



Wacidom-New

# FREE



## SATURDAY LUNCHTIME CONCERTS

**HOLY TRINITY CHURCH**

MARKETGATE, WARRINGTON, WA1 1XG

**SUMMER 2025** from 1:45pm-2:30pm

### **WACIDOM**

Musical excellence in the heart of Warrington

3 May	Young Pianists	Piano
10 May	Laurie Ashworth John Gough	Voice, Piano
17 May	Wenchun Fan Jordi Bitlloch	Violin, Piano
24 May	Chris Hardy Hector Leung	Clarinet, Piano
31 May	Kell Wind Trio	Flute, Clarinet, Bassoon
7 June	Laurence Hughes Thomas Henderson	Cello, Piano
14 June	The Talland Quartet	Strings

For more information please look at our website  
[wacidom.org.uk](http://wacidom.org.uk)

Programmes are subject to amendment without prior notice.  
Registered Charity No. 1141750

# WACIDOM

## Patrons

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Leon McCawley

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**Holy Trinity Church, Market Gate, Warrington**

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2025 1:45pm – 2:30pm**

**Outstanding Young Pianists**

**Melody Zhao, Kairui Guo and Julie Zhang**

<b>Melody Zhao</b>	<b>Haydn</b>	Sonata in C major, Hob.XVI:50 I. Allegro II. Adagio III. Allegro molto
	<b>Liszt</b>	Au bord d'une source, from <i>Années de Pèlerinage</i> , 1st year
	<b>Hough</b>	Valse Enigmatique, No.3
<b>Kairui Guo</b>	<b>Liszt</b>	Prelude, Transcendental Étude No.1 in C major " <i>Preludio</i> "
	<b>Chopin</b>	Étude Op. 25, No.1
<b>Julie Zhang</b>	<b>Chopin</b>	Polonaise in F# minor, Op. 44
	<b>Liszt</b>	Concert Étude S.144, No. 2, " <i>La Leggerezza</i> "

## Biographies

### Melody Zhao

Melody is 13 years old and started playing the piano when she was 6 years old. She is in her third year at Chetham's School of Music where she is a pupil of Mr. Simon Bottomley. Melody has won prizes in several local music festivals and was a finalist in the EPTA piano competition in Belgium.

### Kairui Guo

Kairui was born in China and moved to the UK in 2017. He began learning piano at six with his mother and joined Chetham's in 2022. He studied with Mrs. Taylor for two years and now learns with Mr. Bottomley. At 16, he continues to grow as a pianist with focus and curiosity.

### Julie Zhang

Born in 2008, Julie Zhang started learning piano at the age of 5. At age 6, she achieved ABRSM Grade 5 with distinction. In 2016, she entered Chetham's School of Music, studying piano under Mr. Simon Bottomley. In 2018, Julie achieved Distinction for the ATCL Diploma. Just one year later in 2019, she achieved a High Distinction for the LTCL diploma, also the Second Prize in Category 2 for the EPTA International Piano Competition. And finally, she achieved the FTCL Diploma. Julie has also won many online competitions. Her repertoire stretches from Baroque to Modern music. Julie particularly enjoys the Romantic Period, especially the sheer beauty of Chopin. Julie also enjoys chamber music and piano concertos.

**Next week's Concert – Laurie Ashworth (soprano) and John Gough (piano)**

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**Holy Trinity Church, Market Gate, Warrington**

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2025 – 1:45pm – 2:30pm**

**Laurie Ashworth (soprano) John Gough (piano)**

## Programme

<b>Purcell</b>	Music for a While
<b>Mozart</b>	Abendempfindung Als Luise die Briefe
<b>Strauss</b>	Meinem Kinde Die Nacht Du meines Herzens Zueignung
<b>Guastavino</b>	La Rosa y el Sauce
<b>Vaughan-Williams</b>	Silent Noon
<b>Armstrong-Gibbs</b>	Silver The Witch Song of Shadows Five Eyes
<b>Monkton</b>	The Pipes of Pan are Calling

## Biographies

Soprano, **Laurie Ashworth** was born in Wigan, Lancashire and she has established herself as highly sought-after concert artist, specialising in oratorio, recital and recording, which she combines with a busy teaching career.

