

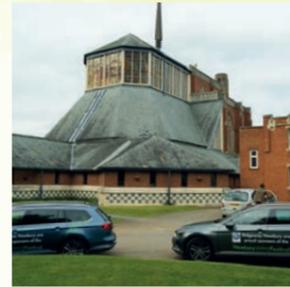
Festival Venues – 2020 will see the Festival come to two new venues.



We're delighted to host a concert with the Vienna Chamber Symphony in the **Church of the Ascension, Burghclere**. The building of this charming church was originally begun by the Carnarvon family and after rebuilding and restoration it was finally opened on Ascension Day, 1875.



In a change to our town centre venues, we'll be using **St. John's Church** for a performance by Nicholas Daniel and the Britten Oboe Quartet. St John the Evangelist Newbury has been in existence since 1859 and the present church opened in 1955, the first church having been destroyed by enemy action during the Second World War.



The works on **Doai Abbey** have now been completed, so we're thrilled to be welcoming The Sixteen to Douai in 2020. They will be celebrating twenty years of their Choral Pilgrimage series and will bring a wonderful programme celebrating composers who have connections to the Sistine Chapel.

Festival Wine Sales

Having had to look at the way wine was sold at the Festival, 2019 saw the Festival Stewards selling wine at the concerts. This was only possible once our General Manager, Ashley Morris had gone through the necessary legal processes of being trained to gain his Personal Alcohol Licence. Hopefully you will have also noticed the new feather flags that identify where the drinks are being sold!

Now that the formalities are in place it's good to know that the interval drinks can be "back to normal" and the Stewards will be happily selling drinks again in 2020.

Richard and Sharon Coward doing fine work as bar staff for the night at Combe Barns!

Education/Community Music for schools

The Festival aims to continually to raise the profile of live music in schools, giving children the thrill of experiencing live music and working with, and learning from, professional musicians.

Before the Festival started in May, NYJO Ambassadors and players from the Orpheus Sinfonia visited Newbury for two days of workshops at local schools.

Five Ambassadors of National Youth Jazz Orchestra came to St Bartholomew's School, Newbury to conduct and join in with instrumental students from age 11 upwards.

"It was one of the best NSF workshops we have done and I felt that the students involved all got something out of it to take away with them, as well as having a great time."
James Maunders, St. Bartholomew's School



Three players from the Orpheus Sinfonia visited three local primary schools – St Nicolas Junior School, St John the Evangelist Infant and Nursery School and The Willows Primary School. They all enjoyed hearing a little bit about *Carnival of the Animals*, learning some of the themes that are associated with the different characters in the story. We were pleased to welcome the Mayor of Newbury, Councillor Margo Payne to the workshop held at the Willows Primary School.

We were particularly thrilled to welcome past Sheepdrove Piano Competition winner, Robertas Lozinskis for a Masterclass. Robertas worked with 12 local school children on a one-to-one basis with other students, parents and guests listening in on the sessions.

"Thank you so much for organising this wonderful event. It was a great pleasure for me to be a part of it. And thank you for such hospitality, it was amazing! With best wishes Robertas."

Education work during the Festival included a workshop with the Sarod Maestros, open rehearsals with Ballet Central, and a schools performance from the Budapest Café Orchestra.



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festival focus

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In memory of **Jeanie, Countess of Carnarvon (1935-2019)** who's leadership, enthusiasm and passion inspired the Festival for so many years.



Dear Friends and Supporters

I hope you enjoy reading this edition of Festival Focus.

In the centre pages you will find the (almost) final plans for the 2020 Festival. There is so much to look forward to as always. We will be treated to another wonderful Russian orchestra – the St Petersburg Symphony Orchestra as our final concert playing Prokofiev and Korngold. A special excitement tinged with sadness is that Tasmin Little, who has so often graced our Festival, will be the soloist in Korngold's violin concerto as one of her final public performances.

It seems not long ago that we were enjoying the 2019 Festival. I remember arriving at St Nic's for the final rehearsal of Vaughan Williams' Sea Symphony to be told that our conductor, Martyn Brabbins, was sadly unable to be there. This had been discovered only two hours before. To find another conductor for a big symphonic work which also includes a chorus at such short notice is well-nigh impossible but our Festival team is used to the impossible. The rehearsal started fifteen minutes late with Christopher Seaman (a good name for a conductor of the Sea Symphony) and disaster was averted.

2019 saw the latest tweaks to the priority booking scheme put into effect. The scheme seemed to work well and will be repeated next year.

With best wishes and many thanks for your valued support.

