

MUSICIANS

1st VIOLIN

Ken Thomas (leader),
Mary Noble, Pam Ermisz,
Iain Ferries, Ellie Row.

2nd VIOLIN

Sarah Cornforth, Howard Moore,
Andrew Row, Caroline Biggin,
Enid Heritage, Beverly Chong.

VIOLA

Vincent Lyengar, Gilly Slot.

CELLO

Rachel Daniels, Linda Shanks,
Elizabeth Mabb.

DOUBLE BASS

Siubhan O'Neill.

KEYBOARD

Gilly Slot, Julian Williams.

PERCUSSION

Sarah Woods.

FLUTE/PICCOLO

Kaylee Gault, Amanda Ayton,
Isabella Stocchetti.

OBOE

Tim Leighton, Elspeth Wood.

CLARINET

Sian Leighton, Julian Williams.

BASSOON

Debbie Kitney, Nikita Jain.

TRUMPET

Ann Roe, John Roe.

TROMBONE

Toby Roe, Edric Brown.

FRENCH HORN

Mike Hall, George Trevelyan,
Amy Taylor, David Woodgates.

MUSICAL DIRECTOR

Simon Wilkins has conducted the orchestra since 2013. His particular interests are in the music of Sibelius, the application of baroque and classical playing styles to modern orchestras, and in contemporary repertoire suitable for non-professionals. He is committed to the encouragement and development of non-professional musicians of all ages, the representation of minority voices in classical music, and in promoting the cultural importance of the repertoire alongside other music genres.

THE SOLENT CONCERT ORCHESTRA

Celebrating over thirty years of music-making, the Solent Concert Orchestra has grown into a community of dedicated and enthusiastic amateur musicians. We aim to bring enjoyment and musical development to our members while offering audiences the pleasure of live orchestral music. Each year, we perform three concerts featuring an engaging mix of light classics, symphonies, and concertos, and helping to support local charities. We are grateful to our patrons, Sir Julian and Lady Fiona Lewis, for their encouragement of the orchestra's activities.

FUTURE CONCERTS

3pm, Saturday 28 November 2026: St Saviour's, Brockenhurst.

3pm, Saturday 13 March 2027: St Andrew's Centre, Dibden Purlieu.

Find out more at www.solentconcertorchestra.org.uk/future-concerts

SOLENT CONCERT ORCHESTRA

Once upon a score

Stories told through
music & dance

7pm, Sat 20 June 2026
Bramshaw Village Hall

Conducted by
Simon Wilkins

Supporting the
Countryside
Education Trust



Music has always been one of humanity's most powerful vehicles for storytelling. Whether through lyrical ballads or purely instrumental compositions, composers and songwriters have long used melodies, rhythms, and harmonies to paint pictures and share narratives.

NOTES ON THE PROGRAMME

ENGELBERT HUMPERDINCK (1854 - 1921) Overture to Hänsel und Gretel

Hänsel und Gretel (1893) is a three-act fairy-tale opera based on the Brothers Grimm story. Hänsel and Gretel are sent into the enchanted forest to pick berries. After getting lost, they sleep and wake to find a gingerbread house inhabited by a child-eating witch. Gretel tricks the witch, pushing her into the oven, and the siblings reunite with their parents.

ISABELLA STOCCHETTI (b. 1992) The Quest Begins

Our resident flautist Izzy has written this piece with the opening of an adventure in mind, where things are not yet so dire and the real character-testing challenges are yet to appear in the plot. We move through the quiet contemplation of a choice that must be made, then the resolve to leave behind all that is known, the bittersweet farewells...Then off we go - the quest begins!

ALEXANDRE LUIGINI (1850 - 1906) Ballet Egyptien Suite

This piece is not a continuous, singular narrative story, but rather a suite of eight melodic movements designed to evoke an "exotic" and "Egyptian" feel, typical of 19th-century European fascination with Egypt. Whilst it was composed as an independent piece (Op. 12), it gained major prominence when interpolated into a 1886 performance of the tragic opera *Aida* by Verdi.