Laurie commenced her studies at the Royal Northern College of Music under the tutelage of Caroline Crawshaw. She graduated with first class honors and was awarded the RNCM Gold Medal, the college's highest accolade for performance. Awards from The Arts and Humanities Research Council and The Countess of Munster Musical Trust enabled Laurie to complete her Masters in Vocal Performance at the Royal College of Music, where she studied with Patricia Rozario and Janis Kelly, graduating with distinction.

In 2010 following an acclaimed performance of Jonathan Dove's song Full Fathom Five, Laurie was awarded the Song Prize at the Kathleen Ferrier Awards. In the same year she was a finalist and runner-up in BBC Radio 2's The Kiri Prize; a nationwide search by Dame Kiri Te Kanawa and the BBC to find a new operatic star.

Laurie has performed at all of the UK's major venues, making her Wigmore Hall recital debut in 2014 and her BBC Proms debut at the Royal Albert Hall in 2012. She has appeared regularly in broadcasts for BBC Radio 2 and 3, and Songs of Praise, and she features as the soprano soloist on the premiere recordings of Bob Chilcott's Requiem (Hyperion Records) and St John Passion (Signum Records). Aside from performing, Laurie is regularly on the judging panel for the BBC Young Chorister of the year Competition.

Keen to expand her horizons, Laurie co-founded the vocal duo Eterni Amici with saxophonist Spencer Moran. The duo performed regularly on Viking Ocean Cruise Line, Holland America Line, Norwegian Cruise Line and Fred Olsen Cruise Line pre-pandemic, but Laurie is returning to the ships for short contracts in 2025!

**John Gough** was born and bred in Chester. He enjoys a busy career combining solo playing, accompaniment and teaching at the RNCM. He has broadcast many times on BBC Radio 3 and has performed at the Wigmore Hall, London, and as soloist with the RLPO and Northern Chamber Orchestras. Overseas, he has performed at the Carnegie Hall, New York, and on Danish Radio.



**Next week's concert – Wenchun Fan, violin and Jordi Bitlloch, piano.**



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**Holy Trinity Church, Market Gate, Warrington**

**Saturday 17th May 2025 1:45pm – 2:30pm**

**Wenchun Fan – violin, Jordi Bitlloch - piano**

## Programme

### Claude Debussy

Sonata for Violin and Piano in G minor, L.140

- I. Allegro Vivo
- II. Intermède (Fantasque et léger)
- III. Finale (Très animé)

### Amy Beach

Romance for Violin and Piano, Op.23

### Johannes Brahms

Sonata for Violin and Piano No.3 in D minor, Op.108

- i. Allegro
- ii. Adagio
- iii. Un poco presto e con sentimento
- iv. Presto agitato

## Biographies.

**Wenchun Fan** is a performer-researcher currently completing a PhD at the University of Leeds, supervised by Dr Clive McClelland and Professor Michael Allis. Originally from China, she began learning the violin at the age of five. In 2013, she entered the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing, studying with Jia Zhang, Liwei Tan, and Wei Xue. She has performed at prestigious events including the Beijing Youth Art Festival, the International Youth Art Festival, and the 33rd Harbin Summer Music Festival, where she collaborated with world-renowned conductor Zubin Mehta, the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Harbin Symphony Orchestra. In 2017, Wenchun was awarded a full entrance scholarship and the George Henry Peters Scholarship to study at the Royal Northern College of Music under the distinguished violinist Leland Chen. Her studies were further supported by the China Scholarship Council's Special Art Talent Cultivation scheme.

As a soloist and chamber musician, she has performed widely across China and the UK. With the Ink Quartet, she won second prize at the 14th Luigi Cerritelli International Music Competition. Her practice-led research on Schubert has been presented at conferences including the BFE/RMA Research Students' Conference (Newcastle), the SMI/ICTMD-IE Conference (Maynooth), and the ÖAW Schubert Workshop (Vienna). She has also given recitals for the Schubert Institute UK at Conway Hall, London and in Leeds, and performs regularly in WACIDOM's concert series in Warrington.

