

perspectives

Autumn 2026

CHELTENHAM
arts
COUNCIL

perspectives

Welcome from the Editor

Dear Reader

Summer's extreme heat is now a distant memory, and we are all currently enjoying the glow of early autumn. It may, of course, feel more like early winter by the time you are reading this! I hope you all found things to enjoy during the summer despite the heat, and that this edition of Perspectives will inspire interesting activities for the months to come.

As is often the case, there is lots of news of the great variety of music and musicians performing in our town and the surrounding area. School is back and so are the wonderful lunchtime **Young Musician concerts in Pittville Pump Room**. Young singers are being encouraged by **Churchdown Male Voice Choir** and women composers are championed in the repertoire of **Churchdown Choral Society**. Members of Cheltenham's Holst family feature in a drama from **Parrot Productions**, and in a fascinating exhibition concerning the life and work of Gustav's great-uncle, the painter **Theodor von Holst**.

The town's history is also celebrated in an article from **Leckhampton History Society** celebrating the publication of the third edition of historian Eric Miller's 'Leckhampton Court-Manor House to Hospice'.

Two articles draw attention to the **Nethra Academy of Performing Arts (NAPA)** and its founder Dr Gayathiri Gowri Shankar, who has been awarded a prestigious title in recognition of her contribution to Indian performing arts. The dancers from NAPA will be performing to celebrate Diwali, and to raise funds for the Mayor's charities, at the Pump Room in November.

Last, but by no means least, we have further optimistic news of a future for **Lansdown Art Studios**, for which supporters have fought long and hard.

Let us hope that the predicted storms and gales do not disrupt the cultural life of Cheltenham in the next few months, so that we may still look forward to hearing news of our member societies in the February edition of Perspectives.

Best wishes,
Elise Autumn 2026

cover image shows a Theodor von Holst cover for Frankenstein from the forthcoming Holst Victorian House exhibition



News From **Cantores Chamber Choir**

A glorious choral treat in store during October

In the summer, Cantores joined forces with the celebrated early music ensemble, His Majestys Sagbutts and Cornetts, to recreate the splendour of Renaissance Venice in Cirencester Parish Church.

This autumn, the choir looks forward to a second collaboration with the Wiltshire-based Cantamus Chamber Choir for 'Choral Classics', a concert bringing together some of the finest choral music from across the centuries.

At the heart of the programme will be Josef Rheinberger's Mass for Double Choir in E flat, written in 1878 - a work of great richness and colour, combining the influence of earlier choral traditions with the harmonic language of the Romantic period. Alongside Rheinberger will be music by Mendelssohn, Brahms and Bruckner, as well as works by Heinrich Schütz, one of the great German composers of the previous century.

The programme will also include a selection of other repertoire, offering a varied mix of styles and periods, as well as giving both chamber choirs the opportunity to showcase their distinctive sounds and characters.

'Choral Classics' will be performed at Cirencester Parish Church on Saturday 17th October at 7pm and repeated on Sunday 18th October at 3pm at Holy Trinity Church, Church Street, Bradford on Avon.

For tickets and further information, visit www.cantores.net.

Sadly, the start of this season marks the end of Cantores' long association with Rendcomb College, where the choir has rehearsed for many years. With the College now closed, we will be leaving a place that has been an important part of the choir's history. Cantores is very grateful to the college for providing such a lovely rehearsal space and offers its best wishes to all former staff and students.

New Season for

Cheltenham Film Society

A treasure trove for fans of foreign films



Do you like foreign movies? If so, Cheltenham Film Society may be just the Society for you!

We have a fascinating programme of 19 films running from Autumn 2026 to Spring 2027.

CFS's 2026/27 season kicks off on September 15th with the French film 'When Autumn Falls'. In the first half of the season, we shall be showing films from Australia, Italy, Iraq, Denmark, Brazil, North Macedonia and Germany. Many of these films, which will be shown with subtitles, have been released in the past two years. They will be shown on Tuesday evenings at 19:45 at The Bacon Theatre.

There are two films of particular note, 'The Secret Agent', which is an award-winning Brazilian/French political drama set in the turmoil of Brazil in the 1970s, and the pre-Christmas first half of the season closes with 'Hen'. This is a German/Greek/Hungarian co-production that looks at events of the world from the viewpoint of three hens! A clever, engaging and amusing film, that tackles some dark topics in a creative way. It was filmed using Artificial Intelligence (AI) or Computer-Generated Images in real locations.

