



 facebook.com/eastbournesyphonyorchestra
 [@eastbournesyphony](https://instagram.com/@eastbournesyphony)
 x.com/@EastbourneSymph



Eastbourne Symphony Orchestra

Summer Concert

Mozart Magic Flute Overture
Beethoven Symphony No 2
Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto

Violinist Sofia Demetriades

Winner of the ESO Young Soloist Competition 2026



Conductor
Graham Jones



Leader
Lisa Wigmore



Sunday 7pm 21 June 2026
St Saviour's Church BN21 4UT
www.eso.org.uk

Eastbourne Symphony Orchestra

Dates for Your Diary

More information from www.eso.org.uk
concertmanager@eso.org.uk
07780 993801

ESO 2026 Forty-sixth Season

Norah Sande Award 2026

Birley Centre BN21 4EF

www.sande-award.co.uk

21st anniversary of this prestigious internationally renowned piano competition

Semi-final Saturday 4 July from 9.30am (free entry)

Final Sunday 5 July 2.30pm (£15 with refreshments; U18s free)

ESO Autumn Concert 2026

7pm Sunday 11 October St Saviour's Church

Programme to include piano concerto

Soloist: winner of the Norah Sande Award

ESO 2027 Forty-seventh Season

ESO 39th Young Soloist Competition

Birley Centre BN21 4EF

Round One Saturday 23 January and Sunday 24 January 2027

Final Sunday 21 February 2027

Established in 1988 as a result of the 11th Duke of Devonshire's generosity, this competition gives the winner the opportunity of performing a concerto with the ESO.

Competitors from music colleges and schools around the UK and abroad will present a 15-minute performance of a contrasting programme of their own choice, judged by four adjudicators. An audience is welcome to come and go as they wish between competitors. There is no need to reserve seats (£5 entry).

The final round (£15 entry on the door only, includes refreshments), has four or five competitors who present a 20-minute performance of two contrasting concerto movements.

All finalists receive a prize, and the winner is awarded £1,250 and plays a concerto with the ESO.

ESO Spring Concert

Sunday 25 April 2027

7pm St Saviour's Church

Programme to include Elgar Sea Pictures

Soloist Rebecca Hughes

ESO Summer Concert

Sunday 20 June 2027

7pm St Saviour's Church

ESO Autumn Concert

Sunday 10 October or 17 October* 2027

7pm St Saviour's Church

*depends on LPO concert in Congress Theatre

Eastbourne Symphony Orchestra www.eso.org.uk

The Eastbourne Symphony Orchestra was founded in 1979 and we are celebrating our 46th season. Graham Jones is the musical director and one of the founding members, and Lisa Wigmore celebrates her 42nd year as leader. We welcome you to our 161st concert. Archived photographs, programmes, reviews and so on of all concerts are on www.eso.org.uk.

Financially self-supporting, the ESO registered as a charity in 1987 and, with quality players from Eastbourne and the surrounding areas, performs a number of concerts a year. These have included biennial music-from-the-movies concerts (with film clips), concerts for children, an ESO annual young soloist competition winner's concert, and choral concerts with singers from local choral societies and further afield.

This concert continues the ESO's goal of welcoming young players. Conductor Graham Jones initiated the ESO's Young Soloist Competition in 1988, the 2026 winner of which is tonight's soloist. 'This competition has been a very rewarding part of guiding the orchestra since its inception in 1980. My colleagues and I on the judging panel must have heard some 2,000 competitors over the years and have been able to give a concerto performance to more than 40 top-quality players. There can, sadly, be only one winner every year but much of it is about giving the soloists a chance to perform, even if they don't win. Working with the winners at such a formative stage of their career as they build their confidence in working with orchestras is a privilege and something I always enjoy, and they bring a freshness to their performance. It has been especially pleasing also to have collaborated in recent years with the local Norah Sande Award Piano Competition (see details of this year's competition elsewhere in this programme), and our autumn concert now features their winner.'

