competition 2024.

Their programme combines 20th century English song including two song-cycles on fairy themes by Samuel Coleridge-Taylor and Michael Head with 19th and 20th century Italian song—a neglected corner of the repertoire—by Bellini and Puccini and Sir Francesco Paolo Tosti—singing master to the Royal family and friend of King Edward VII.



Wednesday 14 January 2026 7.30pm

RACHEL PODGER violin
with **BRECON BAROQUE**

Biber 1681

Biber Sonatas no. 1 in A major, no. 2 in D minor, no. 3 in F major, no. 6 in C minor with *Sonata representativa*
Froberger Suite in A **Kapsberger** Toccata in D minor

It is a welcome return to Ilkley for Rachel Podger, bringing with her some members of her ensemble Brecon Baroque. These world-class virtuosos from the period-instrument scene specialise in one-to-a-part performances and bring a thrilling immediacy to their playing. Their programme focusses on four of the set of eight violin sonatas with continuo that the Bohemian virtuoso Heinrich Biber published in 1681. These demonstrate his unique compositional and technical ambition and were the foundation of his continuing reputation through the 18th century. Rachel will also be playing Biber's *Sonata representativa*, an early example of imitation in music of the sounds of the animal world. And continuing this survey of the early baroque in Germany the harpsichord and theorbo players will give us solo examples of the harpsichord suites of Jakob Froberger (1616-1667) and the even earlier virtuoso theorbo toccatas of Johann Hieronymus Kapsberger (1580-1651).



Wednesday 4 February 2026 7.30pm

JULIAN BLISS clarinet **CARDUCCI QUARTET**

Weber Clarinet quintet in B flat major, op 34
Shostakovich String quartet no. 4 in D major, op 83
Mozart Clarinet quintet in A major, K581



To celebrate the 200th anniversary of the death of Carl Maria von Weber, Julian Bliss and the Carducci Quartet return to Ilkley to play together his sparkling and virtuosic Clarinet quintet. This is music which is not simply for show but revels in the new possibilities that had opened up in the improved clarinets of the early 19th century. In his quintet, Mozart too was writing for a clarinet with extended range which had been developed by his friend, Anton Stadler, whose playing was said to imitate the human voice. Julian Bliss, one of the finest clarinetists of his day, will excel in these staples of the repertoire.

The Carducci, well known for their championing of Shostakovich's quartets, will add his fourth quartet with its folk-like themes into the rich mixture of this celebratory concert.



Wednesday 18 March 2026 7.30pm

SACCONI QUARTET **string quartet**

Haydn String quartet in C, op 33 no. 3, *The Bird*
Freya Waley-Cohen String quartet
Beethoven String quartet in A minor, op 132



The Sacconi Quartet, who have been part of the international musical scene for 25 years, captivating audiences with their unanimous and compelling ensemble, return to Ilkley for the fourth time with a programme anchored in the Viennese tradition but which also demonstrates their commitment to championing new work.

Haydn's *The Bird* gets its names from the chirpings of the first violin in the first movement. The gentler middle movements, a hymn-like scherzo, with more bird-like games in the trio, and a serene adagio, give way to a manic final movement based on a folk dance with gypsy highlights. Some 40 years later, Beethoven, placed a hymn of thanksgiving for recovery from illness as the central section of his five-movement op 132, one of the major peaks of the string quartet repertoire.

Between these two, the Sacconi bring a work they have commissioned from Freya Waley-Cohen, a composer with a growing reputation and a particular affinity for stringed instruments. Her music has been described as 'at once intimate and visionary' and characterized by contrasts between the earthly and the otherworldly.

Wednesday 22 April 2026 7.30pm

CALEFAX REED QUINTET

A programme based around

Bach *Aria variata alla maniera italiana*, BWV 989

Franck *Prélude, fugue et variation*, op 18

Mozart *Larghetto* and *Allegretto* from
Quintet in E flat major, KV 542

Gershwin *An American in Paris*



Calefax is a close-knit ensemble of five Dutch reed players who are the inventors of a new genre—the reed quintet which comprises oboe, clarinet, saxophone, bass clarinet and bassoon. For 35 years they have been acclaimed for their virtuosity and their innovative stage presentation. They have built their own repertoire from commissions and their own brilliant arrangements of existing works and are open to the influence of world music, jazz and improvisation.