Admission to our showings is via membership of the Society, and members are entitled to bring two guests.

Full membership details can be found on the CFS website: <https://www.cheltenhamfilmsociety.com/>



News From

Churchdown Choral Society

A welcome taste of works by lesser-known female composers

This term, which started on Thursday 3rd September, is going to be a very exciting one for Churchdown Choral Society. On Saturday 10th October we are hosting our very first 'Come and Sing' event. We shall be meeting at St John's Church Hall in Churchdown to sing some choral classics, otherwise known as absolute bangers of choral singing, including works by Mozart, Handel, Franck, Faure and Bruckner. Tickets are available from Ticketsource, just search for Churchdown Choral. Once that is done, we shall be starting on our Christmas programme. This is going to be very exciting!

Thanks to a grant we have received from Cheltenham Arts Council, we will be focusing on works by women composers. The grant of £350 from the CAC's Trafford Fund, has enabled us to purchase a range of music from the charity Multitude of Voyces, which promotes the music of marginalised composers. You will be able to hear some of that music at our Christmas concert, including works by Elizabeth Poston. Other music we have been able to purchase features works by Rani Arbo, Olivia Sparkhill and Anita Datta, and we hope you will enjoy listening to this at our Easter concert.

Liz Kirkham



News From

Churchdown Male Voice Choir

Celebrating success in reaching out to younger singers

The Churchdown Male Voice Choir sings mainly in Gloucestershire, and has a strong and loyal following across the county. The choir raises funds for charitable causes and provides a welcoming, supportive group for men to enjoy singing and socialising. Through tapping into the renewed interest in choirs in recent years, we want to broaden the appeal of singing by attracting young people to the joys and benefits of belonging to a choir. In the past year, the choir has sung with local schools in joint musical activities. Many of our current choristers first heard us at our concerts.

In December 2025, we sang Christmas carols with Coopers Edge Primary school. The arrangements used were made by one of our choristers, who is also a teacher. He reported that the children were buzzing with excitement after this performance. The choir was then invited to join a school assembly to sing for the children and teachers. We also taught the children a chorus and showed them how to engage with an audience.

The choir sang A Million Dreams, from The Greatest Showman (2017), with a choir from Hillview Primary school at a concert in Gloucester Cathedral. This must certainly have been a memorable event for all the children and their parents.

The choir is currently reviewing its repertoire and consciously learning songs that appeal to a younger audience – under 40s! With the generosity of the Ann Trafford Foundation, administered by Cheltenham Arts Council, we purchased a four-part score of 'Pure Imagination' from the musical Wonka (2023). Now all we need do, is dress our soloist as Willy Wonka!

Once again, I would like to thank all those involved in the Cheltenham Arts Council. If you would like to see our own Willy Wonka, backed by sixty or so strong male voices, and examples of our wider repertoire, please take a look at <https://www.churchdownmvc.org/>.

David Gamble, Hon. Secretary, CMVC



Realistic hope of a new future for

Lansdown Art Studios

From the Brink to a New Beginning

Just a few months ago, Perspectives shared the story of the final 25 artists at Lansdown Art Studios facing the loss of their long-established home as redevelopment of the Lansdown Industrial Estate moved forward. The future of Cheltenham's largest independent artists' collective looked uncertain.

Today, there is a much more positive story to tell. Following months of discussions, campaigning and community support, a new home has been identified for Lansdown Art Studios at Unit 23 on the estate, and a planning application submitted. While planning approval is still to be confirmed, this is an important step forward and gives the artists a real opportunity to create a new, permanent home for the studios. The new space will need transforming from an empty industrial unit into a vibrant working environment for artists. This will involve substantial refurbishment and fit-out.

The artists are therefore continuing to raise funds to help make the new studios a reality. You can support the campaign through the Lansdown Art Studios via:

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/lansdownartstudios>

There will also be plenty of opportunities to support the artists by visiting their exhibitions and buying their work:

The **Christmas Art Festival** begins with an Preview on Friday 27th November, 4-7pm, followed by the Main Exhibition over the first weekend. There will also be **Christmas Late Shopping** on Wednesday 2nd December, 4-7pm, followed by the Final Weekend on Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th December, 10am-5pm.

