

WIGMORE HALL

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Wigmore Hall Announces 600 Concerts for the 2026/27 Concert Season and a Groundbreaking Initiative Offering 5000+ Free Tickets for Under 25s

- **The UK's largest programme of classical music with more than 600 concerts and events across the Season from September 2026 to July 2027**
- **5000+ free tickets to be made available for young people under 25 at more than 200 concerts for the 2026/27 Season**
- **Surtitles to be introduced at vocal concerts for the first time in the Hall's history to increase accessibility of the art form**
- **New partnerships with the Pierre Boulez Saal and the Daniel Barenboim Stiftung (Berlin), the Dunard Centre (Edinburgh), Glyndebourne (Lewes), the Royal Irish Academy of Music (Dublin) and the Schwarzman Centre for the Humanities (Oxford)**

In the lead-up to its 125th anniversary in May 2026, Wigmore Hall today announces its 2026/27 concert Season, and a bold expansion of its commitment to young audiences through a new scheme offering more than 5,000 free tickets for under 25s. The initiative tackles financial barriers to accessing classical music amid rising living costs, reaffirming the Hall's mission to serve audiences of all ages and backgrounds.

Wigmore Hall's 2026/27 Season marks major anniversaries for Benjamin Britten, Morton Feldman, and Ludwig van Beethoven, as well as György Kurtág's 100th birthday. Highlights include a complete Beethoven piano sonata cycle from Igor Levit and a rare performance of Feldman's five-and-a-half-hour *String Quartet No. 2*. Star-Pianist Yunchan Lim surveys Mozart's solo piano music across the Season, while Schubert's *Winterreise*, performed by Fleur Barron and Julius Drake, is reimaged with elements of Kabuki, a form of classical dance-drama from Japan. There are regular livestreams of Wigmore Hall concerts throughout the Season, and BBC Radio 3 broadcasts a live concert from the Hall every Monday lunchtime, and a selection of evening concerts every year.

Building on the success of its £5 Tickets for Under 35s scheme, which has brought more than 200,000 young people through Wigmore Hall's doors in the past decade, a new free-ticket scheme for under 25s is launched in September 2026. More than 5,000 free tickets to over 200 concerts – a third of the Hall's annual programme – will be made available for the under 25s from the 2026/27 Season. Children under 16 must be accompanied by a supervising adult who is also eligible for a free ticket.

From September 2026, for the first time, Wigmore Hall will introduce surtitles at many vocal performances. Responding to audiences and following encouraging feedback during test concerts earlier this year, English translations of song and choral texts will be discreetly projected on the wall behind the stage during performances. As the UK's largest presenter of vocal music, spanning German Lieder, French chanson, and a millennium of choral repertoire, Wigmore Hall aims to enhance engagement and accessibility while preserving the intimate atmosphere of its concerts.

Also announced today is a series of unprecedented academic and artistic partnerships in Oxford, Berlin, Dublin, Edinburgh and Glyndebourne, building musical bridges both on and off the stage. A major collaboration with the **Stephen A. Schwarzman Centre for the Humanities** and the **Faculty of Music** at the **University of Oxford** will also see Wigmore Hall's archive move to the **Bodleian Libraries** for long-term preservation and scholarly access. Collaborations with **Glyndebourne** in East Sussex, Berlin's **Pierre Boulez Saal / Daniel Barenboim Stiftung**, Dublin's **Royal Irish Academy of Music / Whyte Recital Hall** and Edinburgh's new **Dunard Centre** will foster artistic exchanges, shared programming, and additional performance opportunities for young artists.

In addition to expanding the geographical reach of the programme, from September 2026 Wigmore Hall welcomes to its family a new cohort of 16 Associate Artists with five-year tenures. These new artistic relationships with the Hall will result in commissions, cross-disciplinary projects, and collaborations reflecting the breadth of today's musical landscape. The new Associate Artists are:

Thomas Adès (composer-pianist)
Ambrose Akinmusire (jazz trumpeter)
Louise Alder (soprano)
The Gesualdo Six (vocal ensemble)
Rhiannon Giddens (multi-instrumental)
Boris Giltburg (piano)
Anastasia Kobekina (cello)
Leonkoro Quartet (string quartet)

Will Liverman (baritone-composer)
Harold López-Nussa (jazz pianist)
Anja Mittermüller (mezzo-soprano)
Daniel Pioro (violin)
Timothy Ridout (viola)
Abel Selaocoe (cello)
Jack Sheen (composer-conductor)
Peter Whelan (conductor-bassoonist)

John Gilhooly CBE, Director of Wigmore Hall, said:

"Following the festivities for the Hall's 125th anniversary in May, the 2026/27 Season represents an important strategic step for Wigmore Hall and its future path. Our new partnerships and associate artists establish a strong collaborative framework for the years ahead in the wider cultural narratives of the UK and beyond. In the face of a cost-of-living crisis, Wigmore Hall doubles down on its mission to bring music-making of the highest calibre to the widest possible audience, regardless of age and socio-economic background. We are proud of the new free-ticket scheme that will remove the single biggest barrier between young people and classical concerts. We are also pleased to be able to introduce surtitles in vocal concerts that will bring this much beloved art form closer to our audiences."

