



Yatton Music Society

Charity No : 1024758

Newsletter : 1 January 2026



Dear YMS Member,



Welcome to the fourth Newsletter of our current season, and the first of 2026. I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and New Year, and are now looking forward to more musical treats with the Yatton Music Society. It was pleasing to see that our membership grew again at the end of last year, so a warm welcome to those who have recently joined, or perhaps re-joined us, for the remaining 5 concerts of this season.

Our last concert was held on 29 Nov 25 and was the third concert of our 2025/26 season.



The West Mendip Orchestra (WMO) gave us an evening of wonderful music of Schumann, Glazunov, Finzi and Dvorak. For those that couldn't make the concert, we will see the WMO again in the 2026/27 season.

If you wished to read my background notes on the music played by the WMO they can be found in my last Newsletter. All past newsletters can be found on our YMS website where you can read more on the WMO concert; or indeed any other previous concerts since Sep 2025.

This newsletter now uses hyperlinks and, for those reading on a laptop or phone, you can click on the link to see and hear more information.



commentary and tall tales. [Simon Mayor's Mandolinquents | Mayor & James](#)

In my last Newsletter I promised to say something about a planned concert (not listed in our 2025/26 brochure), that the YMS intends to hold after the AGM. The AGM will take place on Sat 4 July 2026 and afterwards we will hold a concert with our normal starting time of 7.30pm. The concert will be given by 'The Mandolinquents'. This will be a mix of high-quality musicianship but with some fun

Membership Arrangements. Membership runs from 1 June, or whenever it is renewed, until the end of the YMS year, which is 31 May. However, anyone who is a member on 31 May, is still entitled to vote at the next AGM (normally held in July). Membership can be renewed any time after 31 May, but to retain membership ticket prices your membership should be renewed before the next concert you attend (including the concert held after the AGM). Tickets for non-YMS members are currently £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 who are 16 or under are free, whilst Students in full time education or training can attend at the same £10 rate as members. In this way we can: keep costs down for our members, encourage younger attendees (who represent our future audiences), and enable the YMS to afford to invite and pay for world-class artists. Our members are essential in supporting our charity to continue delivering great music locally and into the future.



All Concerts start at 7.30 pm at St Mary's Church (unless otherwise advised)

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Our next concert will be given by Jo Harris (Trumpet) and Daniel King Smith (Piano and Organ) on Sat 31 Jan at 7.30pm.

The programme, together with some extended newsletter comments on the music, includes:



George Enescu (1881 – 1955)

Piano and Trumpet

Légende (1906)

Enescu was inspired by the lush harmonies and sweeping melodies of Brahms and Wagner, and by the folk songs of his homeland, Romania. As a child Enescu began learning the violin with a local Roma musician before moving to study in Vienna and later to Paris. 'Légende' was written for a grand trumpet competition held at the Paris Conservatoire. It demands great technical virtuosity from both the trumpeter and pianist, but also emotional depth as the piece flashes between different scenes including sweet, grave, hesitant, gracious, agitated, reflective and many more besides. It's unknown what, or who the Légende in the title refers to.

Karen Tanaka (b.1961)

Piano and Trumpet

Silent Ocean (2010)

- I. Far away, gently
- II. Love Song
- III. Far away, very lightly

Silent Ocean is inspired by the serenity of the ocean, images of a pale blue and orange colour sky blending the sound of the trumpet. The first movement 'Far Away, Gently' weaves the texture of sounds with wave like combinations of 7/8 and 5/8 rhythms. The second, 'Love Song', represents the motherhood of the ocean, with the final movement 'Far Away, Very Lightly', is about the reflection of light on waves.

Karen Tanaka is a Japanese composer, born in Tokyo in 1961 and who began piano and composition studies early, later training at the Toho Gakuen School of Music with Akira Miyoshi before moving to Paris in 1986 to study with Tristan Murail. She later studied with Luciano Berio in Florence (1990–91) and has received major international awards, including the Gaudeamus International Composers Award (1987).

Tanaka's music has been performed by leading ensembles such as the BBC Symphony Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic, and NHK Symphony Orchestra, and she has also developed a significant profile in film and media music, including work on Planet Earth II. Her strong interest in nature and ecology mean many of her works evoke natural landscapes, light, water, and atmosphere. Titles like 'Northern Lights', 'Crystalline', and 'Children of Light' show her affinity for elemental imagery. 'Silent Ocean' sits comfortably in this lineage.



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Claude Debussy (1862 – 1918)

Piano Solo

Reflets dans l'eau (1905)

Debussy pioneered a free-flowing melodic style with chromatic, pentatonic and whole tone harmonic patterns. This style became known as Impressionism and, as in the Art world, it embraced fleeting or 'just seen' imagined ideas and use of light and shade. Reflets dans l'eau 'Reflections in the Water' is the first piece in Book I of Debussy's Images, composed in 1905. It is one of the earliest works in which Debussy fully realises the shimmering, fluid piano language that would become central to his mature style. This piece marked a major breakthrough in Debussy's piano style: a new way of writing that treats the piano as a palette of colours rather than a vehicle for classical thematic argument.

George Philip Telemann (1681 – 1767)

Trumpet and Organ

Musique Héroïque (1728)

A personal friend of Bach and Handel, Telemann is another of the great Baroque composers who worked for both the church and the royal court. In 1705 Telemann was appointed as Kapellmeister for Count Erdmann II and then for Duke Johann Wilhelm of Saxe-Eisenach around 1708. In 1721 Telemann was appointed Kantor of the Johanneum Lateinschule in the prosperous city of Hamburg and became musical director of that city's five largest churches. This was the position he held when he composed Musique Héroïque which must have proved useful material for the numerous civic ceremonies and military celebrations for which he had to provide music. The title Musique Héroïque refers to Telemann's set of twelve 'heroic marches', published in 1728. They are also known by their German title Heldenmusik 'Music of Heroes'. These pieces appear in multiple instrumental scorings, but the original conception is for two oboes and continuo.

