



# GREAT MUSIC FOR EVERYONE



**"Electric performances, all"**

SUNDAY TIMES

**CONCERT SERIES 2017/18**

# WELCOME TO OUR 2017/18 SEASON

**On behalf of my colleagues at the ESO, I am delighted to invite you to our 2017/18 Concert Series.**

Over the next few months, the English Symphony Orchestra will be living up to its name, with inspiring and innovative concerts spanning the country.

We are first and foremost, the International Orchestra of Elgar Country, bringing great live music to the Midlands. 2017-8 sees the orchestra performing in historic venues with magnificent acoustics including Cheltenham Town Hall, Malvern Priory, Malvern Theatres, Hereford Shirehall and Huntingdon Hall. Our touring work takes us to London and Bristol and we'll be recording works by Brahms, Shostakovich and a host of British masters.

Giving a concert is not just about playing the notes, it's about creating connections and enriching communities. When you come to an ESO concert, you'll find a welcoming atmosphere, an accessible group of musicians who are passionate about what they do, and an engaging style of concert presentation. You'll meet colleagues and make friends. You'll encounter young people discovering great music for the first time and veteran music fans debating the finer points of interpretation.

Getting young people involved in music is a very important part of what we do, from our Family Concerts and Beginners' Orchestra Courses through our Orchestral Scholars Programme, which gives advanced young instrumentalists and a chance to play in a professional orchestra for the first time. We work closely with the Music Hubs in Herefordshire and Worcestershire to give young musicians world-class opportunities to learn from, and play alongside, seasoned professionals. Just as music can help shape and enrich the lives of young people, so too can it bring comfort to those nearing the end of life, and our Care Home Concerts has done so much to improve the lives of people living with dementia across the Midlands.

I'm proud to work with this exceptional group of artists. I hope you'll enjoy reading about our upcoming season and be inspired not only to join us for the musical voyage, but to help make the music happen and help support our community outreach as an ESO Friend or Member. It's an exciting time for the ESO and for music, and your support can make all the difference in bringing music to our communities. Thank you.

**Kenneth Woods**  
**ESO Principal Conductor**





# 26th AUGUST 2017

## 3:30pm, Worcester Festival

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester WR1 3LD

Phone booking for this concert via Worcester Live 01905 611427



**ENGLISH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

**KENNETH WOODS**  
Conductor

**BEN HUMPHREY**  
Narrator

**John Williams** Harry Potter Theme  
**Prokofiev** Peter and the Wolf  
**Kenneth Woods** The Ugly Duckling  
**Kile Smith** Bremen Town Musicians  
**Randy Newman/Sobieska** You've got a Friend in Me  
Ben Humphrey - narrator/singer

**Free "Try-an-Instrument" session at 2:00 PM**

Worcester's preeminent dynamo of the theatre, Ben Humphrey, joins the International Orchestra of Elgar Country for a celebration of the power of musical storytelling. Affecting settings of beloved stories by Hans Christian Andersen and the Brothers Grimm compliment Prokofiev's evergreen Peter and the Wolf. It promises to be a magical afternoon of family entertainment for listeners of all ages.

Tickets £10 - £22 (booking charges may apply)

**ONLINE BOOKING [WWW.ESO.CO.UK](http://WWW.ESO.CO.UK)**

# 27th AUGUST 2017



## 7:30pm, Malvern Summer Prom

Three Counties Showgrounds Morgan Cars

**ENGLISH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

**KENNETH WOODS**

Conductor

**SOFIA LARSSON**

Soprano

**PETER AISHER**

Tenor



**Bernstein** Candide Overture

**Gershwin** Summertime

**Copland** "Saturday Night Waltz" from Billy the Kid

**Bernstein** "I Feel Pretty" from West Side Story

**Bernstein** "Tonight" from West Side Story

**Copland** "Hoe Down" from Rodeo

**Bernstein** Mambo from West Side Story

**Glinka** Russlan and Ludmilla Overture

**Tchaikovsky** Lensky's Aria from Eugene Onegin

**Tchaikovsky** Romeo and Juliet duet for soprano, tenor and orchestra

**Tchaikovsky** Overture 1812

**Elgar** Pomp and Circumstance March no. 1 (Land of Hope and Glory)

**Parry/Elgar** Jerusalem

The perfect end to a fantastic summer weekend will see the English Symphony Orchestra headlining The Morgan Prom Spectacular with support from the fabulous Rockabellas. Enjoy an evening of entertainment set against the backdrop of the Malvern Hills listening to your favourite pieces of music with a firework finale. Entry to the Sunday evening prom is included in all weekend and Sunday tickets, however individual tickets can also be purchased.



