

# LEEDS INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER SEASON 2023/24

The Venue  
Leeds Conservatoire

French  
Connections

LEEDS INTERNATIONAL  
CONCERT SEASON

LEEDS ARTS  
EVENTS & VENUES

 Leeds  
CITY COUNCIL

As a flautist I've always revelled in French repertoire. The flute blossomed as a solo instrument in France and many of our best pieces were composed there. As a result, much of a flute player's musical DNA is rooted in France.

Whilst pieces such as Francis Poulenc's Flute Sonata are a joy to return to, it's an equal pleasure to discover lesser-known parts of the repertoire and so, assembling this series of far-reaching French chamber music has been a delight on many levels.

I'm very excited to welcome some of my dearest musical friends to Leeds to perform. The Orsino Ensemble's mission is to shine a light on the breadth of wonderful woodwind music, here showcasing no shortage of material from the French masters. Virtuoso guitarist Sean Shibe delves into intriguing French musical connections in an eclectic programme, including contemporary music from the British Isles by Thomas Adès, Harrison Birtwistle, and Freya Waley-Cohen. The extraordinary Marmen Quartet presents Claude Debussy's seminal String Quartet and I'm lucky enough to perform his trio sonata for flute, viola, and harp with Anneleen Lenaerts, Principal Harp of the Vienna Philharmonic, and star violist Timothy Ridout.

Judith Weir, Master of the King's Music, wrote her gorgeous *Nuits d'Afrique* especially for the wonderful Irish soprano, Ailish Tynan. Ailish and I are excited to present this great work alongside pieces by Maurice Ravel, Hector Berlioz and more with cellist Tim Posner and pianist James Baillieu.

No French series would be complete without a flute recital, so I'm delighted to perform music from the golden age of the French Flute School with pianist extraordinaire, Katya Apekisheva.

With so many unique musical personalities involved, I can guarantee you concerts full of flair and joie de vivre as we whisk you away to the melting pot of 1920s Paris; the salons of the Belle Époque, 17th century Scotland, Catalonia, Madagascar and more to explore the music of France and the 'French Connection'.

**Adam Walker** Artistic Director

All concerts start at 7.30pm

# French Connections

Adam Walker  
Photo © Christa Holka

Tue 3 October 2023

## ORSINO ENSEMBLE

**ADAM WALKER** flute  
**NICHOLAS DANIEL** oboe  
**MATTHEW HUNT** clarinet  
**AMY HARMAN** bassoon  
**TOM POSTER** piano

**GERMAINE TAILLEFERRE**  
Sonata Champêtre  
(for oboe, clarinet, bassoon, and piano)

**DARIUS MILHAUD**  
Sonatine (for flute and piano)

**FRANCIS POULENC**  
Trio for oboe, bassoon and piano

**CAMILLE SAINT-SAËNS**  
Caprice sur des airs Danois et Russes

**CAMILLE SAINT-SAËNS**  
Tarantelle (for flute, clarinet and piano)

**ANDRÉ CAPLET**  
Quintet for piano and winds

Woodwind instruments experienced something of a revival in France during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. A little-known gem from Germaine Tailleferre opens the programme, followed by well-established staples of the repertoire by Darius Milhaud and Francis Poulenc.

We journey to the Belle Époque with Camille Saint-Saëns' *Tarantelle*, full of virtuosic panache, before turning to the lesser-performed Quintet by André Caplet. With its beautiful, haunting melodies, this piece cannot help but invite us to reflect on the tragic early death of Caplet, another needless victim of war.



Sean Shibe  
Photo © Camilla Greenwell

Tue 31 October 2023

## SEAN SHIBE

guitar

**Programme to include:**

Scottish lute manuscripts compiled by  
**Lady Margaret Wemyss**

Plus music by **Thomas Adès, Manuel de Falla, Claude Debussy, Francis Poulenc, Federico Mompou, Harrison Birtwistle, Freya Waley-Cohen, and François Couperin**

For full programme details please visit  
[www.leedsconcertseason.co.uk](http://www.leedsconcertseason.co.uk).

In a typically wide-ranging programme, Sean Shibe explores French musical connections through music from the 17th century right up to the present day. Scottish lute manuscripts of the 17th century often featured music originating from France, demonstrating a history of strong alliance between the two countries. The spirit of Claude Debussy shines through in Manuel de Falla's *Homenaje*, and popular dance forms are explored in works by Thomas Adès and Francis Poulenc. Federico Mompou, whose mother was French, writes music of delightful elegance and impressionistic flair.