Caroline Holbrook
Chairman of the Friends of Newbury Spring Festival

- 2020 Festival Preview
- BBC Symphony Orchestra, Sons of Pitches, Tasmin Little, Lucy Crowe, Ballet Central, The Sixteen and so much more!

Cover Credit: Festival audience members enjoying the grounds of Donnington Priory before a concert

newbury spring festival – preview 2020

Friends booking opens from 11th February 2020 – Public booking opens 27th February 2020

	Sat 9th May	Sun 10th May	Mon 11th May	Tue 12th May	Wed 13th May	Thu 14th May	Fri 15th May	Sat 16th May	Sun 17th May	Mon 18th May	Tue 19th May	Wed 20th May	Thu 21st May	Fri 22nd May	Sat 23rd May
St Nicolas Church & Outreach	BBC Symphony Orchestra Paul Lewis Piano Sakari Oramo Conductor Beethoven <i>Overture to the Creatures of Prometheus</i> Beethoven Piano Concerto No.4 Beethoven Symphony No.7 To celebrate Beethoven's 250th anniversary the BBC Symphony Orchestra make a welcome return with their Principal Conductor and Paul Lewis in an all-Beethoven programme to open the Festival. <i>St Nicolas Church</i>	Sound Beginnings The Firebird Stravinsky's fairytale ballet brought to life with narrator and two pianos in a performance suitable for all ages. <i>Sheepdrove Eco Centre, Lambourn</i> Kinsky Trio Founded in 1998, the trio is one of the outstanding Czech chamber ensembles, and makes a welcome return to the Festival with a programme to include works by Vranický, Beethoven and Mendelssohn. <i>St Mary's Church, Kintbury</i>	Carice Singers Tis Nature's Voice A musical celebration of spring with the Carice singers, an award winning chamber choir. Their charming programme will include works from Elgar, Ireland, Finzi and Monteverdi <i>St Martin's Church, East Woodhay</i>	Andrew Roberts A talk on Churchill to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of VE Day. <i>Englefield House</i> Northern Chords Ensemble Benjamin Baker Violin Timothy Ridout Viola Daniel Lebhardt Piano Jonathan Bloxham 'Cello' The Northern Chords Ensemble bring a programme of Piano Quartets, featuring Timothy Ridout who made a remarkable Festival debut in the same venue last year. <i>St Mary's Church, Shaw</i>	RANT RANT is the meeting of 4 of Scotland's finest fiddle players, two from the Shetland Islands and two from the Highlands. The evening promises to be both rich and lush, yet retaining all the bite and spark synonymous with a Scottish fiddle player. Using just their fiddles, they weave a tapestry of melodies, textures, layers and sounds. <i>Donnington Priory</i>	Beethoven Talk Continuing the celebration of Beethoven's 250th Anniversary. <i>Shaw House</i> 4 Girls 4 Harps Since their formation in 2000, 4 Girls 4 Harps have been heard in numerous venues and festivals in the UK and across Europe, delighting audiences with their dynamic performances and innovative repertoire. We're pleased to welcome them back as part of the 20th anniversary season. <i>Englefield House</i>	Solomon's Knot Following their sell out performance in 2018, Solomon's Knot return with an evening of some of Bach's most well-known Cantatas. <i>Holy Cross Church, Ramsbury</i> The Sheepdrove Recital A recital by Mikhail Kazakevich, including works by Beethoven. <i>Sheepdrove Eco Centre, Lambourn</i>	Festival Evensong Keble College Choir will sing a traditional Choral Evensong service in St. Mary's Church. <i>St Mary's Church, Speen</i> London Mozart Players Newbury Spring Festival Chorus Stephen Barlow Conductor An all-Mozart programme will culminate in the <i>Coronation Mass</i> with the Festival Chorus and soloists, including Soprano Soraya Mafi. <i>St Nicolas Church</i>	Sheepdrove Piano Competition Final Vote for the best international student pianists drawn from all the major UK conservatoires. This year's featured composer will be Beethoven. <i>Sheepdrove Eco Centre, Lambourn</i> Hilary Summers What's So Great About Opera? A hilarious romp exploring the highs and lows of opera, culminating in a glorious one-woman, twenty-five-minute reduction of Mozart's masterpiece, <i>The Magic Flute</i> . <i>Combe Manor</i>	A Taste of Germany Come and taste some fine German wines, accompanied by a selection of German food. There will then follow a recital by the Behn Quartet to include music by Beethoven and Schubert. <i>The Vineyard</i>	Talk tbc Nicholas Daniel with the Britten Oboe Quartet Nicholas Daniel has long been acknowledged as one of the world's great oboe players, and is one of Britain's best known musicians. He and his quartet will perform works including Mozart's <i>Adagio and Quartet in C Major</i> . <i>St John's Church, Newbury</i>	Lucy Crowe sings Strauss Lucy Crowe makes a welcome return after her show-stopping