# 29th SEPTEMBER 2017

## 7:30pm, Regal Theatre

The Avenue, Minehead, Somerset TA24 5UQ

Phone booking for this concert via the Regal Theatre 01643 706430



**ENGLISH STRING ORCHESTRA**

**ZOË BEYERS**

Director and Violin Soloist

**Mozart** Divertimento in D K.136

**Schubert** Rondo in A for violin and strings D.438

**Kreisler** Liebesfreud, Liebesleid and Schön Rosmarin

**Elgar** Serenade for Strings

**Britten** Simple Symphony

Newly-appointed ESO Leader Zoë Beyers, one of the UK's finest and most admired violinists, features as director and soloist in a programme of evergreen string orchestra favourites and show stopping virtuoso works for violin and strings. Elgar's Serenade and Britten's Simple Symphony stand out for their melodic inspiration and youthful charm and energy.

**"...leader Zoë Beyers's playing was inspirational to all around her."**

CLASSICALSOURCE

Tickets £18 (students £2)

**ONLINE BOOKING [WWW.ESO.CO.UK](http://WWW.ESO.CO.UK)**

# 1st OCTOBER 2017



## 3:30pm, Shirehall Sunday Series

Shirehall, St Peters Square, Hereford HR1 2HX

Phone booking for this concert via Worcester Live 01905 611427

**ENGLISH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

**KENNETH WOODS**

Conductor

**ZOË BEYERS**

Violin



**Haydn** Symphony no. 60 in C major "Il Distratto" (The Distracted Gentleman)

**Milhaud** Le boeuf sur le toit (The Ox on the Roof) for Violin and Orchestra

Zoë Beyers - violin

**Piazzolla** Three Tangos

**Mozart** Symphony no.39 in E-Flat Major

The ESO begin their third season of popular Shirehall Sunday concerts with what might be Haydn's funniest work, The Distracted Gentleman. The absurd and surreal tone of the concert continues with Milhaud's jovial and bizarre ballet, brimming with the sounds of Brazil, and the South American flavour of the concert also includes three tangos by Piazzolla, both featuring Zoë Beyers, the ESO's newly-appointed leader and one of the most exciting violinists in the UK. The concert concludes with Mozart's humorous and rustic 39th Symphony.

**"...possibly the funniest and most modern symphony ever written. Haydn uses most of the 20th-century 'isms' in this piece—surrealism, absurdism, modernism, poly-stylism, and hops effortlessly between tightly integrated symphonic argument and rapid-fire cinematic jump-cutting."** Conductor Kenneth Woods

Tickets £10 - £22 (booking charges may apply)

**ONLINE BOOKING [WWW.ESO.CO.UK](http://WWW.ESO.CO.UK)**



# 11th OCTOBER 2017

## 7:30pm, Great Malvern Priory

Church Street, Malvern WR14 2AY

(Pre-concert talk at 6:45pm)

Phone booking for this concert via Malvern Theatres 01684 892277



**ENGLISH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

**KENNETH WOODS**  
Conductor

**RAPHAEL WALLFISCH**  
Cello

**HAYDN** Symphony no. 45 in F-sharp minor "Farewell"

**SCHUMANN** Cello Concerto in A minor

Raphael Wallfisch - cello

**MOZART** Symphony no. 41 in C major "Jupiter"

The ESO launch their new series of concerts in Malvern Priory by saying a whimsical "goodbye" with a performance of Haydn's enigmatic "Farewell" symphony. Renowned cello virtuoso Raphael Wallfisch joins the ESO for a performance of Schumann's beloved Cello Concerto and the concert concludes with Mozart's final symphony, a work crowned by the greatest of all symphonic finales.

**"Kings Place would be wise to plan a weekend for Woods and his fine players to devote to as many of Haydn's Symphonies as possible"**

ClassicalSource

**"Any more compellingly idiomatic or richly seasoned cello playing than this would be hard to contemplate"**

International Record Review

Tickets £10 - £25 (booking charges may apply)

**ONLINE BOOKING [WWW.ESO.CO.UK](http://WWW.ESO.CO.UK)**

# 15th OCTOBER 2017

## 3:30pm, Huntingdon Hall

24 Chapel Walk, Worcester WR1 3LD

Phone booking for this concert via Worcester Live 01905 611427

**ENGLISH STRING ORCHESTRA**

**KENNETH WOODS**

Conductor

**SIMON DESBRUSLAIS**

Trumpet



**Walton** Two pieces from Henry V

**Elgar/Fraser** Salut d'Amour

**Sawyers** Concerto for Trumpet, Timpani and Strings (world premiere)

Simon Desbruslais - trumpet

**Elgar** Serenade for Strings

**Tippett** Little Music for Strings

**Presented in partnership with Worcester Live**

The golden sound of the English String Orchestra is admired worldwide through the orchestra's many international recordings and broadcasts, and this concert by Worcester Live's Orchestra-in-Residence showcases the ESO's world-beating form in the English repertoire that made them famous. Repertoire favourites by Elgar, Walton and Tippett complement a dazzling new trumpet concerto by Philip Sawyers, whose melodic flair and audience appeal have won plaudits worldwide. Simon Desbruslais, the "steel-lipped" trumpet virtuoso taking the music world by storm is our featured guest artist.

