

WIGMORE HALL 125

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

24 November 2025

Wigmore Hall Celebrates 125 Years with Landmark Festival

25 MAY – 7 JUNE 2026, LONDON

- Six generations of musical stars from around the world gather in London to mark Wigmore Hall's 125th anniversary
- Twenty-four concerts across 14 days, with many broadcast on BBC Radio 3, reaching audiences across the UK and internationally
- Launch of a major new biography of Wigmore Hall by Julia Boyd, exploring music-making in London across two centuries against seismic historical events and social change
- Stellar line-up includes, sopranos Lise Davidsen, Asmik Grigorian, Carolyn Sampson; tenor Ian Bostridge; baritone Christian Gerhaher; pianists Thomas Adès, Yunchan Lim, Igor Levit, Alexandre Kantorow, Angela Hewitt; violinists Alina Ibragimova, Christian Tetzlaff; cellist Abel Selaocoe's Bantu Ensemble and multi-instrumentalists Rhiannon Giddens and Francesco Turrisi with Crash Ensemble; the Belcea, Modigliani and Leonkoro Quartets, Les Arts Florissants with William Christie, and Hespèrion XXI with Jordi Savall

Wigmore Hall will mark its 125th anniversary with a two-week festival from 25 May to 7 June 2026, the centrepiece of its 2025/26 anniversary season. Leading artists from across the globe join the celebrations, with many concerts broadcast live on BBC Radio 3 or recorded for future transmission, bringing the festival to audiences across the UK and internationally.

Centred on Wigmore Hall's inaugural concert date of 31 May 1901, the Festival spans the week on either side, opening on 25 May 2026 with a reimagining of the historic event. Composer and pianist Thomas Adès, soprano Louise Alder, violinist Alina Ibragimova, and pianists Joseph Middleton and Cédric Tiberghien will revisit elements of the original programme, including Beethoven's *Piano Sonata No. 30*, Schubert Lieder, solo violin works by Bach and Beethoven, and Brahms's *Variations on a Theme of Paganini*. The concert also features the world première of a new piano arrangement of Adès's 'Vesper (for Henry Purcell)' from his 2023 work *Forgotten Dances*, performed by the composer.

The opening night marks the launch of historian Julia Boyd's new book, *There Is Sweet Music Here: The World of Wigmore Hall* (Elliott & Thompson, 2026). Drawing on archival sources and first-hand accounts, Boyd charts the Hall's extraordinary journey from Edwardian beginnings to the present day. Her narrative captures stories of survival, reinvention, artistic daring, wartime resilience and near financial collapse, vividly portraying how the 550-seat Marylebone concert

hall became a musical landmark, repeatedly defying the odds to shape the musical life of London and beyond.

John Gilhooly, Director of Wigmore Hall, said:

“Julia Boyd’s book paints a vivid picture of Wigmore Hall’s evolution into the vital global centre it is today, through stories of the artists who have made this Hall their own. I am grateful to the constellation of today’s stars who will join us to celebrate this landmark anniversary and create their own history with the Hall for the future. I am also deeply grateful to our partners, supporters, audiences and friends who have made this season possible – we simply could not have reached this milestone without them.”

Across 14 days, audiences will experience an exceptional range of performances. The distinguished vocal line-up includes Lise Davidsen in an all-Schubert programme; Ian Bostridge in Schumann’s *Dichterliebe* and *Liederkreis*; Asmik Grigorian in French and Russian vocalises and Strauss’s *Four Last Songs*; and Christian Gerhaher with Gerold Huber in a programme of Beethoven, Berg, Brahms, Mahler and Wolf. Carolyn Sampson and Joseph Middleton perform a programme of songs premièred in the year Wigmore Hall opened, 1901, while Elaine Mitchener and Elizabeth Kenny collaborate for the first time in a wide-ranging programme spanning Dowland to Joni Mitchell.

