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*2024-25  
Macclesfield  
season*

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# SEASON CALENDAR

## **Mozart On Tour (Paris)**

**Manchester Chamber Choir** | Director **Sarah Brandwood-Spencer** | Conductor **Ellie Slorach**

Saturday 28 September 7.30pm

The King's School in Macclesfield

## **Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto**

Violin **Jennifer Pike** | Director **Zoë Beyers**

Saturday 2 November 7.30pm

The King's School in Macclesfield

## **Christmas Concerts**

Friday 13 December 3.30pm & 7.00pm

Tatton Park, Knutsford

## **Mozart on Tour (Linz)**

Cello **Raphael Wallfisch** | Director **Katie Stillman**

Saturday 14 December 7.30pm

The King's School in Macclesfield

## **Strum**

Harpsichord **Darius Battiwalla** | Director **Christopher Jones**

Saturday 18 January 7.30pm

St. Michael's Church, Macclesfield

## **Mozart on Tour (Vienna)**

Piano **Jeneba Kanneh-Mason** | Director **Benedict Holland**

Saturday 15 February 7.30pm

The King's School in Macclesfield

## **Northern Winds Shall Blow**

### **NCO Wind Principals**

Saturday 15 March 7.30pm

St. Michael's Church, Macclesfield

## **From Darkness to Light**

Director **Sarah Brandwood-Spencer**

Saturday 5 April 7.30pm

The King's School in Macclesfield

## **Mozart on Tour (Prague)**

Director **Zoë Beyers**

Saturday 3 May 7.30pm

The King's School in Macclesfield







# WELCOME

Welcome to our 2024–25 Macclesfield season, built on the theme *Mozart on Tour*. Mozart spent a third of his life travelling and these journeys strongly influenced his music. In four concerts we feature symphonies closely linked to particular places, Paris, Linz, Vienna and Prague. We include too his final choral masterpiece, the *Requiem*.

However, this is very far from being an all-Mozart season. It embraces a rich variety of music spanning the seventeenth to twenty-first centuries, from Corelli to Shostakovich, Bach to Bruckner, Schubert to Anna Thorvaldsdottir, Beethoven to John Adams and Tchaikovsky to Jessie Montgomery. Many works are familiar, for example Beethoven's Fifth Symphony, truly the pinnacle of Western art music. Others are less well known, for example the powerfully moving *Elegy (In Memoriam Stephen Lawrence)* by the contemporary British composer, Philip Herbert. Together they form carefully crafted programmes designed to ensure that there is something for everyone. We think there is!

Great music demands great soloists. We welcome back the internationally renowned **Jennifer Pike** to perform Mendelssohn's *Violin Concerto*. We welcome back our President, **Raphael Wallfisch** to perform Tchaikovsky's *Rococo Variations*. We welcome for the first time **Jeneba Kanneh-Mason**, another virtuoso member of that famous family, to perform Mozart's *Piano Concerto No.23*.

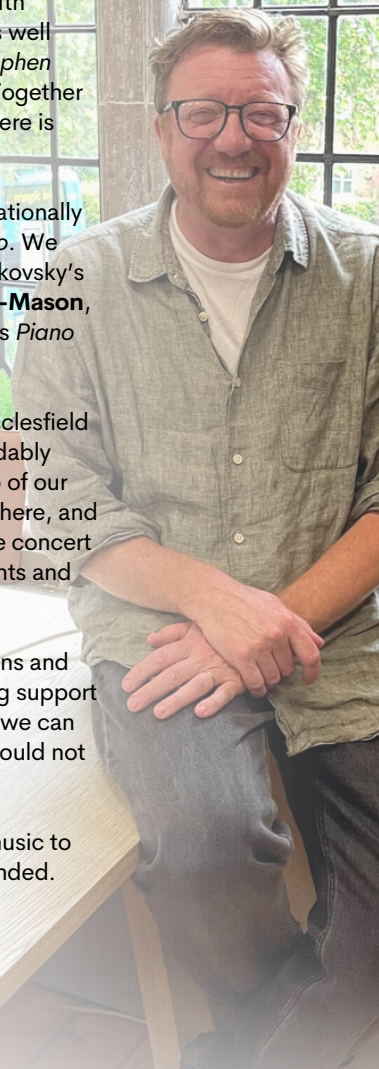
May I take a moment to celebrate the success of our previous Macclesfield season, in which the artistic standards of the orchestra were formidably high and ticket sales exceeded all expectations. We are proud too of our extensive outreach work, whether in schools, care homes or elsewhere, and our burgeoning partnership with Macclesfield Music Centre. In the concert hall and the community, it was a year filled with memorable moments and meaningful connections.