**'The audience — and all three composers concerned — marveling at the skill, commitment and sheer tenacity of the steel-lipped Simon Desbruslais' - BIRMINGHAM POST**

Tickets £10 - £22 (booking charges may apply)

**ONLINE BOOKING [WWW.ESO.CO.UK](http://WWW.ESO.CO.UK)**



# 4th NOVEMBER 2017

7:30pm, Great Malvern Priory

Church Street, Malvern WR14 2AY

(Pre-concert talk at 6:45pm)

Phone booking for this concert via Malvern Theatres 01684 892277



**ENGLISH STRING ORCHESTRA**

**ZOË BEYERS**

Director and Violin Soloist

**Mozart** Divertimento in D K.136

**Schubert** Rondo in A for violin and strings D.438

**Kreisler** Liebesfreud, Liebesleid and Schön Rosmarin

**Elgar** Serenade for Strings

**Britten** Simple Symphony

Newly-appointed ESO Leader Zoë Beyers, one of the UK's finest and most admired violinists, features as director and soloist in a programme of evergreen string orchestra favourites and show stopping virtuoso works for violin and strings. Elgar's Serenade and Britten's Simple Symphony stand out for their melodic inspiration and youthful charm and energy.

**"..the ESO play with thrilling focus and trenchancy.."**

MUSICWEB INTERNATIONAL

Tickets £10 - £25 (booking charges may apply)



# 21st NOVEMBER 2017

7:30pm, Cheltenham Town Hall

Imperial Square, Cheltenham GL50 1QA

(Pre-concert talk at 6:30pm)

Phone booking for this concert via Cheltenham Town Hall 0844 576 2210

## ENGLISH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

### KENNETH WOODS

Conductor

### ALEXANDER SITKOVETSKY

Violin



### Elgar Violin Concerto

Alexander Sitkovetsky - violin

### Brahms arr. Woods Piano Quartet in A major (world premiere)

The ESO are rejuvenating the traditional Romantic repertoire through projects like the premiere of Donald Fraser's symphonic orchestration of the Elgar Piano Quintet (Classical Music Magazine Premiere of the Year for 2015). This concert sees the world premiere of Kenneth Woods' highly anticipated new orchestration of Brahms' A Major Piano Quartet, a work of symphonic scope and great lyrical beauty.

Appropriately for an ensemble known as "The International Orchestra of Elgar Country" the ESO also offer the first performance of Elgar's extraordinary Violin Concerto on the Town Hall orchestral series with one of today's most talked about and admired violinists, Alexander Sitkovetsky, a protégé of Elgar's greatest champion and advocate, violinist and former ESO Principal Guest Conductor, Yehudi Menuhin.

Tickets £13.50 - £33.50 (booking charges may apply)

ONLINE BOOKING [WWW.ESO.CO.UK](http://WWW.ESO.CO.UK)

# ABOUT THE ESO

The Worcestershire-based ESO, the International Orchestra of Elgar Country, is an ensemble which in recent years has become synonymous with artistic excellence, innovative and visionary programming, distinctive commissioning, ground-breaking recording, a welcoming and immersive concert experience, transformative youth programmes and service to the community.

Since 2013, the orchestra has re-emerged as a major force in British musical life, presenting and recording the orchestra's first full-length opera (the world premiere of John Joubert's *Jane Eyre*) to overwhelming critical acclaim, presenting the 2015 and 2016 Classical Music Magazine "Premiere of the Year," and releasing a triumphant series of recordings including Donald Fraser's orchestration of the Elgar Piano Quintet (Classic FM Disc of the Week) and the Complete Piano Concertos of Ernst Krenek (Sunday Times Essential New Release).

Founded by conductor **William Boughton** in 1978, the ESO have a long and distinguished history of collaboration with legendary figures of British music making. Vernon "Tod" Handley became the orchestra's second Principal Conductor in 2007, and led the orchestra until his death. Over the years, the ESO has worked with a distinguished list of instrumentalists, composers and conductors, including **Nigel Kennedy, Stephen Isserlis, Daniel Hope, Michael Tippett, Nicholas Maw** and **Yehudi Menuhin**, who was appointed the ESO's Principal Guest Conductor in 1991, and led the orchestra on a number of international tours.