Their programme for Ilkley mixes influences from the baroque, classical, romantic and jazz eras with arrangements of keyboard pieces by Bach and César Franck, two movements from Mozart's ground-breaking quintet for piano and winds and Gershwin's tone poem which evokes all the gaiety of Paris filtered through homesickness for New York.

Wednesday 6 May 2026 7.30pm

PAVEL KOLESNIKOV & SAMSON TSOY piano duo

Stravinsky *Rite of Spring*

Schubert *Fantasie in F minor*, D940

Schubert *Divertissement*, D818



Pavel Kolesnikov and Samson Tsoy have been living and working together ever since their early student days, first in Russia and then in London. Although both have successful careers as solo pianists, their exploration of the piano duo repertoire, which intensified during the covid pandemic, has gained them a wider reputation. The Guardian says of them that 'These two listen closely, play with rare intimacy and draw us in, demanding we pay the same acute attention.'

Their debut recording together, which contains both these Schubert pieces, was released in 2024 to great acclaim. BBC Music Magazine praised them as 'absolutely magical. The Divertissement elicits a sumptuous softness, while the Fantasie creates the impression of vast and intensely dramatic landscapes.'

They contrast this with the four-hand version of the Rite of Spring—the first version of this seminal modernist work to be published and which Stravinsky and Debussy played together shortly after the riotous Parisian premiere of the ballet.

ONLY USE THIS FORM IF YOU ARE NOT APPLYING ON-LINE

SEASON TICKET APPLICATION FORM

First name

Surname

Address 1

Address 2

Town/City

Postcode

Email

Phone Number

☐ The above information will be stored and used in line with the Data Privacy Policy on our website.
PLEASE TICK to consent to our contacting you with information about the Club and its activities.

Did you book in 2024/2025?

Yes ☐

No ☐

If yes, do you want to reserve the same seats as last season?

Yes ☐

No ☐

I would like seats in the following hall position:

Balcony A-D [£115 per seat] ☐

Auditorium C-P [£102 per seat] ☐

Boxes A-H [£115 per seat] ☐

Auditorium Q-T [£90 per seat] ☐

We will do our best to meet your seat request, but priority will be given to members who would, if possible, like the same seats as last year.

Please send Season Tickets at £ each

Voluntary donations to support the work of the Club are a welcome source of income, particularly if gift-aided.

Donation

TOTAL cheque payable to **Ilkley Concert Club**

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Please sign here if you (**the cheque signatory**) are a UK taxpayer and agree that Ilkley Concert Club (ICC) can claim tax on past, present and future donations to ICC.

By signing this form, I confirm that I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Please help our Treasurer to keep records in order by completing this each season.

Signature and date

Tick if not applicable ☐

SINGLE TICKET REQUESTS

Some returned tickets are always available before each concert. You can request tickets for individual concerts one month prior to that concert by e-mailing Lindsey Wharmby at concertclubilkley@gmail.com or **additionally DURING THE WEEK BEFORE THE CONCERT contact Lindsey on 07791 083326, 10am to 7pm weekdays only please (10am to 1pm on concert day).** If you leave a message please speak clearly & slowly so she can return your call.

SINGLE TICKET PRICES

Balcony A-D	£20.00
Boxes A-H per seat	£20.00
Auditorium C-P	£18.00
Auditorium Q-T	£16.00
Under 25 concession	£5.00
Under 18s	Free



15 October 2025

NOTOS PIANO QUARTET

Mahler, Brahms and Saint-Saëns

5 November 2025

WILL DUERDEN (double bass) &
SVITLANA KOSENKO

Botessini, Bruch, Fauré, Montag, Piazzolla, Proto and Tabakov

10 December 2025

ALESSANDRO FISHER (tenor) & **JONG SUN WOO**

Songs from England and Italy

14 January 2026

RACHEL PODGER AND BRECON BAROQUE

Biber 1681

4 February 2026

JULIAN BLISS (clarinet) & **CARDUCCI QUARTET**

Mozart, Shostakovich and Weber

18 March 2026

SACCONI QUARTET

Haydn, Beethoven and Freya Waley-Cohen

22 April 2026

CALEFAX REED QUINTET

Bach, Franck, Gershwin and Mozart

6 May 2026

PAVEL KOLESNIKOV & SAMSON TSOY

Schubert and Stravinsky

KING'S HALL, ILKLEY

ilkleyconcertclub.org.uk