As you will know, orchestras always need to keep an eye on income and expenditure and ensure that we remain as financially buoyant as possible. Thank you for continuing to support us. Please do consider joining us as an ESO Friend or becoming a sponsor. You will find more details later in this programme.

As well as our Friends, we are indebted to our sponsors and donors. If you are interested in becoming a donor, a sponsor, an ESO Friend, a singer or a player, or would like to help the Music Working Group, then please contact concertmanager@eso.org.uk or 07780 993801.

Our thanks go to the PCC of St Saviour's Church who have allowed us to hire this venue.

We anticipate that the 15-minute interval will start at about 7.45pm, and that the concert will finish about 8.45pm.



If you are thinking of going on holiday, please consider booking through Riviera Travel to help the ESO finances. The ESO receives ten per cent for each holiday booked through Riviera Travel (www.rivieratravel.co.uk or 01283 523493). Please mention the ESO when you book. The dedicated code is ESO.

Graham Jones (ESO Musical Director, Conductor)



Graham attended Durham University where he was an organ scholar of Hatfield College, with responsibility for the chapel choir and college musical events. He was still at school when he first conducted an orchestra, gaining further experience at university in workshops with Sir David Willcocks and Roger Norrington. Having been appointed assistant director of music at Eastbourne College in 1976, he became director of music in 1991 and retired from the College in 2012. During his time in Eastbourne, he has been responsible for the Eastbourne Tudor Singers (1978-1988) and co-founded the Eastbourne Sinfonia (1979), now the Eastbourne Symphony Orchestra.

As musical director of the ESO from its inception and first concert in January 1980, Graham has conducted the majority of the Orchestra's concerts (this concert is Graham's 137th). He has also been responsible for many of the Orchestra's initiatives including the now nationally recognised annual Young Soloist Competition (the 39th competition takes place in January and February 2027). Though his own particular interest lies in the romantic field, ESO programmes have included the standard orchestral repertoire as well as some works commissioned especially for the Orchestra.

He has worked with some of the country's leading soloists including Sarah Connolly, Simon Deller, Simon Hewitt Jones, Neil Jenkins, Freddie Kempf, Mark Le Brocq,

Anthony Marwood, Martin Roscoe, Patricia Rozario and John York, one of the Orchestra's patrons, as well as, for example, the Barbican Piano Trio.

Graham is always keen to find opportunities which encourage appreciation of music within the community, and this has led to initiatives like the biennial music-from-the-movies concert (with film clips) (working with Adam Faith, Hubert Gregg, Robin Gregory and Brian Murphy). Johnny Morris narrated one of the Orchestra's first children's concerts and Denis Quilley was the narrator in the Mari Markus Gomori series of concerts for children, which also featured percussionist Alisdair Molloy.

In his spare time, Graham is a steam-train enthusiast, an aficionado of English churches, and enjoys cooking and gardening.

Lisa Wigmore (Leader)

Lisa Wigmore has been leader of the ESO since the mid-1980s; she is also a member of the adjudicating panel for the annual competition. Born and educated in Eastbourne, at 15 she was awarded a junior exhibition to the Royal College of Music and continued her studies there under Jack Steadman in the senior department, where she gained her ARCM and GRSM.



Since leaving the RCM she has studied under Tina Gruenberg. Lisa is a well-known violin teacher in Sussex, teaching privately as well as working in the Strings Department at Eastbourne College. She also took part in a masterclass with Yfrah Neaman on behalf of the European String Teachers Association (ESTA). Lisa is involved with many local music-making groups.

In her spare time, Lisa enjoys being with her family and walking her retriever in the Sussex countryside.

Sofia Demetriades (violin)

Over the past few years, Sofia was inspired in masterclasses by Zakhar Bron, Marc Bouchkov, Ning Feng, Clara-Jumi Kang, Boris Kushnir, Gerhard Schulz, Dima Sitkovetsky, Sasha Sitkovetsky and Don Wielerstein. Sofia was a scholar at the IMS Prussia Cove (April of 2025 and 2026) and Kronberg Academy Violin Masterclass (September 2025).

