

osj  
ORCHESTRA OF ST JOHN'S

ORCHESTRATING AUTISTIC LIVES



# Spring Concerts

January to June 2026

**Ryan Wang**

**BBC Young Musician 2024**

**Beethoven Piano  
Concerto No 1**

14 February  
Dorchester Abbey

[osj.org.uk](http://osj.org.uk)

**Saturday 17 January**, 7pm  
Dorchester Abbey

## Faure and Shostakovich

**Shostakovich** *Piano concerto No 2*

**Mendelssohn** *No 3 Scottish symphony*

**Faure** *Pelléas and Mélisande*

*Piano Concerto No 2* is a jubilant, humorous work composed for Shostakovich's son, featuring a lyrical slow movement and a finale full of clownish energy. The *Scottish Symphony* is a musical journey inspired by Mendelssohn's visit to Scotland in 1829, capturing its landscapes, folklore, and history. *Pelléas et Mélisande* is a suite of incidental music for Maeterlinck's symbolist play - a love triangle which leads to tragedy, jealousy, and death.



**Rupert Egerton-Smith** *piano*

**Orchestra of St John's**

**Saturday 7 February**, 6pm  
Dorchester Abbey

## Concert of classical and jazz music by autistic performers

Following the great success of this concert last year, another inclusive evening with Derek Paravicini and friends featuring young performers across the spectrum of neurodiversity.

Guest appearances

**Derek Paravicini** *piano*

**Ashleigh Turley** *piano*  
with

**Hannah Davey** *soprano*

**Poppy McGhee** *violin*



**Saturday 14 February**, 7pm  
Dorchester Abbey

## Beethoven

**Coriolan overture**

**Piano concerto No 1 in C major, Op. 15**

**Symphony No 7**

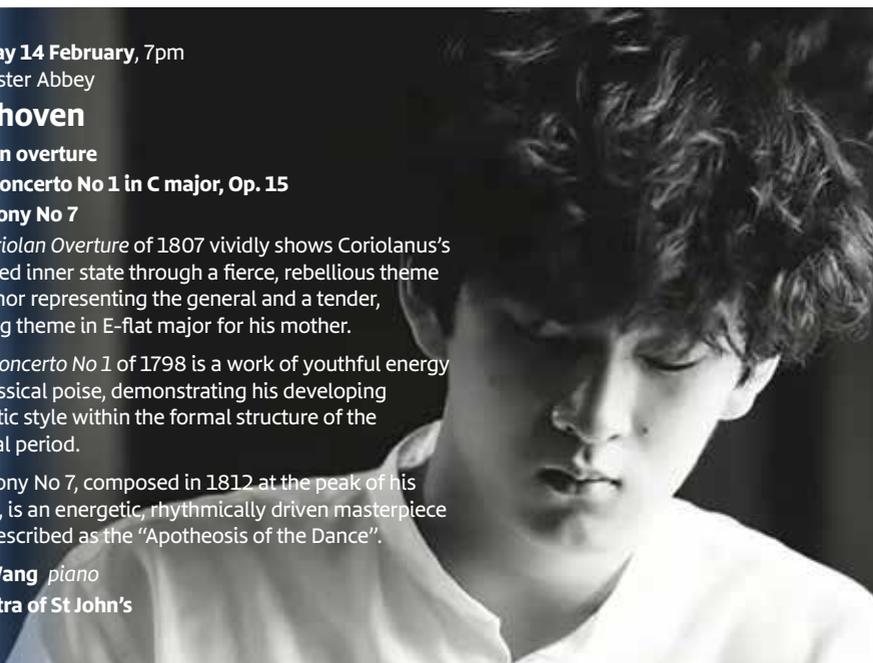
The *Coriolan Overture* of 1807 vividly shows Coriolanus's conflicted inner state through a fierce, rebellious theme in C minor representing the general and a tender, pleading theme in E-flat major for his mother.

*Piano Concerto No 1* of 1798 is a work of youthful energy and classical poise, demonstrating his developing Romantic style within the formal structure of the Classical period.

Symphony No 7, composed in 1812 at the peak of his powers, is an energetic, rhythmically driven masterpiece often described as the "Apotheosis of the Dance".