Every purchase will provide valuable support for the artists and contribute towards the refurbishment of their new home. A huge thank you to everyone who has supported Lansdown Art Studios so far, our supporters, visitors, customers and contributors to our refurbishment fund, your encouragement and generosity have made a real difference. We could not have reached this point without you.

An Update From

Cheltenham German Club

The Latest Club Activities



Since reporting events in the summer edition of Perspectives the German Club has presented only one further talk before the summer break. In May, the lecture was given by Dr Elystan Griffiths MA (Cantab), PhD, SFHEA from the Department of Modern Languages at the University of Birmingham.

Dr Griffiths' research focuses on the relationship between social and political inequalities and German culture in the period between 1750 and 1850. This is a summary of the lecture he gave to the German Club:

Freedom of thought was undoubtedly one of the fundamental values of the Enlightenment.



Political revolutions took place in both the United States and France during the late 18th century. At the same time, many considered obedience indispensable. Dr Griffiths's talk addressed precisely this apparent contradiction between the values of obedience and freedom around 1800.

His aim was to show that these values were generally perceived not as opposites, but as entirely compatible.

On 31st May, the German Club contributed a stall to the Summer Festival held in Sandford Park and organised by Friends of Sandford Park. The purpose of the festival was to help raise funds towards paying for the renovation of the children's playground. The stall was a great success, as was the festival itself. Many people with an interest in the language and culture of German speaking peoples spoke of their own personal connections and were sometimes surprised to know that such a Club existed in Cheltenham. A very distinguished visitor to the stall was Petra Broistedt, the Mayor of Göttingen. Accompanied by Klaas Kunst, her Director of International Affairs, and Martin Horwood, the Mayor of Cheltenham, she was in Cheltenham for the 'Cutting of the Turf' in the western area of the park. The ceremony was being held on that day to inaugurate work on the creation of a revived Göttingen Garden.

<https://www.cheltgesell.uk>

A Major Autumn Exhibition at

Holst's Victorian House

**Unseen works by Gothic and Romantic artist
Theodor von Holst to go on display in
Cheltenham**



Spanish Lady, Royal Academy 1843

The artist's last 'Romantic stunner' painting, modelled on his wife

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This autumn, Holst Victorian House will stage a major exhibition exploring the life, work and influence of Theodor von Holst, great-uncle of composer Gustav Holst. The first artist to illustrate Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, Theodor also created striking images of the supernatural and of enigmatic women which anticipated the work of the Pre-Raphaelites.

Running from 10th October 2026 to 30th May 2027, Theodor von Holst: From *Frankenstein* to the Pre-Raphaelites will bring together more than ten works from private collections, including a recently discovered self-portrait and his dramatic *Spanish Lady*. Displayed in the Museum's Victorian Drawing Room and Bedroom alongside works from its permanent collection, the exhibition will offer a rare opportunity to encounter Theodor's art in an intimate period setting.

The exhibition co-curator and Theodor von Holst expert Max Browne explains here how his interest in the artist began and traces Theodor's return to public attention.

It was exactly half a century ago that Imogen Holst took me to lunch on a park bench at Pittville Lawn, Cheltenham. Since then, the Museum she founded to honour her father, at his birthplace in Clarence Road, has flourished, now offering visitors a full Victorian domestic experience, in addition to the musical inheritance devoted to her famous father Gustav.

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/Theodor von Holst Exhibition. Continues.

Alongside the composer's success runs that of another member of the family, Gustav's great-uncle Theodor. He was a brilliant London-born artist who became a student at the Royal Academy at only fourteen and, a few years later, the first illustrator of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*.

As a Romantic painter Theodor was so imaginative and accomplished that the leader of the Pre-Raphaelites, Dante Gabriel Rossetti, wrote his first published poem about a mysterious painting by the artist. His comrades were equally impressed and often dined out at a particular Beak Street restaurant because it was hung with his pictures.



Hero and Leander, Royal Academy 1840 engraving (a characteristic vivacious subject merging Classic with Romantic idioms).



Frankenstein, a Frontispiece for the first popular edition of 1831 (influenced by Michelangelo's **Creation of Man**).

Unfortunately, Theodor died four years before the PRB members met and formed their seminal alliance, but his influence continued. Further discoveries of Theodor's many known lost works will, no doubt, reveal more fully the work of the artist they so admired. its presentation as we did in putting it all together.

