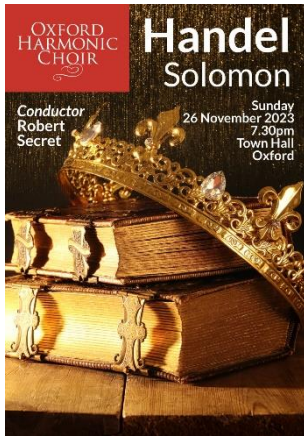


2023-2024 Season



George Frederic Handel *Solomon*

Sunday 26 November 2023, Oxford Town Hall

One of Handel's greatest oratorios, with stunning choruses, *Solomon* is a wonderful combination of the contemplative, the dramatic and the lyrical. Handel brings to life a picture of the Golden Age where religion, justice, nature and art are all in harmony, and, as ever, he gives expression to a wide range of human emotions. Highlights include the paean to married love in the first part, with the nightingale chorus; the dramatic music for the quarrel over the baby in part two; and in the final part the justly celebrated overture 'The Arrival of the Queen of Sheba', the choral masque in praise of music, and the queen's exquisite final aria, 'Will the Sun forget to streak/Eastern skies with amber ray'.



Edward Elgar *The Music Makers*

Johannes Brahms *The Song of Destiny*

Bedřich Smetana *Vyšehrad*

Supported by the Elgar Society.

Saturday 23 March 2024, Oxford Town Hall

Our spring concert consists of two highly expressive choral works, together with Smetana's well-known symphonic poem *Vyšehrad*. *The Music Makers* is a setting of *Ode* by the Victorian poet Arthur O'Shaughnessy. It is intensely personal: Elgar wrote 'I have written out my soul ... I have shown myself', and he includes quotations from earlier works, including the famous theme from *Nimrod*. The work moves between triumph and melancholy, ending quietly with the opening words; 'We are the music makers, and we are the dreamers of dreams.' Brahms was responding to a poem by the German Romantic poet Friedrich Hölderlin, 'Schicksalslied', which contrasts the everlasting bliss of the immortals with the suffering of humanity, both wonderfully evoked in Brahms's music.



Franz Joseph Haydn *Nelson Mass*

Felix Mendelssohn *Lauda Sion*

Saturday 29 June 2024, Oxford Town Hall

The magnificent *Nelson Mass* is one of Haydn's six late great masses and, according to H.C. Robbins Landon, 'arguably Haydn's greatest single composition'. From the dramatic opening *Kyrie*, with the soaring soprano solo line, to the exuberant *Dona Nobis Pacem*, the music pulsates with energy and unflagging vitality. There are many shifts of mood and tone but the final effect is celebratory. It is the work of a composer at the height of his powers. Mendelssohn's uplifting and lovely *Lauda Sion*, written to celebrate the 600th anniversary of the Feast of Corpus Christi, for the Church of St Martin in Liège, completes the programme. Not to be missed!

2023-2024 Season

Where to buy tickets

Tickets are available through <https://www.ticketsoxford.com/> at the Oxford Playhouse or via 01865 305305.

Via choir members, and from 7.00pm at the venue box office.

Discounts

Wheelchair discount tickets and Group discount tickets (for groups of 10+) are not available via Tickets Oxford and must be booked via tickets@oxfordharmonicchoir.org.

Discounts are also available for students / under 18s via all outlets (proof of status required).

Oxford Town Hall



Arena and back gallery £25

Side gallery £20

Wheelchair users arena £23 (includes free carer/companion)

Under 18s/students £12.50