

# Celebrating 30 years of St Cecilia Orchestra

Ripon's celebrated St Cecilia Orchestra began life as a small local ensemble, formed to accompany the Cathedral Choir at its annual St Cecilia Day Concert. Under the leadership and guidance of renowned conductor and educator, Xenophon Kelsey MBE, it has since grown both in size and reputation to become one of the best regarded non-professional orchestras in the North of England.

Known for its exciting and ambitious programming, and often working with the finest of international soloists, St Cecilia Orchestra draws upon a wealth of local talent while also attracting some of the best players from across North Yorkshire and beyond.

2025 marks the 30th anniversary of St Cecilia's founding. Join us for a special series of concerts to mark the occasion.



## Booking information

### CONCERTS IN HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

Adults £20; Children under 18 Free. All seats are unreserved.

### CONCERTS IN RIPON CATHEDRAL

Adults £35/£28 (reserved) & £20 (unreserved); Children under 18 Free.

### SAVE WITH A SEASON TICKET – ONLY AVAILABLE ONLINE

Save 20% for 4 concerts booked before 27 Sept 2025 and 15% for 3 concerts booked before 31 Jan 2026.

### WHERE TO BOOK

- **Online at [www.st-cecilia.org.uk](http://www.st-cecilia.org.uk)** for all ticket types
- **Little Ripon Bookshop:** book in person (unreserved tickets only)
- **Harrogate Theatre:** book in person, on the phone (01423 502116, Tues–Fri, 10–4), or visit [www.harrogatetheatre.co.uk/whats-on](http://www.harrogatetheatre.co.uk/whats-on) (unreserved tickets only)
- **By phone** at 01423 531062 (pay and collect at the door, unreserved tickets only)

[www.st-cecilia.org.uk](http://www.st-cecilia.org.uk)



**Concert Season 2025/26**



## Gala Concert

with Jasdeep Singh Degun

**Sat 27<sup>th</sup> Sept, 7.30 pm**

RIPON CATHEDRAL

JASDEEP SINGH DEGUN

***Lament; 'Arya' – Concerto for Sitar***

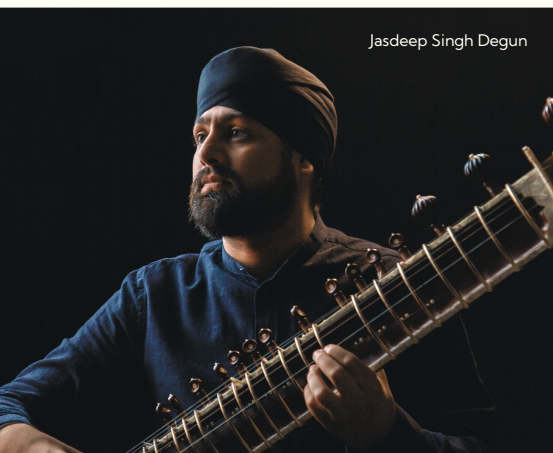
Jasdeep Singh Degun – Sitar  
Hakiret Bahra – Tabla

RIMSKY-KORSAKOV ***Scheherazade***

A rare chance to hear the mesmerising virtuosity of one of the world's leading Indian classical musicians paired with Rimsky-Korsakov's exuberantly colourful and much-loved dramatic masterpiece.

Join St Cecilia Orchestra, under guest conductor Gary Matthewman, for a spectacular concert bringing together the traditions of Western and Indian classical music. Renowned Leeds sitar player and composer, Jasdeep Singh Degun, joins the orchestra in a performance of his own sitar concerto, *Arya*, and the beautiful *Lament* for Sitar, Tabla and Strings.

The second half of the concert takes us to Persia, with Rimsky-Korsakov's musical retelling of the stories of *Scheherazade*: an exhilarating journey of love, intrigue and adventure.



Jasdeep Singh Degun

## The Vienna Connection

**Sat 31<sup>st</sup> January, 7.30 pm**

HOLY TRINITY, RIPON

MOZART

***Marriage of Figaro Overture*  
*Symphony No 41 – Jupiter***

R STRAUSS

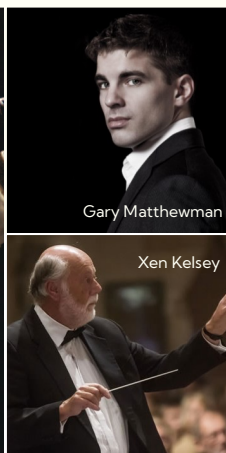
***Horn Concerto No 2***

Phil Taylor – Horn

***Overture and Dance Scene from*  
*Ariadne auf Naxos***

Take a journey to Vienna with a programme showcasing two of the greatest composers ever to live and work in the city: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Richard Strauss.

Mozart's overture to *The Marriage of Figaro*, one of his most enduringly popular operas, and his last symphony, the majestic *Jupiter*, widely regarded as one of the greatest symphonies in classical music, are beautifully complemented by Richard Strauss' much-loved second horn concerto, performed by Phil Taylor, and the lyrical *Overture and Dance Scene* from *Ariadne auf Naxos*.



Gary Matthewman

Xen Kelsey



Phil Taylor

## Great Romantics

**Sat 25<sup>th</sup> April, 7.30 pm**

RIPON CATHEDRAL

WEBER ***Oberon Overture***

BRAHMS ***Double Concerto***

Jack Liebeck – Violin  
Tim Lowe – Cello

DVORAK ***Symphony No 7***

A programme of titanic proportions, bringing together three greats of the Romantic era: Brahms, Dvorak and Weber.

The overture to Weber's final opera, *Oberon*, an early Romantic masterpiece, meets Brahms' mighty double concerto for violin and cello, the last of his works for orchestra, performed by the internationally acclaimed Jack Liebeck and Tim Lowe.

The second half of the programme features what many consider to be the pinnacle of Dvorak's symphonic output: the dramatic Symphony No 7 – full of emotion and Slavonic melodies and culminating in a triumphant finale.



Jack Liebeck



Tim Lowe

## Music for A Summer's Evening

**Sat 13<sup>th</sup> June, 7.30pm**

HOLY TRINITY, RIPON

KODALY ***Summer Evening***

RODRIGO ***Concierto de Aranjuez***

Chris Godhard – Guitar

RAVEL ***Pavane***

POULENC ***Sinfonietta***

Join St Cecilia Orchestra at Holy Trinity Church for a beautiful programme of music evoking the sights and sounds of a summer's evening.

Rodrigo's *Concierto de Aranjuez*, performed by guitarist Chris Godhard, takes centre stage. Named after the famous royal site near Madrid, and brought to great popularity in the UK in the film *Brassed Off*, the concerto's melodies evoke 'the perfume of magnolias, the singing of birds and the gush of fountains'. Kodaly's pastoral *Summer Evening*, Ravel's nostalgic *Pavane pour une Infante Defunte* and Poulenc's light-hearted *Sinfonietta* complete the programme.



Chris Godhard