

University of Kent

# TALES AT CHRISTMAS!

## A weekend of seasonal musical adventures

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**www.kent.ac.uk/music**

## PLEASE NOTE

**Recording or photography of any kind is not permitted during the performance**

**Please ensure that mobile phones and alarms are switched off**

ICCI
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University of Kent

# *Tales at Christmas!*
# a weekend of seasonal musical adventures

**COLYER-FERGUSSON HALL**
Friday 4 December, 17:15
and
Saturday 5 December, 19:30

## Concert Band
**Ian Swatman** director

## **Chorus** and **Symphony Orchestra**
**Michelle Harris** mezzo-soprano
**Simon Thorpe** baritone
**Daniel Harding** conductor

Welcome aboard two nights of festive musical adventures and tales-weaving, as the Music Department presents its Christmas weekend, featuring the University Concert Band, Chorus, Orchestra and soloists.

Our Friday night opener is a family concert featuring music from film and television performed by Concert Band, a chance for listeners both young and old to come together and discover the instruments of the ensemble.

Saturday night explores seasonal tales, the heart of which is Bob Chilcott's retelling of the story of Good King Wenceslas, with wonderful colours and drama, pitching the soloists, in the roles of the Page and King Wenceslas, into the heart of a bitter winter for an act of charity; two orchestral interludes depict the dark and the bright side of winter. The Saturday programme also includes Rimsky-Korsakov's energetic 'Dance of the Tumblers' from *The Snow Maiden*; a vivid depiction of a medieval frost fair on the River Thames by Michael Short; and a suite of carols by Canterbury-based composer, Stephen Matthews, whom we are delighted to welcome to the concert.

Wrap up warm and come with us across two nights of musical story-telling...

**Dan Harding** and **Sophie Meikle**

# **Programme**
## Friday 4 December, 17:15

### **Concert Band** directed by **Ian Swatman**

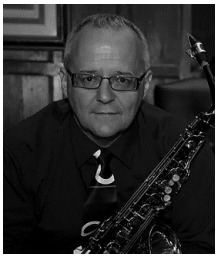
### ***A Concert Band Christmas: Meet the Band!***

From dinosaurs to gladiators, plundering with Caribbean pirates wielding a lightsaber in a galaxy far, far away, or marching with Captain America, join us on an odyssey through music for the silver screen!

Programme to include:

| | |
|---|---|
| **Alan Silvestri arr. Michael Brown** | *Captain America* March |
| **Hans Zimmer** | Symphonic highlights from *Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End* |
| **John Williams** | *Jurassic Park* soundtrack highlights |
| **Julius Fucik** | *Entry of the Gladiators* |
| **John Williams** | Symphonic Suite from *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* |





## IAN SWATMAN
Director, Concert Band

Ian arrived in Canterbury in 1981 and apart from an eight year 'interval,' he has been here ever since.

Following a year at the prestigious National Centre for Orchestral Studies based at Goldsmiths College, Ian worked as a freelance player in a host of different genres from ballet orchestras, chamber music ensembles, West End productions and, as a member of 'Spats Dillinger and the Buzzing Half Dozen' playing at leading jazz festivals across Europe. Summers were spent busking in St Tropez, many hilarious stories and experiences that cannot be disclosed here!

Music education is very important to Ian. He has enjoyed considerable success as a teacher with pupils attending leading conservatoires, playing in the National Youth Orchestra and all the county ensembles. He feels eternally lucky to have been a pupil of the legendary clarinettist Jack Brymer who inspired him to follow the musical road.

Ian recently retired as Head of Performance at St Edmund's School Canterbury and he was very proud of the recent award of Independent School of the Year for Performing Arts. Ian also established the 'Festival on the Hill' which combines pupil events with international recognised performers including Courtney Pine, Jess Gillam and Curtis Stigers.

Ian is very proud of his roots being born in Hull and spends as much time as he can (too much!) travelling the country following Hull City – The Tigers!

He has a VERY understanding wife, Alison and two daughters, Molly and Ella who tolerate him…oh and a dog, Ashbee (named after a Hull City captain!)