Orsino Ensemble  
Photo © Matthew Johnson



Tue 21 November 2023

## ADAM WALKER

flute

## TIMOTHY RIDOUT

viola

## ANNELEEN LENAERTS

harp

**MAURICE RAVEL (ARR SILVERTHORNE)**

Le Tombeau de Couperin

**ANDRÉ JOLIVET**

Petite Suite

**CLAUDE DEBUSSY**

Sonata for flute, viola, and harp

**JACQUES IBERT**

Deux Interludes

**CLAUDE DEBUSSY**

Syrinx for solo flute

**LOUIS VIERNE**

Deux Pièces (for viola and piano)

**ARNOLD BAX**

Elegiac Trio

**MAURICE RAVEL (ARR SALZEDO)**

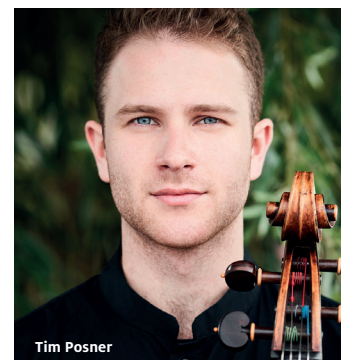
Sonatine



Ailish Tynan



James Baillieu  
Photo © David Ruano



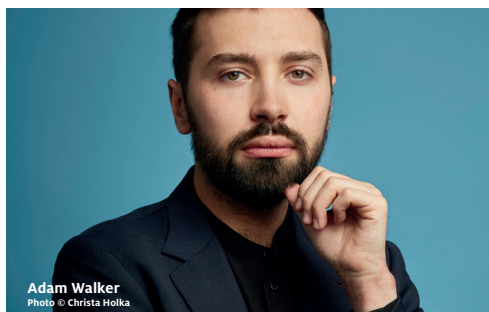
Tim Posner

Claude Debussy's trio sonata put the combination of flute, viola, and harp into the spotlight, creating a beautiful sound world brimming with new sonic possibilities. On completing his trio, Debussy described the music in a letter to a friend "*I can't say whether one should laugh or cry. Perhaps both at the same time?*" Regarded as one of the masterpieces of the chamber music repertoire, this seminal work is simultaneously melancholic and joyful.

Arnold Bax and André Jolivet were inspired to write for flute, viola, and harp, which together capture the atmosphere of rural paradise. Sparkling arrangements of major works by Maurice Ravel open and close this programme.



Anneleen Lenaerts  
Photo © Andrej Grlic



Adam Walker  
Photo © Christa Holka

Tue 23 January 2024

## ADAM WALKER

flute

## AILISH TYNAN

soprano

## TIM POSNER

cello

## JAMES BAILLIEU

piano

**Programme to include:**

**MAURICE RAVEL**

Chansons madécasses  
(for voice, flute, cello, and piano)

**FRANK MARTIN**

Ballade (for flute and piano)

**JUDITH WEIR**

Nuits d'Afrique (for voice, flute, cello, and piano)

**PHILIPPE GAUBERT**

Nocturne et allegro scherzando  
(for flute and piano)

For full programme details please visit  
[www.leedsconcertseason.co.uk](http://www.leedsconcertseason.co.uk).

Maurice Ravel's *Chansons madécasses* (Madagascan Songs) are scored for the unusual ensemble of voice, flute, cello, and piano. Judith Weir was commissioned by Wigmore Hall to write a piece for the same musical forces especially for Ailish Tynan, resulting in the astonishingly beautiful *Nuits d'Afrique*. Whilst Ravel chose text by the French poet Évariste de Parny, who claimed to have translated folk sources into his own *Chansons madécasses*, Weir uses poetry written by contemporary African women, evoking local life and scenes.

Tue 13 February 2024

## MARMEN QUARTET

**JOSEPH HAYDN**

String Quartet Op 33, No 6

**TÔRU TAKEMITSU**

A Way A Lone

**CLAUDE DEBUSSY**

String Quartet

Marmen Quartet opens this concert with Joseph Haydn's hugely popular Quartet Op 33 No 6, followed by Tôru Takemitsu's *A Way A Lone*, inspired by James Joyce's *Finnegans Wake*, which was written for the tenth anniversary of the Tokyo String Quartet. Throughout his life Takemitsu was greatly inspired by the music of Claude Debussy.

A long-standing favourite of the chamber music repertoire, Debussy's String Quartet conjures up a dizzying array of colours, astonishing beauty, and a huge variety of texture. Written in his early thirties, the music was startlingly unique for its time. One can detect the beginnings of a journey that would later give us masterpieces such as *Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune* and *La mer*, as well as inspiring composers such as Maurice Ravel, whose own string quartet is modelled on Debussy's.



