



Yatton Music Society

Charity No : 1024758

Newsletter : 1 September 2025



Dear YMS Member (and Prospective Members),



Welcome to this YMS Newsletter as we begin our 2025/26 Concert Season. As this is my first newsletter it is a little longer than might normally be the case, but I thought I would introduce myself, Vincent Smith, and give you a little more background on what the YMS committee is planning for the near future.

Those who attended the Annual General Meeting on 5 July, will be aware that members voted for me to become the YMS Chairman after Mike Blackwell had decided to step down after over 15 years in the Chairman's role, and even more years before that on the committee. Although I grew up in Yorkshire, I have lived in Hewish/WsM for the past 27 years and our children have remained in Somerset, so I think my wife Helen and I will be staying. Although music has always been an important part of my life (I have played the classical guitar for some 55 years, I currently study with Craig Ogden, and I am Chairman of the Bristol Classical Guitar Society), music has not been my profession. As a trained mathematician, I taught in secondary schools for some years before undertaking post graduate degrees in computing, business, and defence. After nearly 20 years in Royal Air Force, from which I retired in 2004 as a Group Captain, I then undertook roles as head of aerospace/airspace businesses in Wells, Templecombe, and Crawley. Retirement has allowed me to focus on music.

Following declarations from members of their wish to retire from the YMS committee, this triggered actions at the last AGM to replace and renew our trusteeship and committee. Although retiring as Chairman, Mike Blackwell will be staying on as a trustee of the society, and I thank him for his service to the society over many years, and grateful that we will retain his experience. I must also mention the very many years of service given to the YMS by Naomi Sager who has stepped down as the society secretary and I am grateful to Mavis Monahan who has stepped into this role. David Singleton joins us as a trustee and will lead on our concert venue arrangements. We are also joined by Rob Hexter who will take up the role of Treasurer. Of course, our society would not run without our Concert Planner, David Ford and our Membership Secretary, Maggie Kirkup, both of whom will continue in these roles.

The society does rely very heavily on members to fulfil roles on the committee. If we are to continue to provide world class classical music, we can only do so through your support as audience attendees, YMS members and, if you felt able, as committee members. Although we have been fortunate to find willing volunteers for this coming season, if you have the interest and the time to help, do please let me, or any other committee member, know of your interest. We are still looking for someone to support the committee on the publicity and marketing aspects of our concerts. How are you with websites, Facebook, social media, poster design etc?

The Trustees are in the process of registering the society as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) which will retain our charitable status, but will also provide an updated constitution and a limited liability for trustees. This issue was also voted on at the last AGM; all minutes of AGMs are available on the YMS website.



All Concerts start at 7.30 pm at St Mary's Church (unless otherwise advised)
Concert programme details are published at: www.yms.org.uk
Tickets available on the door only. Payment by cash/card/smart phone. No Reserved Seating





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The YMS charitable purpose is essentially to deliver great classical music in a local setting.

To achieve this, there are 3 elements that need to be balanced:

To find, book, and stage an interesting variety of acts, involving the best classical artists as possible, across a full concert season, every year.

To enable all members of our community to attend the concerts (and other events) at affordable ticket prices and to foster musical outreach where we can.

But we must be fair to the professional artists we ask to perform for us, as we believe they should be remunerated as the worldclass artists they are.

Clearly, these 3 elements can be difficult to deliver all at the same time, but this is one reason why we are a charity. One crucial way to help square this circle is to have a large and dedicated YMS membership. Being a member of the YMS means the Society has a strong membership base that gives the Trustees confidence that there will be an audience for each concert, and to have the funding to pay worldclass artists, whether through audience numbers, membership subscriptions, or donations (Gift Aided or not).

Tickets for non-YMS members are £15/concert, but are only £10/concert for Members. As annual membership costs £10/yr, members can therefore save up to £30 over 8 concerts. Accompanied children 16 and under are free, whilst Students in full time education or training can attend at the same rate as members, £10. In this way we can keep costs down for our members, encourage younger attendees, and better able to afford to pay world-class artists. Members are also entitled to vote at General Meetings of the YMS and influence the direction of the society. Put simply, our members are essential in helping our charity to continue delivering great music locally.



YMS Membership

You can become a member by completing a membership application form, and paying your £10 subscription, when you come to your first concert of the season, although some of you may have already done so at the AGM.

Or you can use the QR code here, using your smart phone to go directly to the YMS website membership page and completing your membership application now. Payment can then be made separately via the Mem Sec.

Thank you for reading this newsletter. I look forward to seeing you back for this season's concerts or welcoming you for the first time if you have never been to a YMS concert before.



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Below is the complete list of concerts for this season from Sep 2025 to May 2026.

Our first concert

27th September 2025

Leora Cohen (violin) and Adrian Partington (piano/organ)

Leora is a brilliant violinist, a double first class from Cambridge University and has been awarded two diplomas with distinction by the Royal College of Music in London. Her accompanist is Adrian Partington is Gloucester Cathedral's Director of Music, conductor of the Three Choirs Festival and an organ soloist with the Berlin and BBC Philharmonic orchestras. Their concert first half will be Leora with violin and Adrian organ; the second half will be Leora with Adrian playing piano.

I list here below only the dates and titles of the concerts for the whole of the 2025/26 season. Much more information is available within our brochure (given out free with concert programmes) and on our website at : www.yms.org.uk

Future Concerts. The dates and concert for the forthcoming season are:

25th October 2025

Joss Wort (piano)

29th November 2025

West Mendip Orchestra

31st January 2026

Jo Harris (trumpet) and Daniel King Smith (piano/organ)

28th February 2026

CarmenCo Trio: Emily Andrews (flute & mezzo) Francisco Correa & David Massey (guitars).

28th March 2026

Alastair Penman (saxophone) and Jonathan Pease (piano)

25th April 2026

Kallos String Quartet

16th May 2026

Meg Davies (clarinet) and Chloe Clayton (piano)

4 July 2026 – Annual General Meeting.



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