**Jordi Bitlloch** was born in France in a musical family, Jordi attended the Yehudi Menuhin School in Surrey as a teenager, studying under Ruth Nye, and later the University of Arts in Berlin (Germany) under Pascal Devoyon, where he earned undergraduate and postgraduate degrees in performance. During those years he also attended courses and masterclasses with Ferenc Rados, Klaus Hellwig, Heime Müller (chamber music), Dietrich Fiescher-Dieskau and Eric Schneider (vocal accompaniment). His international breakthrough came when he won second prize and audience prize at the International Beethoven

Competition in Bonn (Germany). He has also garnered prizes in the European Piano Competition Vlado Perlemuter and Concours Aujourd'hui Musiques (France). He has performed throughout Europe as a soloist and chamber musician and has been a guest at festivals such as the Klavierfestival Ruhr (Germany), Music in Paxton (Scotland), Windsor Festival, Festival Jeunes Talents (France) and Euriade Festival (Holland). He is currently based in Manchester working as a performer and accompanist in the North West, and was Junior Fellow in Accompaniment at the Royal Northern College of Music between 2021 and 2023.



**Next week's concert – Chris Hardy (clarinet) and Hector Leung (piano)**

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**Holy Trinity Church, Market Gate, Warrington**

**Saturday 24th May 2025 1:45pm – 2:30pm**

**Chris Hardy - Clarinet, Hector Leung - Piano**

**Carl Maria von Weber**

Concertino for Clarinet

**Charles Oberthur**

Le Desir Nocturne, Opus 65

**Piano solo Nikolai Kapustin**

No.5 Prelude in D major

No.13 Prelude in G-flat major from "24 Preludes"

**Joseph Horowitz**

Sonatina for clarinet and piano

- I. Allegro calmato
- II. Lento quasi andante
- III. Con brio

## Biographies

**Chris Hardy** is a vibrant clarinetist with a love for performing solo, chamber and orchestral repertoire. He graduated with a first class honours degree from the Royal Northern College of Music in 2022, and a masters with distinction from the same institution in 2024. He performs as an extra player with professional orchestras across the UK including the Royal Philharmonic, BBC Philharmonic, Hallé, Royal Northern Sinfonia, and The Royal Liverpool Philharmonic. He is an experienced pit musician, having performed alongside members of Opera North and in musical productions across the UK. Also an avid chamber musician, Chris enjoys playing a range of classical and contemporary repertoire with numerous chamber ensembles, one of which recently won the Royal Philharmonic Society's Henderson Prize in 2022 and have just released their debut album, recorded at the Stoller Hall. As a soloist, Chris is a regular recitalist, performing worldwide onboard cruise voyages, and recently performed Mozart's Clarinet Concerto with the Hallé Orchestra at the Bridgewater Hall.



Pianist **Hector Leung** graduated at the Royal Northern College of Music and obtained his Masters in Music (majoring solo piano performance) and FRSM Diploma with distinctions. His main piano tutors were Dina Parakhina and Colin Stone. Having won best accompanist prizes for two song cycle competitions in 2015, both during the first term of his MMus studies, Hector was then nominated one of the RNCM Songsters pianists, and collaborated closely with the School of Vocal Studies and Opera.

Hector embarked on a much more intensive and fruitful chamber music journey from 2019 to 2021. He was awarded, for two years, to undertake a piano accompanist role as a Junior Fellow, and worked exclusively with rising young musicians and their distinguished faculty tutors on a day-to-day basis.

In 2017, Hector was featured in the RNCM annual commissioned composer series at London Wigmore Hall where he joined with oboist George Strickland to perform 'Forgotten Games 2' by British composer Tansy Davies. Around that time, he also played quite substantial piano parts for numerous RNCM concerts: highlights include "Contraflow (1992)" by Sir Colin Matthews; Symphony No.5 by Sergei Prokofiev; and West Side Story (fully-staged original, with RNCM Young Company) by Leonard Bernstein.

Currently sitting Principal Keyboard at the Manchester Northern Film Orchestra, Hector premiered and recorded the solo piano edition of the choral piece 'I Walked into the Darkness and Emerged from the Light' by American film music composer Shaun Drew.

Amongst Hector's very early achievements are his winning first prize at the Hong Kong International Pianist Association piano competition (HKIPA) in 2013 and a number of youth piano competitions within the same period.

Hector is on a new mission to create his own compositions to further his studies and to extend his concert repertoire.