Marmen Quartet  
Photo © Marco Borggreve



Timothy Ridout  
Photo © Matthew Johnson

Tue 26 March 2024

## ADAM WALKER

flute

## KATYA APEKISHEVA

piano

### HENRI DUTILLEUX

Sonatine for flute and piano

### ALBERT ROUSSEL

Joueurs de flûte

### FRANCIS POULENC

Sonata for flute and piano

### LILI BOULANGER

Nocturne

### CHARLES-MARIE WIDOR

Suite

### ANDRÉ JOLIVET

Chant de Linos



Adam Walker  
Photo © Christa Holka

The brilliant pieces which open and close this programme, *Sonatine* by Henri Dutilleux and *Chant de Linos* by André Jolivet, were written as competition test pieces for the Paris Conservatoire. Charles-Marie Widor's Suite was dedicated to flute virtuoso Paul Taffanel, one of the most influential flute professors in 19th-century Paris, and was renowned in its time for its technical demands.

The four movements of Albert Roussel's *Joueurs de flûte* are each named after a flute player from literature and dedicated to major flautists of Roussel's time. Lili Boulanger's beautiful *Nocturne* reveals her prodigious talent. And finally, no recital of French flute music would be complete without Francis Poulenc's well-loved sonata – an absolute joy to play and to hear.



Katya Apekisheva  
Photo © Sim Canetty-Clarke

# French Connections

## ACCESS & LOCATION



Leeds Conservatoire has lift access to all floors, with accessible toilets at The Venue, and in the Café Bar.

### Essential Companion Scheme

We offer two tickets for the price of one to patrons with disabilities attending with their essential companion.

Details from Leeds Ticket Hub: 0113 376 0318

Support dogs are welcome.

When booking, please let us know of any access requirements you have.



The Venue is equipped with an infra-red system for the hard of hearing.



The nearest blue badge parking can be found on St Peter's Square.



To order a copy of this brochure in an alternative format, please contact us on 0113 378 6600 or email [music@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:music@leeds.gov.uk).



Leeds Conservatoire is easily accessed by public transport, located across the road from Leeds Bus Station and 15 minutes' walk from Leeds Train Station.



There is cycle parking directly outside the Conservatoire.



Whilst we encourage our audiences to use public transport, we realise this is not always possible. The nearest car parks are NCP – Leeds Markets and Victoria Gate. If attending with friends please consider car sharing to help us to reduce our carbon footprint.



## The Venue

Leeds Conservatoire, Quarry Hill, Leeds, LS2 7PD

For more information on how to find The Venue, please watch the video on our website.



# TICKET PRICES & BOOKING INFORMATION

TICKET PRICES	A	B
Full price	£26	£24
Over 60s	£24	£22
Full-time students, unwaged	£13	£12
Under 26s	£10	£10

Under 26s offer is available from 2 August general sale, on single tickets only.



## BOOK BY TELEPHONE

0113 376 0318

The booking line is open from 10am – 4pm, Monday to Saturday.

## BOOK ONLINE

[leedsconcertseason.co.uk](https://leedsconcertseason.co.uk)

Or scan the QR code below to view all concerts on your mobile.

## BOOK IN PERSON OR BY POST

Carriageworks Theatre, The Electric Press,  
3 Millennium Square, Leeds, LS2 3AD

Email: [boxoffice@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:boxoffice@leeds.gov.uk)

Leeds Ticket Hub is open for in-person bookings two hours before any show at the Carriageworks Theatre ([www.carriageworkstheatre.co.uk](https://www.carriageworkstheatre.co.uk)).

Cheques should be made payable to *Leeds City Council*. Please enclose a stamped addressed envelope if you would like your tickets sent to you.

## SUBSCRIBE & SAVE MONEY

Book for all six concerts and save 20% on the cost of your tickets.



## BOOKING DATES

**5 July:** Booking opens for existing subscribers (2022/23 Expanding Horizons subscribers) renewing their seats

**19 July:** Booking opens for new subscribers

**2 August:** General booking opens

## TALK TO US!

You can talk to the Leeds International Concert Season team by:

Email: [music@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:music@leeds.gov.uk)

General enquiries: 0113 378 6600

Post: Carriageworks Theatre, The Electric Press,  
3 Millennium Square, Leeds, LS2 3AD



Scan this QR code to view all concerts on your mobile.



@leedsconcerts



@LeedsInternationalConcertSeason

Whilst every effort is made to avoid changes, Leeds International Concert Season reserves the right to change artists and programmes without notice if unavoidable.

Printed by: LCC Print Unit • Printed on paper sourced from sustainable forests  
Designed by: Design It – [designit-uk.com](https://designit-uk.com)