# Programme
## Saturday 5 December, 19:30

**University Chorus and Orchestra**
**Jo Saul** leader

**Michelle Harris** mezzo-soprano
**Simon Thorpe** baritone
**Daniel Harding** conductor

### *Tales at Christmas!*

| | |
|---|---|
| **Rimsky-Korsakov** | 'Dance of the Tumblers' from *The Snow Maiden* |
| **Stephen Matthews** | *A Carol-Medley* |
| **Johann Strauss II** | *Tales from the Vienna Woods* |

### Interval

| | |
|---|---|
| **Michael Short** | *The Frost Fair* |
| **Bob Chilcott** | *Wenceslas* |

i Wintertide
ii Who can that be ?
iii Forth they went
iv Interlude: Winter Dark
v Sleeping in winter's arms
vi Thank you
vii Fanfare: Winter Bright
viii On Saint Stephen's Night

Tonight's concert opens with the bustling energy of Rimsky-Korsakov's **'Dance of the Tumblers;'** originally from the opera *The Snow Maiden*, first performed in 1882, the dance opens Act III and depicts traditional Russian musicians, dancers and acrobats entertaining the villagers. The dance theme continues in ***Tales from the Vienna Woods***, written in 1868 by Johnann Strauss II, and consists of a series of five waltzes and a closing coda, inspired by the woodlands at the eastern foothills of the Alps. The scene is set with bird-calls, horn-calls, and a stately *ländler*, a style of music from south Austria, before the waltz episodes come in dancing succession.

The first half finishes with ***A Carol-Medley***, a sequence of four popular carols written by Canterbury-based composer, Stephen Matthews; the brooding drama of 'O come, o come, Emmanuel' gives way to a light-footed version of 'On Christmas night all Christians sing;' this in turn gives way to a richly-sonorous treatment of 'Truth from Above,' before a deft incarnation of 'Angelus ad virginem' builds to an irresistible conclusion.

We open the second half with the wintry vision of ***The Frost Fair*** by Michael Short (1937-2023), a composer who attended Gillingham Grammar School and studied engineering at Bristol University; he later studied at Morley College and with the composer Sir Lennox Berkely, and held a Fellowship in Composition at Trinity College, Dublin. The piece opens as dawn breaks on a frozen River Thames, which slowly comes to life as a frost fair is set up, with dancing, drinking and other medieval pursuits lasting until dusk settles, and people slowly leave the ice as the light dwindles. The skirling, haunting opening melody, first heard on the flute, effectively evokes both the winter-cold and the medieval scene, recurring throughout the piece in various guises, including in brooding fashion for low brass.

Our concert concludes in colourful fashion with ***Wenceslas***, a retelling of the story of the Good King and his Page setting out into a winter storm to bring cheer to a man lost in the forest. The popular carol-tune appears throughout the piece, and two orchestral interludes depict the harsh winter darkness, and the contrasting bright warmth of a winter fire.

continued >>

The choir's bustling energy at the start leads into the King and Page setting out into the storm armed with provisions as the choir urges them on; the Page muses in a dream-state about the nature of generosity; and the piece ends with the warmth of winter fireside hospitality extended to all, young or old; it's time to come in from the cold.

We are hugely grateful to Elliot Huxtable, director of the Canterbury Shakespeare Festival, for bringing his visionary theatrical direction to tonight's performance of *Wenceslas*, and to the technicians for their support with lighting.

Wrap up warmly and come with us into the winter dark!





## Michelle Harris

Michelle Harris (mezzo soprano) is a post-graduate of the Royal Academy of Music, supported by scholarships and prizes, including the Jennifer Vyvian Scholarship, Isabel Jay Opera Prize and the Oppenheim- Downs Memorial Fund. She was a Finalist in the 2002 Wagner Society Competition.

An experienced international operatic and concert soloist, she has worked for companies including Opera National de Lyon and Laboratorio Voci in Canti in Rome. Michelle created the role of Sesto in the live televised world premiere of Cavalli's *Pompeo Magno* (Croatia), conducted by Paul Esswood. She has worked under the batons of Frans Bruggen, Kent Nagano, Louis Langree, Martin Fitzpatrick and Mark Minkowski.