Superstar pianist Yunchan Lim performs Fantasies by Chopin, Schumann and Schubert; Igor Levit gives a solo recital featuring Liszt’s visionary *Dante Sonata*; and Lukas Sternath, a student of Levit’s, makes his evening recital debut with Liszt and Schubert. Other piano recitals come from Alexandre Kantorow and Angela Hewitt.

London Voices bring the shimmering, incantatory textures of Stockhausen’s *Stimmung* to a late-night performance, while Jordi Savall and Hespèrion XXI perform Monteverdi and Dowland, and Les Arts Florissants and William Christie perform Handel’s *Acis and Galatea*.

Cellist Abel Selaocoe’s Bantu Ensemble blends classical and African traditions, while singer, composer, ace fiddler and banjo virtuoso Rhiannon Giddens joins forces with Francesco Turrisi and Ireland’s Crash Ensemble for a genre-crossing finale to her 2025/26 Season Residency.

Mendelssohn’s youthful Octet is performed by the Modigliani and Leonkoro Quartets; Mozart’s G minor String Quintet is performed with Tabea Zimmermann and the Belcea Quartet; and Brahms and Schumann piano quintets with Igor Levit and the Leonkoro Quartet.

The Festival closes with a rare complete performance of Bach’s Sonatas and Partitas for solo violin, performed by Christian Tetzlaff to mark his 60th birthday.

Throughout the 2024/25 Season, Wigmore Hall marks its 125th Anniversary with a series of newly commissioned *Voices of Today* works. On 28 February 2026, Ensemble Mosaik gives the première of a new work by British composer Lawrence Dunn and American composer Nick Bentz’s *a gleaming like ivory that slowly resolves until it becomes dust* will be performed by Ensemble intercontemporain on 16 May 2026. Also, on 20 June 2026, the Carducci String Quartet joins pianist Tom Poster for the world première of Ninfea Cruttwell-Reade’s new piano quintet, presented alongside Elgar’s Piano Quintet in A minor.

Tickets go on general sale on Tuesday 27 January 2026 at 10am at www.wigmore-hall.org.uk

-ENDS-

High resolution press images are available here:

<https://wigmorehall.resourcespace.com?c=736&k=176873a3b2>

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Listings Information

Monday 25 May 2026 01:00 PM

Modigliani Quartet

Leonkoro Quartet

Turina La oración del torero Op. 34

Schulhoff 5 Pieces for String Quartet

Felix Mendelssohn Octet in E flat Op. 20

Monday 25 May 2026 07:30 PM

125th anniversary book launch concert:

There Is Sweet Music Here: The World of Wigmore Hall

[Boyd, Julia; Elliot & Thompson, 2026]

Thomas Adès piano

Alina Ibragimova violin

Cédric Tiberghien piano

Louise Alder soprano

Joseph Middleton piano

Beethoven Piano Sonata No. 30 in E Op. 109

Bach V. Sarabande from *Partita No. 1 in B minor* for solo violin BWV1002

VI. Double from *Partita No. 1 in B minor* for solo violin BWV1002

VII. Tempo di Borea from *Partita No. 1 in B minor* for solo violin BWV1002

Beethoven Romance in G Op. 40

Schubert Nacht und Träume D827

Der Jüngling an der Quelle D300

Erlkönig D328

Brahms Variations on a Theme by Paganini Op.

35

Thomas Adès VI. Vesper (for Henry Purcell) from *Forgotten Dances* transcribed by Thomas Adès

Tuesday 26 May 2026 01:00 PM (and repeated Wednesday 27 May 2026 01:00 PM)

Jordi Savall viola da gamba, director;

Hespèrion XXI; La Capella Reial de Catalunya

The Tears and Fire of the Muses, Claudio

Monteverdi Revolution

Scheidt Paduan V

Courant Dolorosa IX

Monteverdi Lamento d'Arianna SV107

Dowland Lachrimae Antiquae

Holborne The Teares of the Muses

Monteverdi Sestina: Lagrime d'amante al sepolcro dell'amata SV111

Dowland Lachrimae Gementes

The Earl of Essex Galliard

Monteverdi Qui rise, o Tirsi SV113

Dowland Semper Dowland semper dolens

Gorzanis La barca d'amore

Monteverdi Tirsi e Clori SV145

Tuesday 26 May 2026 07:30 PM

Asmik Grigorian soprano

Lukas Geniušas piano

Rachmaninov Vocalise Op. 34 No. 14

Fauré Vocalise-étude

Hahn Vocalise-étude (Souvenir de

Constantinople)

