



Fleet Concert
Orchestra
performs a



Spring Orchestral Concert

In aid of All Saints Rebuilding Fund
Saturday 26th April 2025 at 7.30 pm
Church on the Heath

Conductor Andrew Gray, Leader Juliet Balch

Verdi: *Force of Destiny Overture*

Rachmaninov: *Piano Concerto No 2 in C minor*
opus 18 - soloist Ivan Tang

Schubert: *Symphony No 8 in B minor (Unfinished)*

Refreshments will be served in the interval

Programme



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All Saints a place for
everyone

Overture to 'The Force of Destiny' – Giuseppe Verdi

Of all Italian operatic composers, Verdi established the greatest reputation and yet his early career gave no hint of this future. He studied with the village organist of his home town, Le Roncole near Busetto in the Duchy of Parma, before the generosity of a local merchant enabled him to travel to Milan at the age of 18. His lack of training prevented him from entering the Conservatory, so he studied privately. In 1834 La Scala took a risk with *Oberto*, his very first opera, and was rewarded with moderate success. The impresario Mereilli was sufficiently impressed to contract Verdi for three more operas.

"*La Forza del Destino*" (The Force of Destiny) was first performed in the Bolshoi Kamenny Theatre of Saint Petersburg, Russia, on 29 October 1862. It is a tragic opera telling the story of a young nobleman, Don Alvaro, and his forbidden love with Leonora, the daughter of the Marquis of Calatrava. The opera follows their journey through various trials, including accidental murder, hidden identities, and a fatal duel, culminating in the deaths of Don Carlo and Leonora, and Alvaro's suicide.

Programme note adapted from one by Dominic Nudd, June 2011, via Making Music

Piano Concerto No. 2 in C minor – Sergei Rachmaninov, Op. 18

1. *Adagio / Allegro molto* 2. *Largo* 3. *Scherzo: Molto vivace*

Rachmaninov's Piano Concerto No. 2, composed between 1900 and 1901, is a hallmark of Romantic music, celebrated for its emotional depth and virtuosic demands. This concerto emerged during a tumultuous period in the composer's life, following his struggles with depression and the fear of failure after the disastrous premiere of his First Symphony. The work's lush melodies and rich harmonies reflect themes of longing and redemption, capturing the listener's heart from the very first note. The concerto's three movements are marked by contrasting moods: the introspective and lyrical first movement, the dramatic and tempestuous second, and the exuberant finale that radiates triumph. Rachmaninov's masterful orchestration complements the piano, creating a powerful dialogue between soloist and ensemble. Its glorious themes have made the concerto immensely popular, and it remains a favourite in concert halls around the world, embodying the spirit of resilience and the transformative power of music.

Programme note provided by Robert Smith using ChatGPT

----- INTERVAL – Free drinks will be served in the Hall -----

Symphony No. 8 ('Unfinished') – Franz Schubert, D.759

1. *Allegro moderato*, 2. *Andante con moto*,

Schubert's Symphony No. 8, famously known as the "Unfinished," stands as a profound testament to the composer's genius and emotional depth. Composed in

1822, this symphony features only two completed movements, yet it captivates listeners with its lyrical melodies and rich harmonies. The first movement presents a dramatic tension, contrasting with the serene beauty of the second. Schubert's ability to evoke a wide range of emotions, from melancholy to joyous resolve, showcases his mastery of orchestration and thematic development. Although the reasons for its incompleteness remain speculative, it is believed that Schubert's struggles with personal and professional challenges, coupled with his untimely death, contributed to this unfinished masterpiece. The "Unfinished" remains a poignant reflection on the creative process and a haunting reminder of what might have been, echoing throughout the ages.

Programme note: ChatGPT

Andrew Gray – Conductor

Andrew is currently Head of Music at the Holt School, Wokingham. He studied Music at St Edmund Hall, Oxford where he conducted the Oxford University Symphonic Band, founded the Gatehouse Appeal Orchestra and was a finalist in the Oxford University conducting competition. Andrew conducted the Burford Orchestra from 2012-2020 and is a regular guest conductor with the Radcliffe Orchestra, Fleet Concert Orchestra and has conducted Trinity Camerata in a recent season. He is also an oboist, pianist and singer: he currently plays oboe with Reading Symphony Orchestra and Quintessentially Wind, and is Musical Director of Fleet Parish Choir.

Ivan Tang – Piano

Ivan began playing piano at the age of 6, and in 2011 gained a DipABRSM in piano performance. He has performed solo and duet recitals, piano concertos, chamber music concerts, and worked as an accompanist for opera productions, music degree recitals, and ABRSM graded examinations. In his childhood, he appeared as an extra in Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire as a violinist in the Yule Ball scene.

Ivan is a doctor by occupation and considers himself fortunate to enjoy music as a hobby. He is training in intensive care and respiratory medicine as part of the Thames Valley school. Throughout his career, he has achieved various accolades and publications, and in 2019, he was nominated for the Oxford University Hospitals 'Doctor of the Year' award. He is particularly interested in early music, running a 1999 Andrew Wooderson Mietke harpsichord and an 1830's Broadwood square piano. During his work at Milton Keynes University Hospital, he helped the hospital charity procure a piano which became the centrepiece of the organ donation art installation.

Ivan's link to Andrew Gray stretches back to the early 2000s, both developing their roots in music at Milton Keynes Music Service. Despite diverging career paths, they continued to work together in solo, chamber, and orchestral

performances, having collaborated for Schumann's piano concerto Op. 54 and Beethoven's Fifth Piano Concerto 'Emperor' with the Radcliffe Orchestra, and Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue with the Burford Orchestra. Follow Ivan on Instagram @thepianotang.

Acknowledgements: Church on the Heath for use of the venue, and both Neil Streeter and Hampshire County Library for supply of the sheet music.

Fleet Concert Orchestra

1st Violins:	Juliet Balch Tom Balch David Amos Viv Taylor Suzy Thompson Susie Haynes Paul Timms Angela Jessopp	Flutes:	Denise Janaway Alison Nicholls
2nd Violins:	Claire Swinstead Nadine Farris Amelia Evans Sonja Nagle Jane Gwyn Nick Woolmer Rowan Bolton Martin Ingram	Oboes:	Frances Jones Mark Evans
Violas:	Robert Spencer Lalage Cochrane Rachel Groves Alan Munro Grace Timms Jake Watson John Nicholls	Clarinets:	Anne Smith Catherine Sayers
'Cellos:	Sally-Anne Swift Marianne Gaspar Dorina Latawska Michelle Worthington Nat Balch Lynda Trice	Bassoons:	Robert Smith Vikta Harvey
Double Basses:	Adrian Warrick Steve Davis	French Horns:	Katie Smith Simon Haynes Lizzie Hetherington Sarah Noble
		Trumpets:	Roy Falshaw John Castle
		Trombones:	Will Hines Matt Farris Dave Moon
		Tuba:	Thomas Synge
		Timpani:	Neil Streeter
		Percussion:	Rowan Bolton
		Harp:	Kaylie Cheung
		Keyboard:	John Nicholls