Sofia is a prize winner of many national and international competitions, including Bromsgrove YM Platform (UK), Lipinski-Wieniawski (Poland), 'Nutcracker' (Russia), Piccolo Violino Magico and Postacchini (Italy). She has performed as a soloist with orchestras in the UK, Europe and Canada, and was one of five 'Mini Violini' in showcase concerts during the opening of the Concours Musical International de Montréal.



This year, she is the winner of the Eastbourne Symphony Orchestra's Young Soloist Competition, the John Crawshaw Award, and winner of the St Cecilia Bequest in the junior category for the best competitor aged 17 and under. Her other recent win is first prize in the Haslemere International String Competition.

As part of her forthcoming performances, Sofia will play in the quarter-final round of the BBC Young Musician in Swansea in July 2026, and also in a recital at Club 1901 in London in October 2026 and as a soloist with the English Chamber Orchestra in 2027.

Sofia holds awards from the Hattori Foundation, the Wilhelmsen Trust and the Albert Cooper Trust. She is generously supported by the J&A Beare Cultural Trust, including a loan of a fine Vuillaume violin.

Sofia is currently completing her A-levels and enjoys reading, travel, and sight-reading chamber music with friends.

Eastbourne Symphony Orchestra

Patrons

Mayor of Eastbourne;
Professor John York

President

Merton Cox

Trustees

Merton Cox (President)

Frances Jones (Orchestra Manager)

Brian Knights (Young Soloist Competition Coordinator)

Richard McDonough (Treasurer)

John Thornley (Concert Manager)

Music Working Group

Merton Cox (President, Trustee)

David Creighton (Concert Assistant)

Frances Jones (Librarian, Orchestra Manager, Trustee)

Graham Jones (Musical Director)

Brian Knights (Safeguarding Officer, Trustee, Young Soloist Competition Coordinator)

Richard McDonough (Treasurer, Trustee)

John Thornley (Concert Manager, Publicity, Safeguarding Officer, Secretary, Trustee, Website)

Veronica Townsend (Orchestra Assistant)

Lisa Wigmore (Leader)

Violin 1 Lisa Wigmore Sarah Boothroyd Anita Buser Adrian Charlesworth Lindsey Cooke Brian Knights Jan White Pam White Violin 2 Yvonne Cane-Hardy Katie Allcorn Diane Callendar Olga Ersek Lynn Leppard Yuliia Lypova Natasha Smith Yvonne Spear Karen Wintle Viola Frances Jones Austin Boothroyd Cecy Kemp Rachael Maddock Jane Richards Veronica Townsend	Cello Katy Bielecki James Conway Miriam Cox Rachael Grimes Ollie Mansfield Jane Pendry Double Bass Susan Denyer Kaye Colyer Angela Smith Flute Karen Rash Jasmine Tomsett Oboe Barbara Ashby Gail Taylor Clarinet Sally Donegani Clare Moisan Bassoon Hilary Ougham Fflur Jones	Horn Molly Bielecki Alison Mowbray Trevor Denyer Dave Hills Trumpet Marcus Plant Steve Hollamby Trombone Francis Minchin Nick Hutton Chris Schmidt Timpani Mike Wood List updated 3 June 2026
---	---	--

Friends and Sponsors of the Eastbourne Symphony Orchestra

In order to maintain our varied musical programme and the high quality of our performances, the Orchestra needs continuing financial support. An essential source of income is provided by the ESO Friends and Sponsors for whose generosity we are very grateful.

For Friends, a subscription of £20 per person is taken on joining and then on 1 January each year.

To sponsor the Orchestra for a year, a donation of £250 will give you two complimentary tickets to the three annual concerts and to the final of the Young Soloist Competition, and space in concert programmes for an advert.

If you would like to become an ESO Friend or Sponsor the Orchestra, then please contact our treasurer for more details.