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to our sponsors, patrons and the Friends of the Northern Chamber Orchestra, whose unwavering support makes these performances possible. Your dedication ensures that we can continue to bring great music to our community and we certainly could not do it without you.

I invite you to join us as we continue to explore the power of live music to create memories that will endure long after the performance has ended.



**Charlie Rowley, Chief Executive**



# MOZART

## Mozart on Tour (Paris)

Manchester Chamber Choir

Director **Sarah Brandwood-Spencer**

Conductor **Ellie Slorach**

*Mozart Overture to The Magic Flute*

*Mozart Symphony No.31 ('Paris')*

*Mozart Requiem*

**Saturday 28 September 2024 7.30pm**  
**The King's School in Macclesfield**

Heralding the start of our *Mozart on Tour* series, our opening concert begins in Paris. Embark on a journey through some of Mozart's greatest works, traversing the composer's output from the start of his career to his final unfinished masterpiece.

The concert opens with the exhilarating Overture to *The Magic Flute* and is followed by *Symphony No. 31*, known as the 'Paris' Symphony, a vibrant and exuberant work that captures the essence of this bustling city. These two works are directed by **Sarah Brandwood-Spencer**, who has toured the world as principal and soloist with the European Union Chamber Orchestra. She was formerly principal violinist of the Hallé Orchestra and now enjoys a varied career as guest principal with many of the country's leading orchestras.

**Manchester Chamber Choir** conducted by **Ellie Slorach** then joins the NCO for the profoundly moving *Requiem*. Mozart died before completing the work and from the solemnity of its opening bars to the intensity of the 'Dies Irae' this masterpiece takes listeners through grief, hope and ultimately redemption.

**Ellie Slorach** makes a welcome return following her hugely successful performance last season of Vivaldi's *Gloria*. This season she also returns to the RLPO, BBC Philharmonic, RSNO and Manchester Camerata.

This concert is generously  
sponsored by Geoff Holman.

# ON TO UR



# MENDELSSOHN

## Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto

Violin **Jennifer Pike**

Director **Zoë Beyers**

Philip Herbert *Elegy (In Memoriam Stephen Lawrence)*

Schubert *Symphony No.2*

Mendelssohn *Violin Concerto in E minor*

**Saturday 2 November 2024 7.30pm**

**The King's School in Macclesfield**

Join us for a diverse programme that showcases the depth and richness of the orchestral repertoire. We begin with Herbert's poignant *Elegy (In Memoriam Stephen Lawrence)*, a deeply moving tribute that illustrates the power of music to find beauty within tragedy. This is followed by Schubert's *Symphony No. 2*, which Sir Colin Davies described as "jolting you into a new way of thinking about the symphony". From its tender Andante to the spirited Presto final movement, the work is a delightful exploration of the composer's early genius.

Acclaimed violinist **Jennifer Pike** then takes centre stage to perform Mendelssohn's *Violin Concerto*. From its inception the concerto was an instant success and has long been an integral part of the concerto repertoire. Making a welcome return to the NCO, Jennifer Pike was the youngest ever winner of the BBC Young Musician of the Year and is now in demand as a soloist all over the world.

The NCO is thrilled to have **Zoë Beyers** return to direct the concert. In 2020 she was appointed leader of the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra and appears regularly as guest leader with many other orchestras including the Hallé, RLPO, BBC Symphony, CBSO, Philharmonia and the Scottish Chamber Orchestra.

**This concert is generously sponsored by  
Bevan and Dr Barbara Broadbent**





# CHRISTMAS

## Christmas Concerts

Friday 13 December 2024 3.30pm and 7.00pm  
Tatton Park, Knutsford



Join the Northern Chamber Orchestra for its annual Christmas Concert in the grand Tenants' Hall at Tatton Park.

Expect festive favourites, readings and carols, sung by the **Choir of St Nicholas Catholic High School, Northwich**. There will also be carols to join in with, so bring your best singing voices!