British music has always been a central part of the orchestra's mission. Appropriately for an orchestra based in Elgar's home town, the ESO has made many acclaimed recordings of that composer's music, and that of other major 20th century British composers including Vaughan Williams, Britten, Butterworth and Bridge. The ESO discography highlights a commitment to the music of our time; in addition to the notable recordings which grew out of the orchestra's affiliation with **Sir Michael Tippett**, are recordings of music by **John Metcalfe**, **John Joubert**, and **Michael** and **Lennox Berkeley**. **John McCabe** served as the orchestra's Composer-in-Association from 2013 until his death in 2015. Following McCabe's passing, the ESO appointed **Philip Sawyers** as "John McCabe Composer-in-Association." Other recent recording projects include a disc of newly-commissioned works for trumpet, piano and strings with **Simon Desbruslais** and **Clare Hammond** for Signum, the Hans Gál Concertino for Cello and Orchestra with **Matthew Sharp**, and the Third Symphony of **Philip Sawyers**, the first work premiered as part of the orchestra's **21st Century Symphony Project**, an undertaking which entails commissioning, premiering and recording new symphonies by leading composers.

Highlights of recent seasons include triumphant debuts in LSO St. Luke's, St John's Smith Square and Elgar Concert Hall. In 2016-7, the orchestra will be appearing at The Bridgewater Hall, King's Place and Cheltenham Town Hall.

From its beginnings as the English String Orchestra, the ESO soon earned an international reputation for performances of English music, made over fifty recordings and began touring regularly in Europe. Over time, the orchestra's repertoire expanded to include the full breadth of orchestral music, and the ESO grew to become the English Symphony Orchestra. Ever since then, "ESO" has served as an acronym with a dual meaning.

**"The English Symphony Orchestra – enjoying a comet-like rise under Kenneth Woods, its Principal Conductor"**

MUSICAL OPINION





# 10th FEBRUARY 2018

## 7:30pm, Huntingdon Hall

24 Chapel Walk, Worcester WR1 3LD

Phone booking for this concert via Worcester Live 01905 611427



**ENGLISH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

**KENNETH WOODS**  
Conductor

**APRIL FREDRICK**  
Soprano

**Strauss arr. Schoenberg** Emperor Waltz

**Humperdinck** *Der kleine Sandmann* from Hansel and Gretel

**Schubert** *Die forelle*

**Mahler** *Das irdische Leben*

**Schubert** *Tod und das Mädchen*

**Mahler arr. Stein** Symphony no. 4 in G major (chamber version)

April Fredrick- soprano (ESO Affiliate Artist)

**Presented in partnership with Worcester Live**

The ESO make their first foray into the symphonies of Gustav Mahler in partnership with the charismatic and virtuosic soprano, April Fredrick (ESO Artist-in-Affiliation). Conductor Kenneth Woods, also Artistic Director of Colorado MahlerFest, whose recordings of and writings about Mahler have been hailed world-wide, conducts an evocative programme exploring themes of childhood, nature and Vienna.

Tickets £10 - £22 (booking charges may apply)

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**ONLINE BOOKING [WWW.ESO.CO.UK](http://WWW.ESO.CO.UK)**



# 15th FEBRUARY 2018

7:30pm, Malvern Theatres

Grange Rd, Malvern WR14 3HB  
(Pre-concert talk at 6:45pm)

Phone booking for this concert via Malvern Theatres 01684 892277

## ENGLISH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

**KENNETH WOODS**

Conductor

**CHLOË HANSLIP**

Violin



**Mendelssohn** Hebrides Overture ("Fingals Cave")

**Brahms** Violin Concerto

Chloë Hanslip - violin

**Schumann** Symphony no. 3 in E flat "Rhenish"

Mendelssohn was Schumann's greatest advocate and Schumann the many who told the world of Brahms' genius. Together, these three Romantic masters offer the soundtrack for the ESO's historic return to Malvern Theatres.

**"Hanslip has remarkable depth. And she has the technique to support every musical expression. As impressive as her handling of such technical issues was, it was her ability to "sing" out the long melodic lines that was most memorable. The fast final movement exploded with energy."** VIRGINIA REVIEW

**"In the 'Rhenish', Woods holds his own against such wonders as Sawallisch, Celibidache, Giulini and immediately becomes a favourite for this delectable work."** CLASSICALSOURCE

Tickets £15 - £30 (booking charges may apply)

ONLINE BOOKING [WWW.ESO.CO.UK](http://WWW.ESO.CO.UK)



# 25th FEBRUARY 2018

## 3:30pm, Shirehall Sunday Series

Shirehall, St Peters Square, Hereford HR1 2HX

Free Pre-Concert ESO Youth Orchestras Performance at 2:45 PM

Phone booking for this concert only via Worcester Live 01905 611427



**ENGLISH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

**KENNETH WOODS**  
Conductor

**ALEXANDER SITKOVETSKY**  
Violin

**Mendelssohn** Hebrides Overture  
**Sawyers** Violin Concerto (world premiere)  
Alexander Sitkovetsky - violin  
**Schumann** Symphony no. 2 in C major

ClassicalSource hailed the work of Philip Sawyers, ESO Composer-in-Association, as “the kind of music music lovers have been looking for for decades.” With a melodic genius and a dramatic sense of form, his new Violin Concerto, heard here in its world premiere, is one of the most anticipated new scores of the year. The concert concludes with Schumann’s bracing and poignant C major Symphony, a work of tremendous power and humanity and a touching manifestation of Schumann’s dedication to his wife, Clara.