**Ryan Wang** *piano*

**Orchestra of St John's**



**Saturday 21 March**, 7pm  
Dorchester Abbey

## Walton and Rachmaninov

**Rachmaninov** *Motet for choir*

**Walton** *Viola concerto*

**Rachmaninov** *Symphony No 2*

Walton's *Viola Concerto* is a 20th-century masterpiece for the "Cinderella instrument" of the viola, known for its melancholic opening, brisk scherzo, and eloquent epilogue.

'*Rach 2*' is a long, glorious, and deeply melodic Romantic symphony with soaring melodies, rich orchestral sound, and passionate, brooding atmosphere.

**Rosalind Ventrís** *viola*

**OSJ Voices**

**Orchestra of St John's**



**Good Friday 3 April**, 7pm  
Dorchester Abbey

## The Lost Music of Auschwitz

Including *The List*, a film by Leo Geyer

**Schumann** *Träumerei*

**Strauss** *Metamorphosen*

**Bloch** *From Jewish life*

How can there be music in the worst place in the world? Told through the words of victims of the camp who played and created music during the terrors of the Holocaust, this film shows how, in the most brutal and dehumanising situations, music could be a lifeline, a way to give testimony and even a way to resist.

*Träumerei* (Dreaming) from the 1838 piano cycle *Kinderszenen* (Scenes from Childhood) is a deeply sentimental and introspective composition, the gentle melody evoking a mood of quiet contemplation, nostalgia, and the bittersweet warmth of a childhood memory.

*Metamorphosen* (1845) is an elegiac, extended-movement work for 23 solo strings, that serves as a



lament for the destruction of German culture and a mourning of the Nazi regime's defeat

*From Jewish Life* is a 1924 set of three pieces for cello and piano by Ernest Bloch, a Swiss-American composer whose work was deeply influenced by his Jewish heritage.

**Raphael Wallfisch** *cello*

**Orchestra of St John's**

## Support OSJ

When you buy a ticket, please consider adding a donation to support our Music for Autism, hospital Serenading and Young Artists programmes.

Free tickets available for disabled and for NHS staff.

"Our aim is to bring music of the highest quality to a wide range of different audiences, especially to those who don't have easy access to it. The best has to be there for all!"

John Lubbock OBE Artistic Director

**Saturday 16 May**, 7pm  
Dorchester Abbey

## Mozart

**Alma dei creatoris**  
**Horn concerto No 3 in E flat**  
**Veni Sancte Spiritus**  
**Sinfonia Concertante for**  
**violin and viola**

*Alma dei creatoris* is a sacred motet from 1777.

*Horn Concerto No 3* of 1787 for natural horn, features an elegant first movement with a solo cadenza, a poised “Romance” slow movement, and a lively, hunting-inspired rondo finale.

*Veni, Sancte Spiritus (Come, Holy Spirit)* is a medieval Latin hymn and prayer.

The *Sinfonia Concertante* for strings is a rich and complex piece featuring solo violin and viola that emerged from his quest for artistic freedom in 1779.

**Nicholas Korth** horn  
**Jan Schmolck** violin,  
**Roger Chase** viola  
**OSJ Voices**  
**Orchestra of St John's**



Nicholas Korth

**Saturday 13 June**, 7pm  
Dorchester Abbey

## England and Empire

**Vaughan Williams** *Symphony No 5*  
**Walton** *Crown Imperial* overture  
**Elgar** *Cello Concerto*

Vaughan Williams *Symphony No 5* is a serene and contemplative work, often called the “Celestial City,” completed in 1943 during World War II, which offers a pastoral and mysterious sound world that contrasts with the previous Fourth Symphony.

Walton's *Crown Imperial*, a grand orchestral march from the 1937 Coronation of King George VI, is a staple of British state occasions.

Elgar's *Cello Concerto*, written after World War I, is a deeply personal and elegiac work in contrast with his earlier more bombastic style.

**Raphael Wallfisch** cello  
**Orchestra of St John's**



Raphael Wallfisch

We are enormously grateful to our sponsors: David and Marie-Jane Barnett, Rick and Amanda Rowse, Ian and Caroline Laing, Michael Peagram, Sir Martin and Lady Elise Smith, Bernard and Sarah Taylor.

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Tickets: [www.osj.org.uk](http://www.osj.org.uk)

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