

The Sacconi Quartet, formed in 2001, has enjoyed a highly successful international career, performing throughout Europe as well as the major venues in the UK, to widespread critical acclaim. Sacconi won first prize at the Trondheim International String Quartet Competition and the Esterházy Prize at the London International String Competition. Having established its own record label, the recently released disc of Czech quartets was highly praised. The Quartet has performed with Mark Padmore, Melvyn Tan, Andrew Marriner and Vladimir Ashkenazy. This is their second appearance in the Woodbridge concert series.

Alexander Sprague studied at the National Opera School and the Royal Academy of Music and was awarded the Michael Oliver Prize of the London Handel Singing Competition. He has appeared with the ENO, the Scottish and Royal Danish Opera companies and with the conductors Sir Colin Davis and Sir Charles Mackerras. He also performed with Iain Burnside at last year's Ludlow English Song Weekend.

Of **Gary Matthewman**, the Financial Times reviewer wrote 'the pianist was a scene-stealer, tracing the mood and feeling of the music with pinpoint accuracy'. He is one of our leading young song accompanists, performing at the Wigmore Hall, and world-wide venues including Carnegie Hall in New York and the Vienna Musikverein. He has accompanied Sir Thomas Allen, Mark Padmore and Roderick Williams.

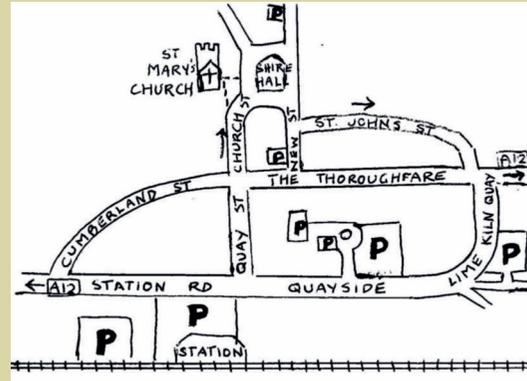
The Benyounes Quartet, formed in 2007 at the Royal Northern College of Music, won the first Sándor Végh String Quartet Competition in Budapest in 2012 and then the second prize at the Orlando International String Competition. Recent performances have included the Vienna Konzerthaus, Wigmore Hall and the Aldeburgh Music Britten Centenary Weekend. They have recently recorded Mozart's chamber version of three of his piano concertos with the pianist Jeremy Young.

Philip Higham 'is a major talent offering an object lesson in lyrical sensitivity and expressive insight' (Washington Post). A great friend of these concerts, he received high praise from The Gramophone magazine and a five-star review by the BBC Music Magazine for his recording of the Britten Cello Suites. His recording of Bach's Cello Suites has recently been released by Delphian. WCC provided financial support for the recording of the Sixth Suite.

The Ruisi Quartet won the Royal Philharmonic Society's prize for Young British String Players and were chosen as YCAT finalists in 2015. Founded in 2012, they have worked with Anthony Marwood, Levon Chilingirian and with Ferenc Rados in masterclasses at Prussia Cove. Performances have included King's Place, Wigmore Hall and Wye Valley Chamber Music Festival.

The Alke Quartet was formed by members of the South Bank Sinfonia and selected as Park Lane Group Artists for its 2015/16 season. As finalists in the Bloch Music Competition, they were accepted for the International Music Seminar at Prussia Cove and are currently 'Quartet in Residence' at the Royal College of Music on its chamber music diploma course.

WOODBIDGE TOWN CAR PARK MAP



Car Parking: In addition to the car parks shown on the map, cars may be parked close to the church on single yellow lines after 6.30pm.

If you possess a Disability Badge, please inform the Organiser in order to reserve a space in the church car park. This has limited capacity. The Church has disabled access.

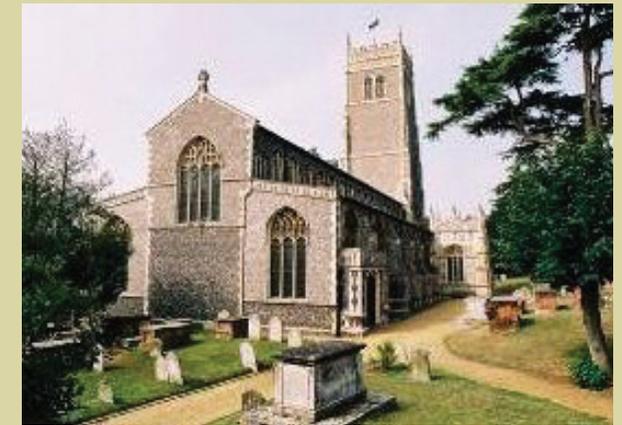
Pre-concert meals

The Crown can provide light meals from 6.00pm.