ESO Treasurer: Richard McDonough,
4 Cobbold Avenue, Eastbourne BN21 1XA
07956 379478; treasurer@eso.org.uk

Sponsors of the Eastbourne Symphony Orchestra

The Chatfield Estate	Dr David Lewis
Elizabeth Cotton	Christina Lynn
Merton Cox	Riviera Travel
Patricia Culley	Simpsons Wealth
His Grace the 11th	Management
Duke of Devonshire	Bernadette Waterson

Friends of the Eastbourne Symphony Orchestra

Mr RHC Ascott	Mr TP Harvey	Mrs DE Munson
Dr and Mrs Guy Baker	Victoria Henley	Mrs Pamela Overington
Cynthia Baron	Miss AR Hewerdine	Mrs Joan Pallister
Brian and Janet Braby	Miss CV Hewerdine	Mr Carlos Pena Martin
Dr DJ Cooke	Paul Honney	Keith and Rosemary Ross
Arnold and Pam Cornish	Valerie Honney	Mark Smit (and Sponsor)
Elizabeth Cotton (and Sponsor)	Mrs Jane Howell	Simon and Julia Thomas
Mr EM Cox (and Sponsor)	Robert Howell	John Thornley
Mrs PE Culley (and Sponsor)	Graham Jones	Miss DJ Tigg
Miss S Davies	Kevin Jones	Mrs MD Tyler
Sylvia Edwards	Gordon Lambourn	Dr I and Mrs M Van Breda
Mrs EM Farrant	Dr David Lewis (and Sponsor)	John Vernon
Jane Ferguson	Mrs Mary Littlechild	Mr AD Warrender
Carry Field	Mrs Priscilla Lucas	Bernadette Waterson (and Sponsor)
Mrs Barbara Fisher	Mrs Jenny Lush	Mrs Paula Welch
Mrs EM Foster	Christina Lynn (and Sponsor)	Mrs Nicola Williams
Mrs Susan Foster	Jane Mansergh	Ms Nicola Yates
Marie Fraser	Mr and Mrs RJ McDonough	Prof John and Fiona York
Mrs Jane Goudge	Mrs A Merritt	
Peter and Patricia Hammond	Dr LV and Mrs SA Morrison	

Lists updated 23 May 2026

There is a list of all our concerts since our first in January 1980. All concerts are also archived including photos, programmes and videoclips where available. Visit the 'Past Concerts' tab on www.eso.org.uk or use the QR code opposite.



Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

Overture: The Magic Flute

Mozart's opera *Die Zauberflöte* was produced for the first time in Vienna in 1791, the year after the composer's death. The overture was written later than the opera itself and may be seen as a symphonic continuation of the opera's characteristically solemn mood. The trombone sounds of the three opening chords, weighted with associations of church and solemnity in general, have obvious bearings on the temple scenes, even to the extent of signifying the three Masonic knocks. The first theme is unmistakably a comedy theme but its fugal treatment is unexpected.

Graham Jones

ESO performed this in December 1989, June 2014 and October 2022.

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)

Symphony No 2

Adagio molto-Allegro con brio; Larghetto; Scherzo: Allegro-Trio; Allegro molto

Composed in 1801-1802, Beethoven's Symphony No. 2 is an outlier in musical history. Written during a deep personal crisis when Beethoven was beginning to grapple with the reality of his encroaching deafness, the symphony is surprisingly overflowing with vibrant optimism, vitality, and irrepressible humour. Rather than reflecting his despair, this work is widely viewed as a defiant celebration of art over tragedy.

The symphony opens with a massive, dramatically contrasting Adagio molto introduction, which quickly builds anticipation. The main body of the movement, Allegro con brio, bursts with rhythmic energy, surprising dynamic contrasts, and an expansive coda that remains fiercely Beethovenian.

The second movement, Larghetto, offers a striking contrast to the surrounding grandeur. Filled with elegant, song-like melodies and intimate, chamber-style writing, it provides a profoundly beautiful and lyrical sanctuary.