**“Woods has seized on the essence of this Schumann Symphony. His reading is smooth, grand and exciting... One of the best recordings of the work. FIVE STARS”** AUDIOPHILE AUDITION

Tickets £10 - £22 (booking charges may apply)

**ONLINE BOOKING [WWW.ESO.CO.UK](http://WWW.ESO.CO.UK)**

# 4th MARCH 2018



## 7:30pm, LSO St. Lukes

161 Old St, London EC1V 9NG

(Tickets on sale, January 1st, 2018)

**ENGLISH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

**APRIL FREDRICK**

Soprano

**MATTHEW SHARP**

Baritone



### **“The Hour of Love and Death”**

**Saariaho** *Terra Memoria*

**Shostakovich** Symphony no. 14 (staged)

Matthew Sharp - baritone and April Fredrick - soprano (ESO Artists-in-Association)

**Shostakovich** Chamber Symphony opus 110 a (selections)

A ground-breaking and immersive multi-media staging of Shostakovich's greatest work featuring images and video from photographer **Alexey Titarenko** and videographer **Helga Landauer**.

Written in the bleak Brezhnev years of the Soviet Union, Shostakovich's 14th explores many of the darker corners of the human experience, looking death squarely in the eye from beginning to end. When asked what the symphony meant, Shostakovich said “I hope that when people hear it, they will think that life is beautiful.”



# 17th MARCH 2018

## 7:30pm, Great Malvern Priory

Church Street, Malvern WR14 2AY

(Pre-concert talk at 6:45pm)

Phone booking for this concert via Malvern Theatres 01684 892277



**ENGLISH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

**KENNETH WOODS**  
Conductor

**ACADEMIA MUSICA CHOIR**

**SAWYERS** The Valley of Vision (world premiere)

**HAYDN** *Missa in tempore belli* (Mass in Time of War)

Academia Musica Choir

**BEETHOVEN** Symphony no. 3 "Eroica"

Two of the great musical evocations of the Napoleonic Wars form the heart of this exciting concert- Haydn's Mass, performed by the hugely acclaimed Academia Musica Choir, is a powerful prayer for love and peace, while Beethoven's Eroica is the greatest-ever musical manifesto in the cause of human liberty and freedom. The concert opens with a new tone poem by Philip Sawyers inspired by the paintings of Samuel Palmer, a work brimming with colour, melody and drama in the best Beethovenian spirit.

**"a performance of great life and character which brought a real freshness to Beethoven's Eroica..."** The Classical Reviewer

**"This is the kind of music that gives one hope for the future of our art."**  
ClassicalSource

Tickets £10 - £25 (booking charges may apply)

**ONLINE BOOKING [WWW.ESO.CO.UK](http://WWW.ESO.CO.UK)**



# 19th APRIL 2018

## 7:30pm, St. John's Smith Square

Westminster, London SW1P 3HA

Phone booking for this concert via St John's Smith Square 0207 222 1061

### ENGLISH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

**KENNETH WOODS**

Conductor

**EMMA JOHNSON**

Clarinet



**Ives** Symphony no. 3 "The Camp Meeting"

**Copland** Clarinet Concerto

Emma Johnson - clarinet

**Jesse Jones** New work, jointly commissioned by ESO and SJSS

**Piston** Sinfonietta

The ESO's recent performances at St John's Smith Square have been universally hailed as some of the most ambitious and polished programmes heard in London in recent seasons. This concert promises to be one of the highlights of SJSS's year-long celebration of American music.

Britain's favourite clarinet virtuoso, Emma Johnson, brings to life the concerto written by Copland for legendary clarinetist Benny Goodman and Kenneth Woods conducts two cornerstones of the American symphonic literature. Oregon-born Jesse Jones is a Charles Ives Prize-winning young superstar whose recent work for the Juilliard Quartet has been hailed as a triumph. Recently commissioned to write a new opera for the Aldeburgh Festival, his new work for the ESO promises to be one of the most important premieres in London this year.