Daniel Barenboim said:

"We are delighted to deepen our collaboration through this new partnership with Wigmore

Hall, which has long stood as one of the world's great homes for chamber music. Musical collaboration is at its most pure in chamber music and at a time when cultural dialogue and artistic curiosity are more essential than ever, this exchange will create space for young artists to work intensely together, grow, question, and inspire."

For full details of Wigmore Hall's 2026/27 Season and ticketing information please visit www.wigmore-hall.org.uk

Free tickets for under 25s are supported by the CAVATINA Chamber Music Trust
£5 tickets for under 35s are supported by the AKO Foundation

WIGMORE HALL 2026/27 SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

Season Opening:

Wigmore Hall's 2026/27 Season opens on 8 September 2026 with a gala recital from soprano Nadine Sierra, featuring a programme of French song and Italian opera. The following evening, The Gesualdo Six presents an expansive survey of English Renaissance polyphony (9 September 2026) and then, pianist Víkingur Ólafsson gives three performances of a programme of seminal works by Bach, Beethoven, and Schubert (10-12 September 2026).

Composer Focuses – Britten, Beethoven, Feldman and György Kurtág

Wigmore Hall marks the 50th anniversary of the death of Benjamin Britten with a four-day focus (3-6 December 2026) and further events across the Season. Leading artists, including Allan Clayton, Iestyn Davies, Cyrille Dubois, Christine Rice, Toby Spence, Robin Tritschler, the Arcadia and Leonkoro Quartets, O/Modernt Chamber Orchestra, and broadcaster Zeb Soanes, perform major works – many of which were premièred at Wigmore Hall during Britten's lifetime – alongside new commissions by Nico Muhly and Huw Watkins.

To mark the 200th anniversary of Beethoven's death, Igor Levit performs the complete cycle of 32 piano sonatas across two immersive four-day blocks (20-23 February and 28-31 October 2027). The Nash Ensemble's *Beethoven Re-Sounded* series (from 17 October 2026) explores his influence on later composers, while violinist Viktoria Mullova with fortepianist Alasdair Beatson perform the violin sonatas (5 December 2026; 29 January & 1 March 2027). Quatuor Ébène's complete string quartet cycle, begun in 2025, comes to a close (28 & 29 December 2026) while the Belcea Quartet begins its own cycle (opening 25 September 2026 with further concerts in January and May 2027).

Morton Feldman's centenary is marked by Wigmore Hall and the London Contemporary Music Festival with a rare performance of Feldman's *String Quartet No. 2*, which lasts for more than five hours (22 December 2026), performed by Apartment House. Explore Ensemble's *Feldman and After* (2 & 3 January 2027) pairs key Feldman works with new pieces by Bryn Harrison, Laure M. Hiendl, Lisa Illean and Jack Sheen.

György Kurtág's 100th birthday is celebrated by Pierre-Laurent Aimard across three concerts on 19 September 2026 devoted to *Játékok*, Kurtág's expansive collection of piano

miniatures. This follows a late-night performance of *Kafka-Fragmente* with Rebecca Hardwick and Tamsin Waley-Cohen the previous evening.

Piano:

Yunchan Lim begins a major season-long exploration of Mozart's solo piano music (15 & 16 October and 8 & 9 December 2026, 10 & 12 March and 3 & 5 May 2027), and Jean-Efflam Bavouzet launches a multi-season Haydn survey (opening 21 December 2026). Angela Hewitt appears in both solo piano (27 February & 18 May 2027) and fortepiano performances (16 September 2026) and with the Basel Chamber Orchestra (15 November 2026).

The biennial *Autumn International Piano Festival* returns to Wigmore Hall (21 September-4 October 2026), celebrating today's community of concert pianists from emerging to established voices. The festival features Barry Douglas, Zlata Chochieva, Danny Driver, Elisabeth Leonskaja, Tamara Stefanovich and others.