GABRIEL FAURÉ (1845 - 1924) Pelléas et Mélisande, Prélude & Sicilienne

Gabriel Fauré's *Pelléas et Mélisande* (Op. 80, 1898) is incidental music for Maurice Maeterlinck's Symbolist play, depicting a tragic love triangle in a dimly lit medieval setting. The story follows Golaud, who finds the mysterious Mélisande in a forest, marries her, and takes her to his castle, where she falls in love with his younger brother, Pelléas.

LUIGI DENZA (1846 - 1922) Funiculì Funiculà (Neapolitan Song)

Funiculì funiculà is a classic, humorous, Neapolitan song, originally created to promote the Vesuvius Funicular, which was built in 1879 and inaugurated in 1880. The funicular was little used by Neapolitans and tourists, who preferred traditional and seemingly safer ways of reaching Vesuvius, such as by donkey or horse. In an imaginative attempt to increase passenger numbers, *Funiculì funiculà* was written as a musical advertisement celebrating the new means of transport.

INTERVAL

Refreshments are kindly provided this evening by the Countryside Education Trust. Based at Home Farm in the New Forest, the trust's mission is to connect people with the British countryside, rural life and farming. Thank you for your generous support!

GARETH MCLEARNON (b. 1980) Pick Pic Picc

Commissioned by Peter Verhoyen for the *Piccolo Power* series of concerts at the National Flute Association, this piece is a musical joke of sorts that features playful rhythms, rude harmonies (and anti-harmonies) and an unspeakably sugary middle section that is so sickly sentimental that it may cause nausea, before quickly being dispelled and ripping back into the chaos. Enjoy!

BEDŘICH SMETANA (1824 - 1884) The Bartered Bride Dances, Polka & Furiant

The *Three Dances* from Bedřich Smetana's *The Bartered Bride* are vibrant orchestral showpieces that embody Czech national identity and rustic celebrations. They punctuate the opera's story of young lovers, Mařenka and Jeník, overcoming a forced marriage contract to be together.

JOHN BARRY (1933 - 2011) Dances with Wolves

Dances with Wolves (1990) is a Civil War-era epic directed by and starring Kevin Costner as Lt. John Dunbar, a soldier who abandons his post to live among a Lakota Sioux tribe in the American West. He falls in love with the frontier, earns the name "Dances with Wolves," marries a white woman adopted by the tribe, and confronts the destruction of his new life by the encroaching US army.

ISAAC ALBÉNIZ (1860 - 1909) Tango No.2 (arr. Simon Wilkins)

Isaac Albéniz was an important Spanish composer who was responsible for surging interest and respect for the art music of the country. Early on, he concentrated on music for the piano, especially of the pleasant, short, salon genre, but during his lifetime he also wrote works for the stage. The *Tango in D* was written in 1890 as part of a larger suite for piano solo; *España*. It beautifully evokes the sophisticated, languorous feeling that one might encounter at a tea dance in a European luxury hotel. Think of potted palms, the novels of Stefan Zweig, and maybe the *The Grand Budapest Hotel*.

GEORGE GERSHWIN (1898 - 1937) An American in Paris

Impressions of Paris, from strolling the Champs-Élysées to bouts of homesickness, set to blues-infused orchestral music. The piece features real French taxi horns and follows a loose structure of walking themes, blues, and a spirited, bustling finale.

NEW MEMBERS & GUEST PLAYERS

Do you play an instrument? Would you enjoy performing alongside a friendly group of like-minded musicians? Orchestra rehearsals take place on Thursdays during term time at Bramshaw Village Hall, from 7.45 pm to 9.45 pm. A minimum standard of Grade 5 is generally required, and we welcome players from a wide variety of backgrounds, including students, returning players, and music teachers. For more information, or to arrange an informal visit and play-along, please email us at solentconcertorchestra@mail.com, or speak with a member of the orchestra. We are always delighted to welcome new players!