In the UK, Michelle has been engaged as a professional singer by companies such as Kent Opera, Bampton Classical Opera, English Touring Opera and the Consort of Twelve. She works as a freelance soloist for various festivals such as Presteigne, Chichester, Lower Machen, Canterbury and Bushey, as well as choral societies and orchestras.

Michelle has performed works from Cavalli through to Sondheim, including major Requiems by Mozart, Verdi (with Kings' School viewable on you tube) and Durufle, masses by Haydn, Rossini and Schubert and as a soloist with orchestra in mezzo repertoire, including Elgar's *Sea Pictures*, Respighi's *Il Tramonto*, Villa-Lobos' *Bachianas Brasilieras No 5* and Berlioz *Les Nuits D'Ete*. She has a solo disc of performances of rare Massenet songs, *melodies* by Faure, and Finzi's '*Let us garlands bring*'. She also premiered the role of the Quill in *Toads on a Tapestry*, a community oratorio celebrating the Magna Carta by local composer David Knotts.

Operatic roles have included Nina (Paisiello) Edward (Arne's *Alfred*), Dorabella (*Cosi*) Mercedes (*Carmen*) Azucena [*Il Trovatore*], Moglie dell'Orco (Henze's *Pollicino*).

Michelle works at the University of Kent teaching on the Music Scholarship Scheme and as a singing teacher at both Junior and Senior King's Schools, Canterbury, as well as running a private singing teaching practice.



## Simon Thorpe

Simon studied at the Guildhall School of Music and the National Opera Studio and his teacher is Robert Dean.

He has sung at the Sydney Opera House, The Royal Opera in London and in France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Singapore and Spain. He also works at English National Opera, Welsh National Opera, Opera North and Scottish Opera and many other quality, smaller opera companies. As a Heldenbaritone his operatic repertoire includes Puccini; Scarpia (*Tosca*), Michele (*Il Tabarro*), Jack Rance (*La fanciula del West*), Verdi; Rigoletto, Falstaff, Anckarström (*Un ballo in maschera*) and Wagner; Wotan, Gunter, Höllander, Telramund (*Lohengrin*). His recordings include Second Mate/ Arthur Jones (*Billy Budd*) with Kent Nagano on Erato and a more recent Opera Rara CD playing the role of Duclou in Leoncavallo's Zazá. He sings regularly in concert at major venues including the Barbican, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Royal Albert Hall and Bridgewater Hall.

Current and future plans include the title role in Noye's Fludde with Fat Lady Opera and the cover of Michele (*Il Tabarro*) for the Royal Ballet and Opera.



## Elliot Huxtable

Elliot Huxtable has been the Artistic Director of the Canterbury Shakespeare Festival since 2018, directing a variety of productions, both Shakespeare and contemporary in and out of the professional scene. His most recent productions include a full staging of Shakespeare's *The Wars of the Roses*, a production of Aphra Behn's *The City-Heiress* and Peter Shaffer's *Amadeus*, as well as a professional production of *Macbeth* with the Yerevan Chamber Theatre in Armenia, which will be coming on tour to the Gulbenkian in July 2027.



© Molly Hollman

## **Dan Harding** conductor

A former Music Scholar at Lancing College, Daniel read Music at York University, specialising in French piano repertoire. He was awarded a Major Research Fellowship in Conducting, after conducting Britten's first operetta, *Paul Bunyan*, working with Donald Mitchell, and Kurt Weill's *The Seven Deadly Sins*, as well as works by Mahler and Dvorak, as an undergraduate.

During his post-graduate studies, he went on to conduct the University Symphony and Chamber Orchestras, the University Choir and Chamber Choir, as well as various New Music ensembles. He also founded the Early Classical Orchestra, focusing on historically-informed performances from the period. He also conducted Steve Reich's *Tehillim* on the Contemporary Music Studies course at Bretton Hall College, Wakefield. Other roles have included Director of the Senior and Junior Choirs at York Minster Songschool, and a Lecturer in Music for ten years in Further Education.