The evening concert includes a tour of the mansion house, which, this year, is Wizard of Oz themed! As you wander through the beautifully decorated staterooms, each corner turned will reveal a new surprise, from the exciting adventure following the Yellow Brick Road to the sparkling Emerald City, all adorned in beautiful festive decorations.

Start your Christmas celebrations with the Northern Chamber Orchestra – tickets sell out every year so don't delay!

# CONCERTS



# MO ZA RT

## Mozart on Tour (Linz)

Cello **Raphael Wallfisch**

Director **Katie Stillman**

Anna Thorvaldsdottir *Illumine*  
Tchaikovsky *Variations on a Rococo Theme*  
Bruckner *Adagio* from *String Quintet*  
Mozart *Symphony No.36 ('Linz')*

**Saturday 14 December 2024 7.30pm**  
**The King's School in Macclesfield**

*Mozart on Tour* arrives in the Austrian town of Linz. We begin with Anna Thorvaldsdottir's stunning contemporary work *Illumine*, which the composer describes as depicting the relationship between light and darkness, in particular "the ignition of the first beams of light and the subtle rhythms that appear through the pulsating dance of light emerging."

Tchaikovsky described Mozart as a "sunny genius", who profoundly moved the composer. He paid tribute to Mozart in *Variations on a Rococo Theme* and the NCO is delighted to welcome back our President, renowned cellist, **Raphael Wallfisch**, to perform Tchaikovsky's original version, which marries the expressive and virtuosic power of the instrument.

We then explore another composer native to Linz, Anton Bruckner. The Adagio from his String Quintet, arranged here for string orchestra, is truly the emotional heart of the work. Our final piece is Mozart's *Symphony No.36*, the 'Linz' Symphony. Remarkably, this piece was composed and performed within four days of Mozart's arrival in the town.

**Katie Stillman** directs the orchestra. She has an extensive career as a soloist, chamber musician and orchestral principal. This season she takes on the role of Leader of Opera North's Orchestra. She is Associate Leader of Manchester Camerata and has appeared as guest leader with the Academy of St Martin in the Fields and the RLPO among others.

This concert is generously sponsored by  
**Caro Brown.**



# ON TO UR

# STRUM

## Strum

Harpsichord **Darius Battiwalla**  
Director **Christopher Jones**

Corelli *Concerto Grosso, Op.6 No.2*  
Jessie Montgomery *Strum*  
Bach *Harpsichord Concerto No.1*  
Tchaikovsky *Serenade for Strings*

**Saturday 18 January 2025 7.30pm**  
**St. Michael's Church, Macclesfield**

Join the NCO for an evening of musical exploration and discovery in a programme where tradition meets innovation. We are delighted to welcome back **Christopher Jones** to direct a musical journey beginning with Corelli's *Concerto Grosso, Op.6 No.2*, a Baroque masterpiece that dazzles with its lively interplay between NCO soloists and orchestra.

Next, we explore the contemporary sounds of Jessie Montgomery's *Strum*. Jessie Montgomery is one of America's most exciting young composers and was named Musical America's 2023 Composer of the Year. The NCO is excited to perform the work, which draws on American folk idioms and the spirit of dance and movement. The composer says, "The piece has a kind of narrative that begins with fleeting nostalgia and transforms into ecstatic celebration."

Bach's *Harpsichord Concerto No.1* features the welcome return of **Darius Battiwalla**, who brings outstanding virtuosity and sensitivity to this masterpiece of the Baroque repertoire. To close, the NCO will celebrate the sumptuous melodies of Tchaikovsky's *Serenade for Strings*. Tchaikovsky wrote the *Serenade* in response to feeling restless and unwell. He wrote to his publisher that he "loved this serenade terribly", and justifiably so, as it has become one of the most popular works in the string orchestra repertoire.

**Christopher Jones** was a founder member of the Gildas Quartet, which has performed to critical acclaim at major venues including the Wigmore Hall and Purcell Room, as well as live on BBC Radio 3.

**Darius Battiwalla** gives solo recitals all over the UK and abroad. He is City Organist at Leeds Town Hall and plays regularly with the BBC Philharmonic, Hallé and other orchestras.