Major pianists performing this Season include Leif Ove Andsnes, Kit Armstrong, Alim Beisembayev, Elisabeth Brauss, Richard Goode, Jeneba Kanneh-Mason, Pavel Kolesnikov, Igor Levit, Paul Lewis, Nikolai Lugansky, Mishka Rushdie Momen and Sir András Schiff.

Song & Vocal Music:

Fleur Barron, Julius Drake, and dancer Suleiman Suleiman present *Kabuki Winterreise: Spring Snow* (11 October 2026), intertwining twelve songs from Schubert's great Lieder cycle with elements of kabuki, a form of classical dance-drama from Japan. Barron and Joseph Middleton open a major Mahler Song Series (31 October 2026) that continues throughout the Season with other leading vocalists.

Richard Stokes's new book the *Carl Loewe Song Companion* is launched with a recital on 10 October 2026. Song highlights across the Season include: Allan Clayton and Christine Rice in Britten and Schumann (3 October 2026); Ian Bostridge and Vadym Kholodenko performing Schumann (22 October 2026); Gerald Finley in Schumann, Grieg and Barber (10 December 2026); and performances by Magdalena Kožená (6 December 2026) and Marlis Petersen (25 November 2026).

Chamber and Instrumental Music:

Leading string soloists this Season include violinists Joshua Bell, Alina Ibragimova, Janine Jansen and Leonidas Kavakos; cellists Sheku Kanneh-Mason, Jean-Guihen Queyras and Pieter Wispelwey also appear, as does Steven Isserlis, performing 50 years to the day since his debut at Wigmore Hall in 1977 (11 July 2027). Viola fans can hear six leading viola players, led by Timothy Ridout, performing a full day of concerts celebrating the instrument and its repertoire (14 November 2026).

The Takács Quartet gives two contrasting autumn performances (16 & 18 November 2026) featuring Haydn, Brahms and Schubert, alongside 21st-century works by Carlos Simon and Gabriela Lena Frank. In the new year, Steven Osborne joins the Takács for performances of César Franck's *Piano Quintet* (13 & 15 March 2027).

Early in the Season, Christian Tetzlaff, Tanja Tetzlaff and Kiveli Dörken perform Smetana's *Piano Trio* and Tchaikovsky's *Piano Trio in A minor* (15 September 2026) and the United Strings of Europe present a programme centred on the world première of Misha Mullov-Abbado's Violin Concerto, framed by repertoire reflecting the ensemble's collaborative ethos (22 November 2026).

Baroque and Early Music:

Vox Luminis perform Monteverdi's *Vespers*, one of the foundational works of early Baroque sacred music (20 September 2026). Il Pomo d'Oro opens its Residency on 13 September with *Selva morale e spirituale*, returning with Gabrieli's *Miserere mei Deus* and Cavalli's *Requiem Mass* (23 November 2026), and Solomon's Knot performs Bach's *Mass in B minor* (10 October 2026).

Arcangelo's *English Baroque Journey*, opening 30 October 2026, is a major exploration of the English Baroque from the Restoration to the time of Handel. It continues in January and June 2027 with further programmes across the next three seasons, concluding in 2029.

The Sixteen continues its series of performances at St James's, Spanish Place (7 October 2026) and Peter Whelan and the Irish Baroque Choir and Orchestra perform Handel's 'Dublin' *Messiah* (18 December 2026). Fretwork marks its 40th anniversary with an English programme including music by Dowland and Lawes and Les Arts Florissants returns with William Christie performing secular madrigals by Monteverdi (26 November 2026).

Associate and Resident Artists:

Thomas Adès opens his Residency with a programme including his own works *Blanca Variations* and *Vesper* alongside works by Haydn, Janáček and Stravinsky (26 September 2026). The Danish String Quartet performs Adès's *Wreath – for Franz Schubert*, a single-movement work commissioned by the Quartet (23 September 2026) – and Adès returns in the new year performing with members of the Hallé Orchestra (4 March 2027) and the vocal ensemble Tenebrae (30 May 2027).

Lutenist Thomas Dunford has described John Dowland as the 'John Lennon of the 16th Century', and he launches his Residency with Jupiter Ensemble, Hugh Cutting and Lea Desandre on 4 November 2026 continuing his tireless advocacy of the Elizabethan master lutenist, songwriter and composer.

On 26 October, Avi Avital opens his Residency exploring mandolin repertoire from Scarlatti and Vivaldi to Ben Haim and Ravel. Bertrand Chamayou and Vilde Frang perform Bartók's *Violin Sonata No. 1* (9 October 2026), while Francesca Dego ranges from Tartini and Berio to Debussy, Respighi and Ravel (20 November 2026). Sol Gabetta and Kristian Bezuidenhout perform Mendelssohn, Schumann and Brahms (5 October 2026), and James Newby presents a Schubert-centred programme inspired by the composer's partnership with Johann Michael Vogl, opening his Residency (13 October 2026).