(Ends)



A revised edition of Eric Miller's history

Leckhampton Local History Society

Leckhampton Court - from Manor House to Hospice

Historical studies in Leckhampton cover everything from the Iron Age Hill Fort to the new Co-op, and all points in between. A subject of enduring interest has been Leckhampton Court, once the principal Manor House of the village and now the home of the Sue Ryder Leckhampton Hospice. It has also been a private residence, a WW1 hospital, a military camp, a prisoner-of-war camp, a school and a ruin. Leckhampton Local History Society has recently published a revised history of the Court by distinguished local historian Eric Miller, who was awarded the Cheltenham Arts Council's Joyner Cup in 2024. The book was formally launched at the Sue Ryder National Garden Scheme Open Garden event in June, with an introductory address by Sir Henry Elwes, former Lord Lieutenant of Gloucestershire, whose family owned the Court in the early 1900s.



This occasion was also the first opportunity to show some display panels compiled by LLHS Research Coordinator, Becky Dine, to give an illustrated overview of the history of the Court. These panels had been printed and laminated with the aid of a grant awarded by the Cheltenham Arts Council, providing a durable display that can be used at events over the next several years. There is great public interest in the Court and affection for it, not least due to its current role as a hospice. Its earlier history, however, is less well known and the panels certainly attracted a lot of attention on the day. Many thanks to the CAC for their generous support.

Eric's book is available to purchase from the Sue Ryder Leckhampton Hospice, with all profits going to support the work of the hospice.

Stephen Gale
Leckhampton Local History Society

Leckhampton Court: Early History

The Early Manor House

The earliest part of the Court is the central section which had medieval origins.

The Giffard family were Lords of the Manor from the early 14th Century and are believed to have built the first stone manor house there. It had a Great Hall open to the rafters and private and domestic quarters.



Detail from an engraving by Johannes Kip, 1712

Tudor Times

In the late 15th Century the manor passed to the Norwood family. During the reign of the Tudor monarchs two more wings were added to the original hall, creating a 'U' shaped building.

The south wing still has the typical half-timbered construction, visible from inside the courtyard.



*The 'Tudor' wing
Image: Becky Dine*

Georgian: 'In the Modern Taste'

A fire in 1732 caused significant damage and most of the north wing was demolished. At the end of the east (central) wing, a Georgian mansion was built in the latest style, with elegant parlours and chambers, leaving a gap between it and the 'cottage' on the end.



*Engraving by Samuel Lysons, 1793, showing a corner of the Georgian wing (back left)
Image: LLHS archive.*



*Engraving from 'Norman's History of Cheltenham' showing the Georgian wing, seen from the road
Image: LLHS archive*

This panel has been supported by CBC and Cheltenham Arts Council



National Recognition for Local Teacher

Nethra Academy of Performing Arts

Dr Gayathiri Gowri Shankar of NAPA awarded the title 'Natya Kala Nipuna'

Dr Gayathiri Gowri Shankar has been awarded the prestigious title **Natya Kala Nipuna** by the Oriental Fine Arts Academy of London (OFAAL), in recognition of her significant contribution to Indian performing arts, particularly Bharatanatyam, and her community engagement.

The title was presented to Dr Gayathiri during the OFAAL Annual Graduation Ceremony 2026, held in February, recognising her dedication to promoting, teaching and performing Bharatanatyam and her commitment to nurturing the next generation of artists in the UK.

Dr Gayathiri is currently a Senior Associate Director at a multinational company and, alongside her professional career, plays an active role in the community and in cultural activities. She serves as a co-opted Governor at Pate's Grammar School, Cheltenham, and is a member of the executive committee of Cheltenham Arts Council. She is also the founder of Nethra Academy of Performing Arts (NAPA) in Gloucestershire.

Promoting Bharatanatyam and Indian Classical Arts

Driven by her passion for dance and the preservation of traditional Indian performing arts, Dr Gayathiri founded NAPA in 2018. The academy provides training in Bharatanatyam, Carnatic Vocal and Mridangam, creating opportunities for students in Gloucestershire and

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/Nethra Academy of Performing Arts. Continues.

Wiltshire to learn and develop their skills in traditional Indian arts. Since 2019, she has also been teaching Bharatanatyam through the Swindon Tamil Association (STA) in Wiltshire.

Dr Gayathiri holds several Bharatanatyam titles from India and has performed extensively in support of community and charitable initiatives. In 2021, she participated in an official Guinness World Records attempt for a large-scale Varnam Bharatanatyam performance under the guidance of her guru, Kalaimamani Madurai R. Muralidharan. She also holds many world and Guinness records.