Perhaps the most historically significant movement is the third. Departing from the polite, aristocratic minuet traditionally found in Classical symphonies, Beethoven replaces it with a Scherzo. Meaning 'joke' in Italian, this movement is marked by quick tempos, intensified contrasts, and playful exchanges between the woodwinds and strings.

The final movement, Allegro molto, is a rambunctious, energetic romp full of brilliant musical jokes. Complete with abrupt stops, false endings, and wild, eccentric leaps, the music concludes with a thrilling, triumphant blaze of D major.

Generated from AI and adapted

This is the ESO's first performance of this work.

Interval 15 minutes

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikowsky (1840-1893)

Violin Concerto in D major Op35

Allegro Moderato; Canzonetta-Andante; Finale-Allegro vivacissimo

A mere four months after the first performance of his *Rococco Variations* for Cello in November 1877, Tchaikovsky set to work on the composition of a violin concerto while staying in Switzerland with his brother, Modest, and the violinist, Josef Kotek. He appears to have been inspired by Lalo's *Symphonie Espagnole* which he played through with Kotek during this holiday. The initial sketches were completed in 11 days, the full orchestral scoring taking just two weeks.

Tchaikowsky was elated. He wrote to his patron, Madame von Meck: 'In this atmosphere, composition loses all character of work and is continual bliss.' Although the melancholy *Canzonetta* slow movement was an afterthought, composed on the advice of Modest, the revision was a wholly successful one, and the replaced slow movement became the *Meditation* Op 42.

Unfortunately, Tchaikowsky did not dedicate the work to Kotek but offered it instead to Leopold Auer who declared it unplayable, just as he had the *Sérénade Mélancolique* a few years earlier.

The Violin Concerto was eventually performed in Vienna in 1881 under the baton of Hans Richter. The Austrian critic, Eduard Hanslick, condemned the work, as usual, declaring that the violin was 'pounded black and blue'. Eventually, however, Auer recognised his mistake and became the champion of this tremendously tuneful and vibrant work.

Like the first Piano Concerto, the Violin Concerto opens with an introduction; the main theme is sketched in by the orchestra and then fully developed by the soloist. The movement proper is in classical sonata form, the development adopting a polonaise rhythm and flavour, which is interrupted by the soloist's cadenza before the recapitulation. The Slavic, melancholy *Canzonetta* leads into the rondo Finale with its alternating gypsy and folk-dance themes.

Graham Jones

ESO performed this in June 1991, June 1996, October 2013 and June 2017.



LA LOCANDA DEL DUCÀ

RISTORANTE ITALIANO

26 Cornfield Terrace Eastbourne

BN21 4NS Tel: 01323 737177

www.la-locanda-del-duca.com

PLANAHEAD

ALL KINDS OF SIGNS INCLUDING:

SIGN BOARDS • FASCIAS & VEHICLE DECALS

DIGITAL PRINT & COPY SHOP • PLAN PRINTING

01323 739409

42a COMMERCIAL ROAD EASTBOURNE BN21 3XF

Email: planahead26@gmail.com



Firoze Madon, 2025 winner of the ESO Young Soloist Competition



Radu-Gabriel Stoica, 2025 winner of the Norah Sande Award Piano Competition

Rager and Roberts are delighted to support the Eastbourne Symphony Orchestra

'Music produces a kind of pleasure which human nature cannot do without'
(Confucius, 551 BCE to 479 BCE)

Rager & Roberts

ESTATE AGENTS

36 Cornfield Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex BN21 4QH

Telephone 01323 430133

Website: www.ragerroberts.co.uk

Email: sales@ragerroberts.co.uk

simpsons



Clear financial sense



Simpsons Wealth Management are pleased to support the Eastbourne Symphony Orchestra and wish them every success for the coming season

01323 734997 | info@simpsonswwealth.co.uk | www.simpsonswwealth.co.uk

Simpsons Wealth Management LLP is an appointed representative of Best Practice IFA Group Limited which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.