**Next week's concert - Kell Wind Trio – flute, bassoon and clarinet**



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**Holy Trinity Church, Market Gate, Warrington**

**Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2025 1:45pm – 2:30pm**

## **Kell Wind Trio**

**Alistair Roberts - Flute, Geoffrey Smith – Clarinet, Ian Harvey - Bassoon**

## **Programme**

### **Haydn**

London Trio No.3

- I. Spiritoso
- II. Andante
- III. Allegro

### **Gounod**

Funeral March of a Marionette

### **Shostakovich**

Suite for Wind Trio

- I. Moderato
- II. Romance
- III. Galop

### **Kodaly**

Intermezzo

### **Chabrier**

Danse Villageoise

### **Walton**

Popular Song

### **Strauss**

Thunder and Lightning Polka Op.324

The **Kell Wind Trio** has gained a reputation for giving lively and informative concerts which include music of many different styles and genres – from music of the Baroque to accessible music from the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries.

The Kell Wind Trio is named after the pioneering English instrumentalist Reginald Kell, who was the first clarinettist to use vibrato in orchestral concerts.

**Alastair Roberts** plays principal flute with a number of orchestras in the Manchester area including the Wilmslow Symphony Orchestra and the Cheshire Sinfonia. He is a member of several chamber groups that perform regularly throughout the North West of England including the Telemann Baroque Ensemble.

**Geoffrey Smith** was a member of The National Youth Orchestra for five courses. He was Principal Clarinet with Stockport Symphony Orchestra for 46 years, Wilmslow Symphony Orchestra (22 years) and Cheshire Sinfonia (18 years). He has appeared many times as soloist with these and other orchestras. He is now concentrating on playing chamber music.

**Ian Harvey** was a Junior Exhibitioner at London's Royal Academy of Music. His musical commitments include the position of principal bassoon with the Stockport Symphony Orchestra. He runs his own business repairing woodwind instruments.



**Next week's concert – Laurence Hughes, cello and Thomas Henderson, piano**

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**Holy Trinity Church, Market Gate, Warrington**

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2025 – 1:45pm – 2:30pm**

**Laurence Hughes, cello and Thomas Henderson, piano**

## Programme

<b>Stephen Hough</b>	Angelic Song & Dance (two pieces)
<b>Gabriel Fauré</b>	Élégie
<b>Claude Debussy</b>	La fille aux cheveux de lin
<b>J.S. Bach</b>	Es ist vollbracht (From St John Passion BMV245)
<b>Sergei Rachmaninoff</b>	Andante (from Cello Sonata in G minor, Op. 19)
<b>Gaspar Cassadó</b>	Requiebros

## Biographies

**Laurence Hughes** was a chorister at Hexham Abbey before studying cello with Hannah Roberts at Chetham's School of Music where he won a scholarship to the RNCM. After further studies in London, Laurence has enjoyed a career where he has sought to balance his professional academic interests with a love of making music. He is currently a member of the Sterling Trio as well as teaching the cello and freelancing with various orchestras. Laurence also directs the Ignatius Singers at the church of the Holy Name at Manchester University and is an associate member of the Manchester Chamber Choir.

**Tom Henderson** is from Cornwall and has established a reputation as a distinguished accompanist across the country. He studied piano with Melvyn Cooper at Warwick University. After graduating, Tom decided to pursue a career in tax and he currently works for the Low Incomes Tax Reform Group. Tom is also an accomplished choral singer. He currently sings with the Royal Philharmonic award nominated, Sunday Boys, an LGBTQ+ low-voiced choir based in Manchester, and also performs with Manchester Chamber Choir and the Ignatius Singers. Tom was recently accompanist at the Stoller Hall in the world premiere of Michael Betteridge's new secular oratorio celebrating platonic friendships between straight women and LGBTQ+ men, 'Stay as long as you like' as well as playing on the group's successful tour of Italy last summer.



Next week, the final concert of this series, **Talland String Quartet**

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**Holy Trinity Church, Market Gate, Warrington**

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2025 1:45pm – 2:30pm**

## **Talland String Quartet**

**Dylan Edge (1<sup>st</sup> violin), Chris Karwacinski (2<sup>nd</sup> violin),  
Rebecca Stubbs (viola) and Nathan Jackson Turner (cello)**

## **Programme**

**Samuel Coleridge-Taylor** Five Fantasiestücke, Op. 5 for String Quartet

- |                     |                        |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| i. Prelude          | Allegro, ma non troppo |
| ii. Serenade        | Andante molto          |
| iii. Humoresque     | Presto                 |
| iv. Minuet and Trio | Allegro Moderato       |
| v. Dance            | Vivace                 |