# 4th MAY 2018

## 7:30pm, Swan Theatre

The Moors, Worcester WR1 3ED

Phone booking for this concert via Worcester Live 01905 611427



**ENGLISH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

**KENNETH WOODS**  
Conductor

**ACADEMY THEATRE ARTS**  
Ballet Dancers

**STRAVINSKY** The Soldier's Tale (staged with actors from Worcester Repertory Theatre)

**COPLAND** Appalachian Spring (Ballet for Martha), original version for 13 Instruments (complete ballet with dancers from Academy Theatre Arts)

Stravinsky's witty and poignant setting of the Faust legend in which a hapless young soldier trades his violin to the devil is presented here in in a brilliant new staging by the Worcester Repertory Theatre.

Appalachian Spring stands as possibly the greatest and most beloved piece of American classical music. Copland's masterpiece tells the story of a young couple in small town America preparing to preparing to embark on a new life together. Written as a ballet for the legendary Martha Graham, the dancers of Academy Theatre Arts join the ESO for a rare complete staging of this seminal work.

Tickets £10 - £22 (booking charges may apply)

**ONLINE BOOKING [WWW.ESO.CO.UK](http://WWW.ESO.CO.UK)**



# 6th MAY 2018

## 3:30pm, Shirehall Sunday Series

Shirehall, St Peters Square, Hereford HR1 2HX

Free "Try-an-Instrument" session at 2:30 PM

Phone booking for this concert via Worcester Live 01905 611427

**ENGLISH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

**HEREFORDSHIRE YOUTH  
ORCHESTRA**

**KENNETH WOODS**  
Conductor

**MICHAEL YOUNG**  
Conductor

**ACADEMIA MUSICA ORCHESTRA  
AND CHOIR**



**BEETHOVEN** Mass in C Major Academia Musica  
Academia Musica Orchestra and Choir

**WEBER** Overture to Die Freischutz

Michael Young - conductor  
Herefordshire Youth Orchestra

**BEETHOVEN** Leonore Overture no. 3  
Kenneth Woods - conductor

**A joint production of ESO, Hereford Sixth Form College and  
Hereford Music Service**

Our Shirehall Sunday season concludes with a celebration of youth as we welcome musicians from the Hereford Youth Orchestra, Hereford Sixth Form College and Academia Musica for a programme featuring two of Beethoven's most life-affirming works and Weber's great breakthrough into the world of German Romanticism. It promises to be a celebration of music, youth and community that will stay in the memory for months and years to come.

Tickets £10 - £22 (booking charges may apply)

**ONLINE BOOKING [WWW.ESO.CO.UK](http://WWW.ESO.CO.UK)**



# COMING IN MAY 2018

Announcements coming Autumn 2017!

Check [eso.co.uk](http://eso.co.uk) for details or sign up to our email list for regular updates.



**ENGLISH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

**KENNETH WOODS**  
Conductor

**SHEKU KANNEH-MASON**  
Cello

**Elgar arr. Fraser** Piano Quintet (version for symphony orchestra)

**David Matthews** Symphony no. 9

(world premiere - part of the **21st Century Symphony Project**)

Sheku Kanneh-Mason - cello

The **21st Century Symphony Project** continues with the World Premiere of David Matthews' 9th Symphony, a performance of Donald Fraser's hugely acclaimed orchestration of the Elgar Piano Quintet (2015 Classical Music Magazine Premiere of the Year) with soloist Sheku Kanneh Mason.

**"To my ears, Fraser's richly upholstered orchestration works a treat yet also manages to be astutely appreciative of the simmering passion and sense of loss that permeate this wistful creation (the Adagio slow movement is especially affecting). Plaudits, too, for Woods's characteristically lucid and fervent performance with his own English Symphony Orchestra"**

ANDREW ACHENBACH, GRAMOPHONE

# 21st JUNE 2018



## 7:30pm, Cheltenham Town Hall

Imperial Square, Cheltenham GL50 1QA  
(Pre-concert talk at 6:30pm)

Phone booking for this concert via Cheltenham Town Hall 0844 576 2210

**ENGLISH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

**KENNETH WOODS**  
Conductor

**MAJA BOGDANOVICH**  
Cello



**Weber** Oberon Overture  
**Saint-Saens** Cello Concerto No. 1  
**Tchaikovsky** Pezzo capriccioso  
Maja Bogdanovic - cello  
**Schumann** Symphony no. 1 "Spring"

A springtime celebration of the best of musical Romanticism. French-Serbian cello virtuoso Maja Bogdanovic is winning worldwide plaudits as one of today's most exciting and compelling young stars, and she makes her debut with Saint-Saens' evergreen Cello Concerto in A minor and a performance of Tchaikovsky's stunningly virtuosic Pezzo Capriccioso- a work few cellists dare attempt.

The concert opens with Weber's Oberon Overture, an effervescent evocation of the world of Shakespeare's Midsummer Night's Dream. Our season concludes with a performance of Schumann's uniquely life-affirming Spring Symphony conducted by one of today's leading Schumann interpreters, Kenneth Woods.