----- Interval -----

Geghuni Chitchyan (b.1929)

Piano and Trumpet

Armenian Sketch (2001)

Armenia is a landlocked country that borders Georgia, Azerbaijan, Iran and Turkey. One of the earliest Christian settlements, its original music draws from ancient choral singing as well as the sound of its native instrument the Duduk, a reeded recorder shaped instrument made from apricot wood. Geghuni Chitchyan is a major Armenian composer, pianist, and educator, born in Leninakan (now Gyumri) on 30 August 1929. She showed early musical talent—publishing her first song at age ten—and went on to study piano and composition at the Tchaikovsky Music School in Yerevan, later completing composition studies at the Komitas State Conservatory with Grigor Yeghiazaryan. Armenian Sketch is a rare example of contemporary Armenian repertoire for trumpet and piano. It is a compact, expressive work rooted in national musical identity and a window into the voice of one of Armenia's most respected living composers. There is a growing recognition of Chitchyan's music outside Armenia.

To hear Jo Harris play Armenian Sketch go to: [Armenian Sketch](#) and listen to a Duduk at [A Really Deep Duduk Solo by Dmitry Soul. Live Performance | Ethnic Flute | Traditional Instruments |](#)



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Traditional Scottish arr Gordon Langford

Piano and Trumpet

My Love is like a red, red rose

Gordon Langford (1930–2017) was one of Britain's finest arrangers for brass, known for his lyrical writing, warm harmonic palette, and idiomatic understanding of brass band colour. His arrangement of "My Love is Like a Red, Red Rose" is a perfect example of his gift for transforming a simple folk melody into a richly expressive solo work.

A song setting of poetry by Robert Burns (1759 – 1796)

O my Luve is like a red, red rose
That's newly sprung in June;
O my Luve is like the melody
That's sweetly played in tune.

So fair art thou, my bonnie lass,
So deep in luve am I;
And I will luve thee still, my dear,
Till a' the seas gang dry.

Till a' the seas gang dry, my dear,
And the rocks melt wi' the sun;
I will love thee still, my dear,
While the sands o' life shall run.

And fare thee weel, my only luve!
And fare thee weel awhile!
And I will come again, my luve,
Though it were ten thousand mile.

George Gershwin (1898 – 1937)

Piano solos

The Man I love

That Certain Feeling

I Got Rhythm

The piano was Gershwin's first musical love and before his composing career took off, he worked as a pianist for popular Broadway musicals. Rhapsody in Blue is probably his most famous work for piano, but he also wrote a Piano Concerto and arranged many of his famous songs for solo piano.

Howard Goodall (b. 1958)

Trumpet and Organ

Shackleton's Cross (2012)

Shackleton's Cross is a lyrical, and beautifully atmospheric work by British composer Howard Goodall, written in 2012 and inspired by a 1957 painting from the Royal Collection by Edward Seago. The painting depicts the wooden cross erected at the grave of Sir Ernest Shackleton, which stands on a promontory at the entrance to Grytviken harbour, South Georgia, a place Shackleton knew well. The music exists in several versions, including solo piano, oboe–trumpet–chamber orchestra, and trumpet & organ. Howard Goodall is a popular classical composer and written music for many TV series (Vicar of Dibley, Blackadder, Red Dwarf).

You can hear Jo Harris play Shackleton's Cross go to:

[Shackleton's Cross \(Arr. for Trumpet & Organ by Howard Goodall\)](#)



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Henri Busser (1872-1973)

Piano and trumpet

Variations (1914)

A French organist, Henri Busser was also a composer and conductor who worked closely with the music of French romantics Debussy and Saint Saens. His own style is traditional, grand and witty. Büsser's Variations, Op. 53 is a Romantic-era work for cornet (or trumpet) and piano, published in Paris by Evette & Schaeffer around 1914–1919. It was written as a morceau de concours—an examination piece for the Paris Conservatoire, where it was officially used in 1914, 1920, and 1929. The piece is dedicated to Alexandre Petit, the celebrated cornet professor at the Conservatoire.

Our next concert after 31 Jan 26 is **CarmenCo**, which will be held on **Sat 28 Feb 2026**. I will obviously say more about the concert on February's Newsletter, but I thought I would give you a 'heads up'. This concert will take a different format from our normal concerts, and one not to miss, so do put it in your diary.

CarmenCo is 'A Pocket Opera' and much more than just a concert. It occupies the borders between a play and a concert, with 80/20 music to spoken word. It is a concert of Spanish and Spanish inspired music presented as a play, with costumes, props and a storyline which roughly follows the story of Bizet's opera Carmen but told from Carmen's point of view. She will have you laughing out loud but also listening with absolute silence to the immersive and evocative music. It's a brilliantly accessible and fun way to present classical music.



A fun-filled evening of fantasy, comedy, drama and tremendous music arranged from Bizet's Carmen and Spanish and Spanish-inspired music by Boccherini, Falla, Garcia-Lorca, Granados, Ravel and Albeniz, all arranged by the musicians for guitars, flute and voice.

Our next YMS newsletter will be issued in early February when I will give you more information on this exciting new concert by the trio 'CarmenCo'. [CarmenCo Trio - Home](#)

I look forward to seeing as many of our members as possible on 31 January 26.

Happy New Year to you all.

Best Wishes

Vince

YMS Chairman



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