Her students, from both NAPA and the STA, undertake annual grading examinations through the OFAAL board. NAPA has also become the first academy in the south-west region to offer the Trinity College Arts Award (TCAA) in Bharatanatyam and Mridangam.

Inspiring the Next Generation

Dr Gayathiri's commitment to arts education extends to her own family. In 2016, under her guidance, and at the age of just 16, her daughter, Dr Thrinethra Gowri Shankar, a trained Bharatanatyam dancer and teacher, became the first student in the UK to achieve a Gold Arts Award in Bharatanatyam.

At the age of 15, her son, Shashish Gowri Shankar, subsequently became the first student in the UK to achieve a Gold Arts Award in Mridangam with TCAA.

Every year, NAPA supports students undertaking Arts Awards at various levels. The Academy was also recognised by TCAA in 2025 for the quality of its students' portfolio submissions.

Recognition for Teaching and Community Service

Dr Gayathiri's contribution to Indian performing arts goes beyond teaching and performance. She has consistently used the arts as a platform for community engagement, charitable fundraising and cultural exchange.

One notable performance took place at The Playhouse, Cheltenham, where she brought together Indian classical and folk dance with western performing arts. This sold-out event raised funds to establish a bursary supporting young Ukrainian refugees. This is the very first local event to bring together both western and eastern arts under one-roof.

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/Nethra Academy of Performing Arts. Continues.

Speaking about her journey, Dr Gayathiri said:

"Dance has shaped my thinking, creativity and well-being, through choreographing numerous pieces and presenting them at prestigious venues across the UK. I constantly create platforms for students to perform and explore not only Bharatanatyam but also other dance forms, giving them opportunities to broaden their artistic journey."

"Bharatanatyam, the oldest classical dance form from Tamil Nadu, India, continues to thrive globally. Our academy instils traditional values and shares my knowledge and experience in Bharatanatyam with the next generation. We are nurturing young artists and performers, carrying forward a proud tradition that has flourished for centuries and will continue for generations to come."

Dr Gayathiri also expressed her appreciation to OFAAL for providing a structured examination system that encourages students in the UK to pursue traditional Indian arts, and to the UK Dance Awards for recognising her teaching contribution.

Finalist for UK Dance Awards 'Teacher of the Year'

Adding to an already significant year of recognition, Dr Gayathiri was selected in July 2026 as one of the finalists for 'Teacher of the Year' at the UK Dance Awards 2026. The awards ceremony will take place in London on 4th October 2026.

About Nethra Academy of Performing Arts (NAPA)

Founded by Dr Gayathiri and Dr Thrinethra Gowri Shankar in 2018, Nethra Academy of Performing Arts (NAPA) is based in Gloucestershire and provides training and performance opportunities in Bharatanatyam, Carnatic Vocal and Mridangam. The academy aims to preserve traditional Indian performing arts while creating opportunities for students to develop their artistic skills and pursue recognised qualifications and awards.

Gowri Shankar Kothandarama

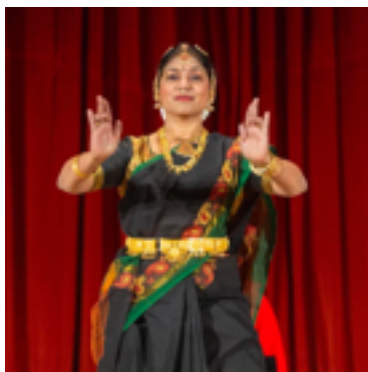
Head of Operations, Nethra Academy of Performing Arts (NAPA)

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/Nethra Academy of Performing Arts.

The Pumproom will be all aglow in November for Diwali and dance

This November, the Pittville Pump Room will glow for 'Diwali by Candlelight', a unique and magical event in aid of the Mayor's charities – and a genuine treat for anyone who loves live performance. Expect classical *Bharatanatyam* at its finest: dancers from Gloucestershire's own Nethra Academy will share the stage with internationally acclaimed guest artist Anusha Subramanyam, bringing centuries-old storytelling to life through intricate footwork, expressive gesture and live Indian classical music. A hand-crafted *mandala* artwork will take shape during the evening, and Mumbai N Co's street food promises a truly delicious accompaniment.