As Head of Music Performance at the University of Kent, Dan conducts University Chorus, Symphony Orchestra, the Cecilian Choir, Minerva Voices, and (when the line-up permits), *General Harding's Tomfoolery*, a twelve-piece dance-band performing from original scores from the 1930's and 40's. Finding performing opportunities for students, staff and members of the local community takes Dan and University musicians into venues from Faversham to Wye, including singing Choral Evensong at Canterbury Cathedral and performances in the Cathedral Nave and Crypt. He also accompanies Music Scholars in recitals in Colyer-Fergusson Hall; together with the Music Administrator, he also curates the Lunchtime Concert series, a monthly series bringing professional musicians to the campus to perform and to work with students. Recent performances include Fauré's *Requiem*, Brahms Symphony no.4, Mendelssohn's *Die erste Walpurgisnacht*, Tchaikovsky's suite to *Swan Lake*, Haydn's *Nelson Mass*, Shostakovich *Symphony no.8*, and Dan Forrest's *Requiem for the Living*, as well as the first performance of Russell Hepplewhite's *Magnificat*, commissioned by the Music department in 2023.



## CONCERT BAND

Tamanna Anoop
Ana Arnold
Robert Bailey-Cliff
Sarah Bailey-Cliff
Thomas de Berry
Lola Bennett
Felix Black
Curtis Brooke
Morgane Collins
Andrew Cuthbert
Meg Daniel
Ethan Davis
Kevin Dickens
Polly Feeney
Henry Forsyth
Andy Friday
Annabel Fulcher
Katie Glover
Arwen Gooding
Lucy Hanford
Kurumi Hayashi
Heather Harrow
Hunter Herbert
Emily Higgs
Molly Holmes
Beth Hutchinson
Takako Ishida
Helen Isom
Rebecca Judges
James Kingsley
Helen Knight
Keith Lampard
Esther Lock
Jess Lockeretz
Steve McIntyre
Shahd Mohamed
Tamaki Okaichi
Cameron Pease
Holly Porton
Ashanti Proctor
Adam Rose
Kota Sekioka
Lili Šljapić
Paulina Torreblanca
Violet Vant



## CHORUS

**Repetiteur**
Matthew Raisbeck

**Sopranos**
Harriett Ashford
Paula Bell
Lyndall Bywater and Venus
Rosemary Cane
Sonia Copeland Bloom
Gema de Castro Santos
Fiona Earley
Carolyn Easterbrook
Evangelia Filippidi
Aniela Furlepa
Judi Gladman
Céline Hirschiu
Lea Johannesscu
Elizabeth Knell-Taylor
Elizabeth Knowles
Catharine Masters
Helen Matthews
Alison Mcleod
Callie Milton
Deborah Monje-Jelfs
Sandy Monaghan
Christina Moss
Emily Neighbour
Isobel Reed
Susan Roberts
Sally Robinson
Eleftheria Skrika-Alexopoulos
Ellen Swift
Julie Teulings
Kathryn Thomas
Denise Twomey
Donna Tynan
Caroline Vernazza
Virginia Webb
Hephzibah Wren

**Altos**
Helen Alaszewski
Nicky Allen
Chris Bilyard
Jill Bland
Lottie Bond
Rachel Borthwick
Lea Breinholt
Stpehanie Brunton
Sian Calnan
Louise Carter
Alison Coles
Mia Collacott
Jenny Dagley
Jane Drouot
Jennie du Toit
Noah Erasmus
Gemma Foord
Stephanie Forster
Linda Genower
Claire Goulding
Stephanie Green
Carol Hall
Cassie Haughton-James
Sarah Holliday
Jill Holliday
Folakemi Kareem
Mio Kimura
Varvara Kryhan
Valerija Lojenno
Valerie Moffit
Liz Mridha
Jan Pahl
Adrianna Perera
Lucy Pitfield
Pauline Sedneff
Amanda Sharman
Alison Swatman
Liz Thompson
Hannah Tudor
Gabriella van Bodegom
Rennie Vögt
Ros Waltho
Joyce Wilson
Helen Yuan

**Tenors**
John Cook
Helly Langley
Israel Mensah
Jan Montefiore
David Ormrod
Hex Roberts

**Basses**
John Allen
Mike Bartley
Richard Benzie
Chris Brealy
Phil Bywater
Edward Craven
Roshan Dosanjh
Mike Forrester
Eddie Gilmore
Hunter Herbert
Keith Lampard
Charles Lord
Julian Waltho
Kevin White

## SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

**Violin I**
Jo Saul* (leader)
Emily Su
Guy Wiggans
Clare Andrews
Stelios Chatziiosifidis
Olivia Harris-Harding
Verity Haslett
Louise Naylor
Jo Pearsall

**Violin II**
Holly Porton*
Millie Gibbins
Andrea Loft
Antony Dennant
Mick Norman

**Viola**
Sara Thorpe*
Jacob Bride
Susan Farrington
Ivan Illingworth
Emily Sayers

**Cello**
Emma Whitehead*
Marianne Dyer
Lauren Garner
Jess Lockeretz
Henry Tasker
Jonty Harris-Harding
Rebecca Murrell
Julia Vorhalik

**Bass**
Sophie Meikle*
Adam Beaman

**Flute**
Hunter Herbert
Lucy Hanford

**Oboe**
Ashanti Proctor
Rishi Gunaratnam
Dan Lloyd

**Clarinet**
Annabel Fulcher
Lili Šljapić
Ian Swatman

**Bassoon**
Arnold Greenfields

**French horn**
Helen Knight*
Cameron Pease
Katrina Lauder
Tracey Golding

**Trumpet**
Felix Black
Chi-Ting Lam

**Trombone**
Geoff Mason
Colin Reid

**Tuba**
Emily Higgs

**Percussion**
James Kingsley
Chris Murrell

**Harp**
Emma Murton

*denotes section leader

# University of Kent Music

gratefully acknowledges the support of the following individuals, friends, trusts and foundations and companies:

**Lifetime Benefactors**
The late Sir James Colyer-Fergusson
Colyer-Fergusson Charitable Trust
The late David Humphries

**Benefactors**
Margaret Anderson
Sonia Copeland Bloom
Pamela Cross
Professor Patrick Farrell
Furley Page Solicitors
Dr Nancy Gaffield
Alistair Gray
Roger Hutton and Karen Applegate
Professor Lyn Innes
Dr Keith Lampard
Sigrid Martin
Colin McLaren
Robert Miller
Emeritus Professor David Ormrod
Professor Jan Pahl
Richard Percival
Professor Clare Ungerson

**Legacy Bequests**
Cynthia Hawes
Carol Mary Vinson
Barry Wright

and for the donation in memory of the late alumna, Ed Tyler, to establish the E H Tyler Fund in support of flute-playing and general music performance activities.

We also remain grateful to all those who have planned to remember the University of Kent Music in their will and are very grateful for the support of our many anonymous benefactors.

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# Whatever you do… Make Music!

The University of Kent has a thriving programme of music-making for all students, together with staff and the local community – including a chorus, chamber choir, concert and big bands, symphony orchestra, jazz groups and music theatre. There is a whole range of concerts, both on the University campuses and also in the spectacular surroundings of Canterbury Cathedral. Workshops are held with internationally-acclaimed visiting musicians.





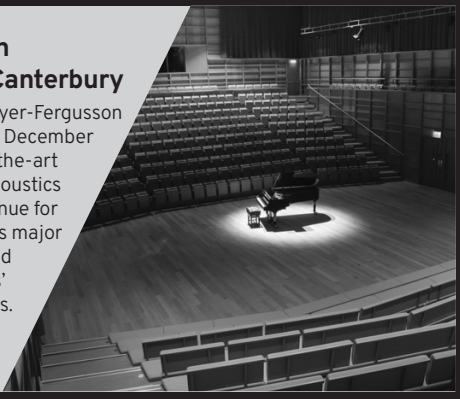






## Colyer-Fergusson Music Building, Canterbury

The award-winning Colyer-Fergusson Building was opened in December 2012. With its state-of-the-art facilities and flexible acoustics and seating, it is the venue for many of the University's major concerts and events and student music societies' rehearsals and activities.



## Music Scholarships

Music Scholarships, usually between £1,000-£2,000 a year, are awarded to talented singers and instrumentalists studying for any degree at the University.

## For further information

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