Bizet L'aurore *from Chants du Rhin piano solo*

Le départ *from Chants du Rhin piano solo*

Les rêves *from Chants du Rhin piano solo*

Le Retour *from Chants du Rhin piano solo*

Messiaen Vocalise-étude

Ravel Vocalise-étude en forme de habanera

Strauss Cécilie Op. 27 No. 2

Zueignung Op. 10 No. 1

An einsamer Quelle *from Stimmungsbilder Op. 9 piano solo*

Intermezzo *from Stimmungsbilder Op. 9 piano solo*

Träumerei *from Stimmungsbilder Op. 9 piano solo*

4 Last Songs

Wednesday 27 May 2026 01:00 PM

Repeat of Tuesday 26 May 01:00 PM concert

Jordi Savall viola da gamba, director

Hespèrion XXI

La Capella Reial de Catalunya

Wednesday 27 May 2026 07:30 PM

Rhiannon Giddens

Francesco Turrisi

Crash Ensemble

Rhiannon Giddens joins forces for the last concert of her Residency with fellow Grammy-winning composer and multi-instrumentalist Francesco Turrisi and Crash Ensemble, Ireland's visionary new music group.

Thursday 28 May 2026 07:30 PM

Alexandre Kantorow piano

Programme to include:

Liszt Variationen über das Motiv von Bach S180

Medtner Piano Sonata in F minor Op. 5

Chopin Prelude in C sharp minor Op. 45

Beethoven Piano Sonata No. 32 in C minor Op. 111

Friday 29 May 2026 01:00 PM

Yunchan Lim piano

Chopin Fantasy in F minor Op. 49

Schubert Fantasy Sonata in G D894

R Schumann Fantasie in C Op. 17

Friday 29 May 2026 07:30 PM

Christian Gerhaer baritone

Gerold Huber piano

Beethoven An die ferne Geliebte Op. 98

G Mahler Frühlingsmorgen; Ablösung im Sommer; Zu Strassburg auf der Schanz; and Nicht wiedersehen! *from Des Knaben Wunderhorn*

Wolf Lied eines Verliebten; Im Frühling; Denk' es, o Seele!; and Der Feuerreiter *from Mörike Lieder*

Berg Altenberg Lieder Op. 4

Brahms Wir wandelten Op. 96 No. 2 *from Vier Lieder Op. 96*

Über die Heide Op. 86 No. 4 *from Sechs Lieder Op. 86*

Anklänge Op. 7 No. 3 *from Sechs Gesänge Op. 7*

Verzagen Op. 72 No. 4 *from 5 Gesänge Op. 72*

Meerfahrt Op. 96 No. 4 *from Vier Lieder Op. 96*

G Mahler Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen

Saturday 30 May 2026 07:30 PM

Leonkoro Quartet

Igor Levit piano

Haydn String Quartet in D Op. 76 No. 5

Felix Mendelssohn String Quartet No. 6 in F minor Op. 80

Brahms Piano Quintet in F minor Op. 34

Sunday 31 May 2026 11:30 AM

Leonkoro Quartet;

Igor Levit piano

Bosmans String Quartet
R Schumann Piano Quintet in E flat Op. 44

**Sunday 31 May 2026 7:30 PM (and repeated
Tuesday 2 June 7:30 PM)**

Lise Davidsen soprano
James Baillieu piano

Schubert Am Bach im Frühling D361
Ganymed D544
Der Zwerg D771
Gretchen am Spinnrade D118
Mignons Gesang 'Kennst du das Land?' D321
Heiss mich nicht reden *from Gesänge aus
Wilhelm Meister D877*
So lasst mich scheinen *from Gesänge aus
Wilhelm Meister D877*
Nur wer die Sehnsucht kennt *from Gesänge aus
Wilhelm Meister D877*
Der Tod und das Mädchen D531
Der Musensohn D764
Lachen und Weinen D777
Suleika I D720
Auf dem See D543
Der blinde Knabe D833
Du bist die Ruh D776
Die Allmacht D852
Die junge Nonne D828
Erkönig D328
Am Tage aller Seelen D343