**This concert is generously sponsored by  
the Friends of the Northern Chamber Orchestra.**





# MOZART

## Mozart on Tour (Vienna)

Piano **Jeneba Kanneh-Mason**

Director **Benedict Holland**

George Walker *Lyric for Strings*

Mozart *Piano Concerto No.23*

John Adams *Shaker Loops* (1st movement)

Mozart *Symphony No.35* ('Haffner')

**Saturday 15 February 2025 7.30pm**


**The King's School in Macclesfield**

*Mozart on Tour* takes the orchestra to Vienna, the heart of Mozart's musical heritage, under the direction of **Benedict Holland**. The concert opens with George Walker's *Lyric for Strings*, originally a movement of his First String Quartet and then expanded into a work for string orchestra, dedicated to his formerly enslaved grandmother.

We are delighted to welcome **Jeneba Kanneh-Mason** to play Mozart's beautiful *Piano Concerto No.23*. It is one of Mozart's most lyrical and, in the central Adagio, poignant works. The third of the family to establish herself as a soloist, Jeneba Kanneh-Mason recently made her BBC Proms debut with the Chineke! Orchestra and was heralded by the press as "demonstrating musical insight, technical acuity and an engaging performing persona."

John Adams' *Shaker Loops* follows, characterised by repetitive oscillations on strings and inspired by water ripples and energising Shaker dance rhythms. The piece is a fine example of Adams' innovative writing and sense of rhythmic vitality.

The evening concludes with Mozart's *Symphony No. 35*, the 'Haffner' Symphony, originally commissioned for the Haffner family in Salzburg but later refined for performance in Vienna. The Vienna version is a fiery and forceful work culminating in a dazzling finale.



**Benedict Holland**, a prize-winning graduate of the Royal Academy of Music and the Royal Northern College of Music, is a prominent chamber musician and orchestral leader. He has guest-led many of the UK's major orchestras, including the Hallé and the BBC Philharmonic. He is currently Professor of Violin at the RNCM.

This concert is generously sponsored  
by Michael and Joanna Sambrook.

# ON TO UR

# NOR THE RN

## Northern Winds Shall Blow NCO Wind Principals

Caplet *Suite Persane*  
Nielsen *Wind Quintet*  
Dvořák *Serenade for Wind Instruments*

**Saturday 15 March 2025 7.30pm**  
**St Michael's Church, Macclesfield**

After outstanding concerts in the last two seasons, the NCO wind section and principals return with an exciting programme exploring the evocative sounds of wind music.

We begin with Caplet's *Suite Persane*, a mesmerising fusion of Eastern influences and Western orchestration. Written in 1901, it remained unpublished until 1988 and is rarely performed outside Francophone countries. We are delighted to bring this work to an NCO audience.

Nielsen's *Wind Quintet* is a brilliant and quintessential work of the chamber music repertoire that showcases the virtuosity of wind instruments in a series of intricate and playful movements.

To end, we present the radiant melodies of Dvorak's *Serenade for Winds*, a masterpiece that captures the beauty and tranquillity of the Czech countryside with its lush harmonies and pastoral charm.

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# FROM DAR KNE SS

## From Darkness To Light

Director **Sarah Brandwood-Spencer**

Beethoven *Overture to 'Fidelio'*  
Shostakovich *Chamber Symphony, Op. 110a*  
Beethoven *Symphony No. 5*

**Saturday 5 April 2025 7.30pm**  
**The King's School in Macclesfield**

This concert moves from the darkness of Beethoven's *Overture to 'Fidelio'* and the C minor Shostakovich *Chamber Symphony* to the dazzling C major light that illuminates the closing bars of Beethoven's *Symphony No. 5*.

Beethoven spent ten years composing *Fidelio* and said of the overture, "Of all my children, this is the one that cost me the worst birth-pangs and brought me the most sorrow; and for that reason it is the one most dear to me."

Shostakovich's introspective, autobiographical and deeply moving *Chamber Symphony* began life as the Eighth String Quartet. This arrangement for string orchestra was made by the Russian conductor and violist, Rudolf Barshai. When Barshai showed Shostakovich the arrangement he was quoted as saying "Well, that sounds better than the original. We will give the piece a new name: *Chamber Symphony, Opus 110a*."

We emerge from the darkness of the Shostakovich into the light. From the most recognisable four note motif opening in all classical music to its triumphant finale, Beethoven's *Symphony No. 5* is the pinnacle of Western art music.