Jazz pianist Emmet Cohen's Residency begins with a concert marking the centenaries of two towering giants of jazz, Miles Davis and John Coltrane (2 November 2026), who were born

months apart in 1926. Cohen's Residency continues with further concerts in March and June 2027

New and Contemporary Music:

New music and premières appear throughout the Season including aforementioned works by Adès and Mullov-Abbado. The UK premières of Mark Simpson's *The Dictionary of Obscure Sorrows* (26 October 2026) and Nico Muhly's *An Archive in Three Parts* (3 December 2026) also feature, alongside new works by Patricia Alessandrini (3 October 2026) and Joby Talbot (11 December 2026), amongst others.

Scotland's vibrant contemporary music scene is celebrated with the Hebrides Ensemble, soprano Ailish Tynan and baritone Marcus Farnsworth across a day of concerts (30 January 2027), presenting a rich portrait of Scotland's leading composers, with music by Helen Grime, Stuart MacRae, Thea Musgrave and Judith Weir.

Wigmore Hall / BBC Radio 3 Lunchtime Concerts:

Running every Monday lunchtime during the Season and broadcast live on BBC Radio 3, the Wigmore Hall/BBC Radio 3 Lunchtime Concerts present a stellar roster of artists, including Alice Coote, Mark Padmore, Simon Trpčeski, Pavel Kolesnikov, Bomsori Kim, and Gli Incogniti under Amandine Beyer. Together, these artists bring an exceptional breadth of repertoire and styles to Monday lunchtimes throughout the Season.

Other Projects:

Rebeca Omordia and the African Concert Series return in 2027 for two days of performances celebrating African classical music (6 February and 26 June 2027). Additional appearances include Grammy-winning bassist Linda May Han Oh with pianist Fabian Almazan (21 September 2026), vibraphonist Patricia Brennan with her Septet (9 November 2026), and the return of pianist-composer Harold López-Nussa (30 November 2026).

-ENDS-

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Notes to Editors

About Wigmore Hall

Wigmore Hall, in the heart of London's West End, marks its 125th Anniversary this year. Recognised for its intimate and crystalline acoustic, it is celebrated as one of the world's foremost concert venues and presents the largest classical music programme in the United Kingdom with more than six hundred events annually spanning chamber music, song, early music, solo recitals, jazz, world music and contemporary work.

Under the leadership of John Gilhooly CBE since 2005, the Hall welcomes the world's greatest artists, while championing exceptional emerging talent. A centre of innovation since its earliest days, it is now one of the UK's foremost commissioners of new music, whilst

remaining the custodian of a rich artistic tradition and a celebrated home for chamber music and song. Its prestigious International Song and String Quartet Competitions help identify and nurture the leading musicians of tomorrow.

Through its popular ticketing schemes for young people, regular free livestreams, close partnership with BBC Radio 3, and its award-winning Learning programme, Wigmore Hall continues to grow its audience and extend its reach far beyond its beautiful 552-seat auditorium. Its work is sustained entirely by ticket sales and the generosity of its audiences and supporters.

Further endorsements

John Fulljames, Director, Cultural Programme, Schwarzman Centre for the Humanities, Oxford

“Our collaboration with Wigmore Hall makes the most of opportunities for performance, research and learning.”

Jo Buckley, Chief Executive, Dunard Centre, Edinburgh, said:

“Wigmore Hall is globally recognised as a beacon of artistic excellence, with an adventurous programme that showcases the very pinnacle of live performance and demonstrates a deep commitment to nurturing the next generation. We share their belief in the transformative power of live music, and as we build a new, twenty-first century concert hall in the heart of Edinburgh, we are thrilled to also be building a partnership with Wigmore Hall that has these shared values at its heart. John Gilhooly’s expert leadership will be the bridge between the two, overseeing a new artistic advisory committee that will ensure that our work both on and off the stage is as world-class as the facilities themselves.”

Deborah Kelleher, Director, Royal Irish Academy of Music, Dublin, said:

“Following the successful Wigmore Hall Festival that helped us open the Whyte Recital Hall in 2023, we are delighted to have developed this ongoing collaboration with Wigmore Hall which will bring some of the world’s most distinguished artists to Irish audiences. The Wigmore Series Dublin will give RIAM students invaluable opportunities to hear and learn directly from internationally renowned musicians through masterclasses and shared artistic exchange.”