Tickets £13.50 - £33.50 (booking charges may apply)

ONLINE BOOKING [WWW.ESO.CO.UK](http://WWW.ESO.CO.UK)

# CONCERTS IN CARE HOMES & HOSPICES

The idea of bringing music into care homes and hospices was initiated in 2007 by the ESO cellist Corinne Frost who, along with her colleagues, was aware that live music was hugely beneficial to people who would not otherwise have access to musical stimulation in their daily lives.

ESO musicians have many years of experience in this field; they are able to arrive at a home, assess the mood and level of engagement of their audience and adapt their choice of music accordingly, thereby creating a musical experience where performers are at one with those with whom they are interacting. After the concert, musicians normally mingle with their audience over a cup of tea, and this frequently leads to stimulating and interesting conversations.

Whilst delivering high quality music to care settings, the musicians also bring tremendous sense of warmth, humour and sensitivity to their concerts which raises the spirits, alertness and responsiveness of not only their primary audience, but also that of the staff, relatives and visitors in all the venues in which they play.

**“The concert was much enjoyed in the moment and there were positive responses from residents who struggle to respond to most everyday stimuli. Two residents expressed a feeling of having something good happen on the following day.”**

(Chace Care Home, Upper Welland, Malvern)



# **“Music makes the world go round. If you love music it cures every ill.”**

(Resident at The Chace Care Home, Upper Welland, Malvern)

As well as having the ability to trigger memories, research has shown that the performance of live music enhances the quality of life of elderly people, reduces agitation, stress and the perception of pain. Evidence also demonstrates improved communication, greater levels of understanding between residents and staff and the reduction in the need for medication to alleviate distress. Such research validates what we know to be true from our own anecdotal evidence, as well as from feedback which we regularly receive from our beneficiaries.

Whilst Residential & Nursing Homes are generally happy to make a donation towards the funding of our concerts, this does not cover the actual cost to us, which, depending on the size of the ensemble, ranges from £600 to £850 for putting on three concerts in a day.

If you are able to help us to continue our valuable work, as advocated by one home in Malvern 'carry on doing what you do for the benefit of the general public', we would be delighted to hear from you. Donations of any size are extremely welcome and can be made in the following ways:

## **DONATE ONLINE**

via [www.eso.co.uk/concerts-in-care-homes/](http://www.eso.co.uk/concerts-in-care-homes/)

or

Just Giving [www.justgiving.com/campaigns/charity/eso2006/carehomeconcerts](http://www.justgiving.com/campaigns/charity/eso2006/carehomeconcerts)

## **DONATE BY CHEQUE**

Payable to 'ESO (2006) LIMITED' sent to:

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Elgar School of Music, 16-20 Deansway, Worcester WR1 2ES

If you are an individual tax payer, please can you also let us know your name and address so that we can claim 25% Gift Aid on your behalf, or use the Gift Aid Declaration Form.

## **Mary Stevens**

### **Manager & Fundraiser for Concerts in Care Homes & Hospices**

Producer, 'Music to Lift the Spirit' DVD

Tel: 01886 821856 / email: [carehomeconcerts@eso.co.uk](mailto:carehomeconcerts@eso.co.uk)

# ESO YOUTH

The English Symphony Orchestra has been running children's orchestra courses, attracting students from around the country, for over 20 years. Orchestral discipline is matched by improvisation and sheer fun with the primary aim of helping children develop musicianship, confidence and sociability. The varied activities on each course include full and sectional orchestral rehearsals as well as singing, group improvisation, solo "masterclasses" and games and every course concludes with a wonderful short informal concert. A highlight of the forthcoming year is the "Run for the Hills" event at Malvern Three Counties Showground where our Intermediate Orchestra will perform a specially-commissioned piece from ESO John McCabe Composer-in-Residence Philip Sawyers.

## PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

Beginners Orchestra - approx. Grade 1-3 standard

Intermediate Orchestra - approx. Grade 4-7 standard

### 2017 Autumn Half Term

21/22 October Beginners Orchestra

28/29 October Intermediate Orchestra

### 2018 Spring Half Term

10/11 February Beginners Orchestra

17/18 February Intermediate Orchestra

### Summer Half Term

26/27 May Beginners Orchestra

Further events will be announced throughout the year - to receive the latest updates please email us at [esoyouth@eso.co.uk](mailto:esoyouth@eso.co.uk) or follow us on Facebook ([facebook.com/esoyouth](https://facebook.com/esoyouth)) or Twitter (@youthESO)



# SUPPORT THE ESO

The work of the ESO is dependent on the generosity of our supporters. Every donation, no matter how small, helps to secure the future of the orchestra and allows us to grow our educational, outreach and innovative artistic projects and continue our commitment to music making of the highest calibre.