Monday 1 June 2026 01:00 PM

Igor Levit piano

Ravel Kaddisch *from 2 mélodies
hébraïques arranged by Alexander Siloti for
piano*

Shostakovich Piano Sonata No. 2 in B minor Op.
61

Liszt Après une lecture du Dante 'Fantasia quasi
Sonata' *from Années de pèlerinage, deuxième
année, Italie S161*

Monday 1 June 2026 07:30 PM

Les Arts Florissants

William Christie director, harpsichord
James Way tenor (as Acis)
Rachel Redmond soprano (as Galatea)
Alex Rosen baritone (as Polyphemus)
Richard Pittsinger tenor (as Damon)

Handel Acis and Galatea HWV49

Tuesday 2 June 2026 07:30 PM
**Repeat of Sunday 31 May 2026 7:30 PM
concert**

Lise Davidsen soprano
James Baillieu piano

Wednesday 3 June 2026 07:30 PM

Belcea Quartet
Tabea Zimmermann viola

Mozart String Quintet in G minor K516
Brahms String Quintet in F Op. 88

Thursday 4 June 2026 01:00 PM

Carolyn Sampson soprano
Joseph Middleton piano

Strauss Freundliche Vision Op. 48 No. 1
Waldseligkeit Op. 49 No. 1

Debussy Chansons de Bilitis

G Mahler 'Ich atmet' einen linden Duft; Blicke
mir nicht in die Lieder!; and Ich bin der Welt
abhanden gekommen *from Rückert Lieder*

Hahn A une étoile

Bordes La poussière des tamis chante au
soleil *from 4 poèmes*

Massenet Amoureux appel

Bonis Reproche tendre Op. 49

Hahn Sopra l'acqua indormenzada *from Venezia*
La barcheta *from Venezia*

L'avvertimento *from Venezia*

Schoenberg Galathea *from Brettl-Lieder*
Gigerlette *from Brettl-Lieder*

Arie aus Dem Spiegel von Arkadien from Brettli-Lieder

Thursday 4 June 2026 07:30 PM

Angela Hewitt piano

Mozart Piano Sonata in B flat K570

Beethoven Piano Sonata No. 15 in D Op. 28
'Pastoral'

Haydn Fantasia in C HXVII/4

Schubert 12 Waltzes (Valse nobles) D969

Bach Partita No. 2 in C minor BWV826

Friday 5 June 2026 07:00 PM

Bantu Ensemble

Abel Selaocoe cello

The South African cellist and vocalist draws on his own deep experience of music made with his family, at church and in his vast imagination to shape life-enhancing improvisations and exquisite classical interpretations.

Friday 5 June 2026 10:00 PM

London Voices

Stockhausen Stimmung

Saturday 6 June 2026 01:00 PM

Elaine Mitchener vocalist

Elizabeth Kenny lute

Songs, Airs & the Blues

Saturday 6 June 2026 07:30 PM

Ian Bostridge tenor

Piotr Anderszewski piano

R Schumann Dichterliebe Op. 48; Liederkreis
Op. 24

Sunday 7 June 2026 11:30 AM

Lukas Sternath piano

Liszt Funérailles S173 No. 7

Schubert Piano Sonata in B flat D960

Sunday 7 June 2026 07:00 PM

Christian Tetzlaff violin

Bach Sonata No. 1 in G minor for solo violin
BWV1001

Partita No. 1 in B minor for solo violin BWV1002

Sonata No. 2 in A minor for solo violin BWV1003

Partita No. 2 in D minor for solo violin BWV1004

Sonata No. 3 in C for solo violin BWV1005

Partita No. 3 in E for solo violin BWV1006