appearance in 2017. Accompanied by Anna Tilbrook, Lucy will give a recital showcasing the sheer breadth of song and lieder available for the soprano voice, in this all Strauss recital. <i>St Lawrence's Church, Hungerford</i>	Edward Seckerson In conversation with a star of musical theatre. <i>The Chapel, Sydmonton</i> Vienna Chamber Symphony Quintet Some of the best musicians in Vienna, come together to perform a concert including some of Beethoven's well known orchestral works arranged and reworked for string Quintet. <i>Church of the Ascension, Burghclere</i>	The Sixteen <i>Music from the Sistine Chapel</i> To celebrate the 20th anniversary of The Choral Pilgrimage, we are delighted to welcome back The Sixteen. The composers in this programme have something in common; they all performed, or had their music performed in the Sistine Chapel during the 'golden age' of the Renaissance, including Allegri's <i>Miserere</i> . <i>Douai Abbey</i>	St. Petersburg Symphony Orchestra Tasmin Little Violin Nikolai Alexeev Conductor Prokofiev <i>Cinderella Suite</i> Korngold Violin Concerto Prokofiev <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> The Festival is honoured to host one of Tasmin Little's final public performances with the magnificent Korngold Violin Concerto bringing to a close this year's Festival. <i>St Nicolas Church</i>
	Corn Exchange	Sons of Pitches With soaring vocals, stellar set pieces and mind-bending improvised numbers Sons of Pitches are taking the world of entertainment by storm and it's all without instruments. Since winning 'The Naked Choir', the group have toured extensively across the UK and Europe, delighting audiences from Birmingham to London and from Norway to Hong Kong.	John Lill Festival favourite John Lill returns with an all-Beethoven recital to mark the composers 250th anniversary, featuring the <i>Pathétique</i> , <i>Waldstein</i> , <i>Moonlight</i> and <i>Appassionata</i> sonatas.	Young Artist's Lunchtime Recital 1	Solid Steel Ambassadors Solid Steel have an unbeatable reputation as one of the UK's leading steel drum bands. Featuring steel drums, percussion and singers – their repertoire ranges from beautiful Caribbean ballads such as 'Island in the Sun' all the way to infectious calypsos like 'Hot Hot Hot'.	Young Artist's Lunchtime Recital 2 Andrei Kymach Ukrainian baritone Andrei Kymach is the First Prize Winner of the prestigious 2019 BBC Cardiff Singer of the World. We're delighted to welcome Andrei for one of his first British recitals, featuring Russian Arias and songs.	Ballet Central Ballet Central has been Central School of Ballet's touring company for over 30 years. The tour is a regular fixture on the UK's touring calendar and the performances are much anticipated throughout the UK.	Young Artist's Lunchtime Recital 3 Dominic Alldis Trio A Tribute to Jacques Loussier Following in the tradition of the hugely popular Jacques Loussier Trio this trio aim to bring a fresh and contemporary approach to famous themes from classical music and opera.	Clare Teal and her band Clare continues to surge ahead on her mission to bring big band and swing to music lovers everywhere, to demonstrate that this genre is ever evolving and still relevant in today's world.	IDMC Gospel Choir IDMC are a group of dynamic, inspirational and talented singers and musicians. Their sound is strong, contagious, urban and contemporary, but above all it's uplifting.	Young Artist's Lunchtime Recital 4 Recital by the winner of the Sheepdrove Piano Competition 2020.	Bollywood Brass Band Bollywood Brass Band will be bringing a tribute to RD Burman who revolutionised Bollywood music, expect classics and new interpretations, all backed by clips from the original Hindi films.	Young Artist's Lunchtime Recital 5 Lux Musicae: The Secrets of Andalusia Hidden Origins of Flamenco Featuring Flamenco, Sephardic and Arabic music alongside Spanish composers of the late 16th to 18th centuries, the programme tells a story of the Iberian peninsula and its music.	The University of Chichester Musical Theatre Festival Company The company make their now annual appearance with a fully staged performance of Flaherty and Ahrens musical <i>A Man of No Importance</i> , based on the 1994 Albert Finney film of the same title.	Young Artist's Lunchtime Recital 6 Bounder & Cad An evening of songs and skits with guaranteed hilarity. Troubadours of the Twitter age, the raffish duo will thrill and delight you with their unique and audacious songs, skits and party tricks.

Draft Programme, the Festival reserves the right to change artists or programmes as necessary.

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