Booking is essential.

Tel: 01394 384242

WCC is a non-profit making organisation. It is most grateful for support from the following:



Woodbridge Chamber Concerts

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Ninth Concert Season

Celebrating and Supporting Young Professional Artists

**St Mary's Parish Church
Woodbridge**

**Saturday 7th May 2016
Saturday 21st May 2016
Saturday 28th May 2016**

7.30pm

www.woodbridgechamberconcerts.org.uk
Organiser: 01986 798324

Saturday 7th May

The Sacconi Quartet
Alexander Sprague - tenor
Gary Matthewman - piano

Vaughan Williams. String Quartet in G minor
Vaughan Williams. 'On Wenlock Edge'
Elgar. Piano Quintet in A minor Op.84

At the age of 36, Vaughan Williams felt inspiration had deserted him, so he took himself off 'for a little French polish', studying with Ravel in Paris for three months. On his return, works began to flow from him and within months he had composed this lyrical quartet and the song cycle 'On Wenlock Edge'. These two works reveal Ravel's influence, especially in the song cycle; settings of verses from A. E. Housman's 'A Shropshire Lad'. It is one of the finest works in the English song repertoire.

The Piano Quintet was the last and arguably the finest of the three chamber works Elgar wrote whilst living at Brinkwells in Sussex, in the summer of 1918. He had been affected by the war, the loss of friends and poor health, but he was inspired by his regular walks in the local woods. It has a symphonic grandeur as well as a sense of nostalgia and loss.

There will be an afternoon symposium in Queen's House, Woodbridge School, on the composers and the works to be performed. Admission is free, but tickets are required due to limited space. Further details are on the WCC website.

Saturday 21st May

The Benyounes Quartet
Philip Higham - cello

Bach. Cello Suite in D major BWV1012
Haydn. String Quartet in F major Op.77 No.2
Schubert. String Quintet in C major D.956

The subtext of this concert might well be 'Last Things'. Although Bach's majestic Sixth Cello Suite was not a work of his final years, it was the last and the grandest in the series he wrote for the solo cello. It contains some of Bach's most inspired writing for this instrument.

Haydn's Quartet, Op.77 in F major, was to be his last. He had been commissioned to write six for Prince Lobkowitz, but only two were completed; the third remained unfinished. This has led to much speculation. Did he feel that the Op.18 quartets by his former pupil Beethoven and commissioned by the very same nobleman, had eclipsed what he could then achieve, or at 70, had his mental faculties begun to fail him? Nonetheless, this quartet is a polished and fitting conclusion to the remarkable development of the genre by the 'Father of the String Quartet'.

Schubert wrote his String Quintet in the last months of his life; the autumn of 1828. It is a profoundly spiritual work and unlike Mozart and Beethoven, he added a second cello to the normal string quartet rather than a viola, thereby changing the sound of the instrumental group, creating a darker tone. The result is a work of outstanding beauty which amazingly remained unpublished for twenty five years after his death.

Saturday 28th May

The Ruisi Quartet
The Alke Quartet*

Haydn. String Quartet in C major Op.20 No.2
Ravel. String Quartet in F major
Mendelssohn. Octet in E flat major Op.20*

This Haydn quartet is one of the 'Sun Quartets' written like those of Opus 9 and 17 between 1769 and 1772. They were so named, due to the stunning sun design on the printed cover. Haydn called his Opus 20 'true quartets'. It has been said that with these, he achieved his goal and from then on it was simply the difference between one masterpiece and the next.

Ravel's only quartet is, with his piano trio, amongst the greatest chamber works of the twentieth century. Written in 1902, it reveals none of his tribulation before gaining recognition as a major composer. Debussy told Ravel 'change nothing' and he was right!

Masterpieces don't come much earlier than this. The Octet was written when Mendelssohn was just a little over 16. His early prodigious talent even surpasses that of Mozart. In this most symphonic of string works, he uses the eight instruments as a single ensemble.

Booking Form

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Ticket Prices For All Concerts Special Ticket Offer

Book tickets for all three concerts and receive a 10% discount excluding postage. This only applies to tickets purchased through the Organiser.

Please note that all seats are reserved.

Saturday 7th May

Main aisle £16. No.....

Side aisles £11. No

Saturday 21st May

Main aisle £16. No.....

Side aisles £11. No

Saturday 28th May

Main aisle £16. No.....

Side aisles £11. No.....

Total £..... : less 10% discount if applicable

Plus postage of 75p = £..... :

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info@woodbridgechamberconcerts.org.uk

**Tickets are also available from Browsers Bookshop
60, The Thoroughfare Woodbridge. (From 13th April)**