**Sarah Brandwood-Spencer** has toured the world as principal and soloist with the European Union Chamber Orchestra. She was formerly principal violinist of the Hallé Orchestra and now enjoys a varied career as guest principal with many of the country's leading orchestras.

This concert is generously sponsored  
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# MOZART

## Mozart on Tour (Prague)

Director **Zoë Beyers**

Schnittke *Moz-Art a la Haydn*  
Haydn *Symphony No.45 ('Farewell')*  
Judith Weir *Still, Glowing*  
Mozart *Symphony No.38 ('Prague')*

**Saturday 3 May 2025 7.30pm**  
**The King's School in Macclesfield**

Our final *Mozart on Tour* concert begins with Schnittke's *Moz-Art a la Haydn*, a homage to both Mozart and Haydn that blends classical elegance with modern wit. Based on fragments of an unfinished pantomime of Mozart's and an ode to the disappearing musicians in Haydn's 'Farewell' Symphony, this is a playful work that is sure to delight.

Haydn's *Symphony No.45*, the 'Farewell', tells the story of musicians bidding farewell to their patron by using a gradually diminishing ensemble. It ends unexpectedly with an Adagio movement, the musicians leaving the stage one by one.

Judith Weir describes her composition, *Still, Glowing* as her attempt to compose ambient music. This contemporary piece offers a serene interlude amidst an otherwise lively programme.

We conclude with Mozart's gift to the city of Prague. Mozart received adoration when he arrived in the city in 1787. His popularity was waning in Vienna but in Prague, *The Marriage of Figaro* had created a sensation. The 'Prague' Symphony is in three movements, rather than the usual four, and the final Presto movement quotes music from *The Marriage of Figaro* which delighted the audiences at its Prague premiere. The work forms a fitting conclusion to the NCO's *Mozart on Tour* series.



**Zoë Beyers** directs the concert. In 2020 she was appointed leader of the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra and appears regularly as guest leader with many other orchestras including the Hallé, RLPO, BBC Symphony, CBSO, Philharmonia and the Scottish Chamber Orchestra.

**This concert is generously sponsored  
by John Walsh.**

# ON TOUR

# THE NCO PLAYERS

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<b>Daniel Bayley</b> (clarinet)	Supported anonymously
<b>Jenny Cox</b> (horn)	<i>Chair available for sponsorship</i>
<b>Michael Dale</b> (viola)	Supported by Kate and Martin Slack
<b>Jane Evans</b> (oboe)	<i>Chair available for sponsorship</i>
<b>Simon Gilks</b> (violin)	Supported by Angela Losse
<b>Barbara Grunthal</b> (cello)	Supported by Peter Raynes
<b>Ben Hudson</b> (bassoon)	<i>Chair available for sponsorship</i>
<b>Nichola Hunter</b> (flute)	Supported by Jane and Wyn Davies
<b>Elizabeth Jordan</b> (clarinet)	Supported anonymously
<b>Jennifer Langridge</b> (cello)	Supported by Judy Jones, in memory of Alan
<b>Louise Latham</b> (violin)	Supported by Eleanor Lewington
<b>Peter Mainwaring</b> (trumpet)	<i>Chair available for sponsorship</i>
<b>James Manson</b> (double bass)	<i>Chair available for sponsorship</i>
<b>John Melbourne</b> (timpani)	<i>Chair available for sponsorship</i>
<b>Conrad Marshall</b> (flute)	Supported by Dieter Senn
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<b>Rebecca Thompson</b> (violin)	Supported by Dr Michael Sambrook
<b>Rachel Whibley</b> (bassoon)	Supported by John Whibley Holidays
<b>Sarah Whittingham</b> (violin)	<i>Chair available for sponsorship</i>

We are pleased to offer you the opportunity to sponsor a player's chair for the 2024-25 season. Your support will help us to continue to develop artistically and ensure that we are able to retain our world class musicians.

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We gratefully acknowledge that our Macclesfield season and associated education programme is additionally supported by the Scops Arts Trust, the Foyle Foundation, the Ida Carroll Trust and the Albert and Eugenie Frost Music Trust.

We would also like to thank the Friends of the NCO and all our Patrons. The NCO is a registered charity (no. 278912) and an incorporated company (no. 1430784). We welcome donations in support of our concert programmes, learning and development programmes, and work with dementia care under the Mind Music banner.

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