## BECOME A FRIEND

### Annual subscription £24, or (£36 for joint-friends)

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Opportunity to meet the ESO musicians

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2 Complimentary Tickets

Invitation to post-concert reception

### Fellow Membership

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4 Complimentary Tickets

Invitation to 2 exclusive pre or post concert events

Signed Programme by the Artistic Director and Leader

### Executive Membership

From £1000 Annual Donation

8 Complimentary Tickets

Invitation to all exclusive pre or post concert events

Signed Programme by the Artistic Director and Leader

Opportunity to attend a rehearsal

## OR JOIN THE CONDUCTOR'S CIRCLE

From £2500 Annual Donation

2 complimentary tickets for every concert in the season

Invitation to all exclusive events throughout the year

Opportunity to attend rehearsals

Signed programme and opportunity to meet a Guest Artist

Lunch with the Artistic Director and General Manager

To become a friend or member of the ESO, please complete the form overleaf >

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£250 Associate Membership

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I am a registered UK Tax-payer and I would like the Friends of the ESO to apply for Gift Aid on all donations and subscriptions that I make from the date of this declaration until I notify otherwise.

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Please send, with any cheques payable to ESO (2006) Limited to  
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Payment may also be made by standing order, direct bank transfer, or taken by credit or debit card via the ESO office 01905 28613 ext 4.

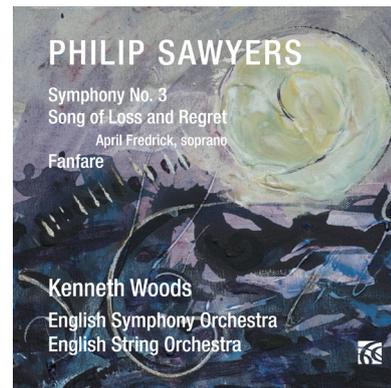
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# ESO ON CD



Four new innovative and engaging virtuoso showpieces for trumpet, piano and strings with Simon Desbruslais and Clare Hammond. Coming in August 2017 from Signum Records



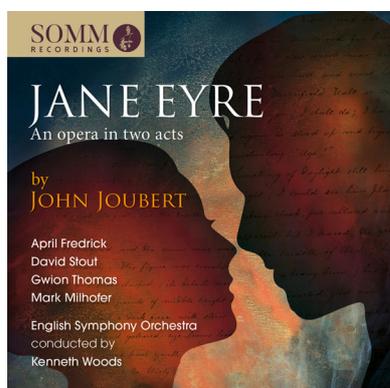
**“Hugely important.... A masterpiece”**  
Robert Matthew-Walker, Classical Source  
Coming from Nimbus Records in October 2017



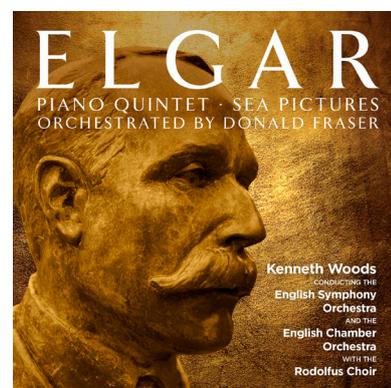
**“Mackenzie’s playing is rivetingly incisive throughout, and Kenneth Woods, conductor obtains exemplary accompaniments from the English String Orchestra and English Symphony Orchestra. Five Stars!”**  
Richard Morrison, The Times



**“Mikhail Korzhev continues his constant championing of Krenek’s music, joined by the impressive Nurit Pacht, matched throughout by Kenneth Woods, conductor and the English Symphony Orchestra. ... These excellent performances are splendidly recorded”**  
Colin Anderson, ClassicalSource



**“...April Fredrick sang with a lyrically gleaming soprano, soaring rapturously on Joubert’s singer-friendly lines. David Stout supplied virile tone as Rochester...Kenneth Woods conducted a well-prepared performance that ought on disc to win new admirers for the operatic Joubert”**  
John Allison, Daily Telegraph



**“The result is pretty remarkable. Fraser hasn’t just translated Elgar’s notes into rich and powerful orchestral terms, he has added (discreetly it must be said) the kinds of touches of colour and splashes of figuration Elgar himself might well have introduced.”**  
Stephen Johnson, BBC Music Magazine

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## HEREFORD SHIREHALL SUNDAY SERIES

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## JOIN THE ESO FRIENDS AND SAVE

There is a 10% ESO Friends discount available for all concerts in Hereford, Worcester and Malvern. Discounted tickets must be booked by phone or bought at the door.

Family tickets and concessions for students are available for all our concerts in Hereford, Worcester and Malvern. Booking charges may apply.

Programmes subject to change without notice. Please check [eso.co.uk](http://eso.co.uk) for most current concert information. Join our email list to receive regular concert updates, special offers and e-newsletters by emailing [eso@eso.co.uk](mailto:eso@eso.co.uk) with the subject line "add me".



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Orchestra play with the  
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