This is a rare chance to see world-class Indian classical dance right here in the Regency splendour of the Pump Room – while supporting three brilliant local causes: Young Gloucestershire, supporting local young people facing real challenges in their lives; ITSA Digital Trust, tackling digital exclusion in Africa and the UK; and Art for All Mental Health, using creativity to support wellbeing.

https://cheltenhamtownhall.org.uk/home/booking/?instance_id=875970



Left to Right: Marc Titley,
Cathie Rolinson, Taya
Davison

A nursemaid narrowly averts a great loss to English music!

Parrot Productions

A new production to view online

'The Curious Incident of the Man and the Pram' is the title of a new short film produced by Parrot Productions for this year's Cheltenham Heritage Open Days. It tells a remarkable true story that occurred in 1875, around the time of Gustav Holst's first birthday.

Gustav was taken for a stroll in his pram along Winchcombe Street, just around the corner from his home in Clarence Road. He was accompanied by his mother Clara and his nursemaid, Alice Speechy. Walking at some point towards them were two Pittville Circus residents, Henry Swinhoe and his wife.

That's when the unthinkable happened: Henry tried to knock over the pram by pushing his stick between the spokes of the wheels! Apparently, Mr Swinhoe didn't like prams! The locals knew it, and Mrs Holst had already warned the nursemaid of Henry's antipathy. The young girl reacted swiftly and managed to prevent the pram from overturning, suffering a sprained wrist in the process.



Left to Right: Taya Davison, Marc Titley

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/Parrot Productions. Continues

On Saturday 20th November 1875, Henry Swinhoe was summoned to appear before Cheltenham Police Court, accused of assaulting Alice Speechy. After hearing evidence from a witness (Mr Skinner, a local greengrocer), the bench determined that Mr Swinhoe and his wife Imogen were guilty of failing to give way and causing an obstruction in a narrow part of Winchcombe Street.

Adolph, Gustav's father, was outraged by the incident, stating that Henry Swinhoe should know that little children in perambulators, and maids in charge of them, had as much right upon pavements as he had.



Left to Right: Cathie Rolinson, Taya Davison

Adolph also recognised that his son would probably have died if it had not been for the bravery of Alice. Henry Swinhoe was ordered to pay a fine of £2 10s 6d, the equivalent of around £300 today.

That, in a nutshell, is what the film is about! Written by David Elder and brilliantly acted by Taya Davison (playing Alice), Cathie Rolinson (playing Clara) and Marc Titley (playing Henry), the docudrama was filmed by Neil Smith (S.O.S. Film / Photography / Sound) with supplementary film footage produced by Duncan Tincello and David Elder.

The film is accessible via YouTube, the Cheltenham Civic Society website, and via www.davidelder.net. Parrot Productions are most grateful to the following: Holst Victorian House, Neil Smith (SOS Film Video), Cotswold Working Horses at Alstone for facilitating the filming of their horses and carts, Sarah Harvey of ArtWorks for her graphic design of the title logo, and to Cheltenham Arts Council for a contribution to funding.

The film can be viewed on YouTube at the following URL:
<https://youtu.be/AUBLHlmjbzl?si=kqmWMnLWEwEOilc4>

Alternatively, simply search for 'The Curious Incident of the Man and the Pram'.



Young Musician Concerts

Cheltenham Music Festival Society

in collaboration with The Cheltenham Trust

Cheltenham Music Festival Society presents another series of Young Musician Concerts, giving musicians at the start of their journeys the chance to perform solo or in school groups. All concerts are in Pittville Pump Room at 1pm on Tuesdays.

22 September	Diana Galvydyte {violin}
29 September	Tim Rumsey {piano}
6 October	Denmark Road High School, Gloucester
13 October	Pate's Grammar School
3 November	Solihull School
10 November	Cheltenham Ladies' College
17 November	Jonathan Parkin {guitar}
24 November	Bridget Yee {piano}
1 December	Ashok Gupta {piano}

Cheltenham Music Festival Society has presented more than 200 of these concerts since 2017. Entrance is free; donations are invited to help cover the cost of hiring the venue and the travel expenses of the kind performers.

Contact: Andrew Auster (a.auster30@gmail.com)

Cheltenham Music Festival Society is a registered charity number 281044. It was established in 1948 to sponsor the annual July Festival. If you wish to join, please contact the Society's Membership Secretary: cmfsmembership@outlook.com