**Fanny Hensel** String Quartet in E Flat Major

- |                          |
|--------------------------|
| i. Adagio ma non troppo  |
| ii. Allegretto           |
| iii. Romanze             |
| iv. Allegro molto vivace |

## **Background and Biographies**

The Talland Quartet, based in Manchester, is dedicated to sharing it's passion for chamber music. Formed at the Royal Northern College of Music, the quartet received the Hirsch, Weil, and Brodsky Prizes. The Quartet were selected to perform at the RNCM's Original Voices Festival and worked with composer Eden Longson to premiere a new piece at the Enys Chamber Music Festival in August 2023.

**Dylan Edge**, raised in Staffordshire, started the violin aged 9 through Staffordshire Performing Arts. He went on to study under the tutelage of Catherine Yates at the Junior Department of the Royal Northern College of Music. He furthered his studies at the RNCM, graduating with a First-Class Honours degree and a Masters with Distinction under the mentorship of Cecily Ward. Whilst completing his masters studies, Dylan successfully trialled for the Hallé and became a member of the first violin section. As an orchestral musician, Dylan regularly freelances with the BBC Philharmonic, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic and Manchester Camerata. He also plays with Manchester Collective and enjoyed joining them on their Weather and Fever Dreams Tours. Dylan plays on a 1778 George Gemünder Violin.



**Orla McGarrity** is an Irish violinist based in Manchester where she graduated from the RNCM with a First-Class Honours Degree, studying with James Clark. She is currently pursuing a Masters under the tutelage of Cecily Ward and Pavel Fisher also at the RNCM, and has performed in masterclasses for Arabella Steinbacher, Nathaniel Vallois and Vera Vaidman. Recent highlights include performing works inspired by climate change at the Wigmore Hall with the RNCM Sinfonietta and playing with Northern Ireland Opera in their Autumn production of Eugene Onegin.

In 24/25 Orla is one of the Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble's Young Artists, receiving coaching on and performing contemporary repertoire. Orla's love for curating chamber events, led her to working as the Programming Assistant at the RNCM in 2022/23 and co-directing Enys Chamber Music Festival in Cornwall. She also enjoyed interning at Weesp Chamber Music Festival in the Netherlands. Orla recently set up the Mourne Chamber Music Festival in Newcastle County Down which she plans to continue for years to come. She plays on a 1920 Carlo Carletti violin generously loaned to her by the Harrison Frank Family Foundation and is grateful to be supported by the William and Frances Dobie Charitable Foundation.

**Rebecca Stubbs** is a violist from West Yorkshire. She completed her Master's degree at the Royal Northern College of Music, where she studied with Vicci Wardman, Alex Mitchell and Susie Mészáros. Here she was awarded the RNCM Viola Prize and in 2022 became the Junior Fellow in Viola.

Rebecca regularly freelances with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, Manchester Camerata and the BBC Philharmonic. She teaches upper strings and is a workshop coordinator at the North of England Centre for Music and Arts. Rebecca plays on a Niccolò viola by Chris Tayler.

**Nathan Jackson** is currently studying for a masters in cello performance with Jen Langridge and Eddie Pogossian at the RNCM, where he graduated recently with a First-Class Honours degree. He has completed the BBC Philharmonic Professional Experience Scheme and the Hallé's String Leadership Scheme, leading to regular work within both orchestras. With a keen interest in chamber music, Nathan has been fortunate to perform in the Hallé's annual chamber music series alongside members of the cello section.

Nathan is also a keen performer of baroque music, which he enjoys studying with Jonathan Manson and Roger Hamilton on a period instrument. He currently plays a Robin Aitchson Cello generously loaned to him by the RNCM.



NOTE: Chris Karwacinski stepped in for Orla McGarrity who was unable to be with us.



**This is the last in our current series of concerts! Where has the time gone!**

**Thank you for your continued support of the concerts and the musicians, during this Summer Season! We hope that you have enjoyed the music and the company!**

**Our next series starts on 27 September 2025 with the Apple Sellers Duo – Double Bass and Piano.**

**We look forward to starting our concerts again in September and hope that you can join us then. In the meantime, we wish you, good health and a very happy Summer break!**

**Sharon, Diane, Brian, Irina, Helen and Gina**