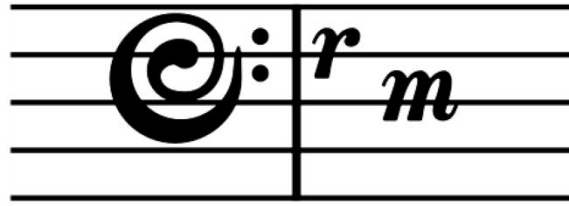


“IN TUNE”

The newsletter of



Curry Rivel Music

March 2026

Chairman's message

I am delighted to write this message ahead of our 2026 season of concerts at St Andrew's church in Curry Rivel. I am the newly appointed Chairman of Curry Rivel Music and it's a great honour to succeed Stephen O'Malley in this role.

Curry Rivel Music (formerly known as the Curry Rivel Music Club) was founded by our former vicar, the late John Simpson, nearly fifty years ago and it's still going strong. That is a tremendous achievement and a great testimony to the hard work of our committee of volunteers, but also to Curry Rivel's strong sense of community.

This year we have a great line up of talent offering a typically wide range of tip-top music. Sadly, however, we can't escape the world of rising costs and, as a result, for the first time in several years, we have had to review ticket prices. These have now been set at £18 per concert or £60 for a season ticket for all four concerts (meaning that the season ticket offers a saving of £12 across the season). If you look around and 'compare the market', I think you'll agree that that still represents exceptionally good value. The best way to 'sign up' for tickets is to use our online store here: <https://curry-rivel-music.sumupstore.com/>

Separately and additionally, we would be tremendously grateful if you would consider becoming a "Friend" of CRM by making a donation to the charity. This is quite separate from the purchase of tickets and can be done either through the online store or by standing order. It would be eligible for Gift Aid, thereby lifting the value of your donation by 25% and would make a huge difference to our long-term sustainability. You can find the Gift Aid form and Bank Details at the back of this newsletter.

We hope to see many of you at our concerts over the coming months. And please remember to tell your friends about Curry Rivel Music and encourage them to come along too. The simplest way of doing this is just to forward them this newsletter.



Tim Schroder

2026 Season Inaugural concert

Saturday 21st March

*Huw Wiggin (saxophone) and
Oliver Wass (harp)*

Since forming their duo in 2016, saxophonist Huw Wiggin and harpist Oliver Wass have developed and refined their programmes of music for this unusual pairing of instruments. With a reputation as warm communicators who draw audiences into their intimate and engaging performances, they have been described in a five-star review by Robert Hugill as 'a seemingly unlikely combination that works real magic'. Their performance on Orchid Classics disc 'Reflections' received a four-star review from BBC Music Magazine, and they have also been featured by Classic FM who filmed and released a video containing a selection of items from 'Reflections'.



Their programme for us is nothing if not wide-ranging, and includes music by Bela Kovács, Couperin, Arvo Pärt, Charlotte Harding, J S Bach, Andy Scott, Philip Glass, Gershwin, Tarrega, Bernstein, Fauré (his famous "Pavane") and the "Carmen" Fantasy by Francois Borne.

Our last concert: Saturday 18th October 2025

Reviewer Peter Merry wrote:

In the final concert of our season, we welcomed Ewan Miller, oboe and his piano accompanist Tomas Boyles. I first came across Ewan when he won the Wind Final of the 2020 BBC Young Musician competition, and was then struck by his brilliant technique combined with an eloquent musicianship well beyond his years. He is now the real deal and he dazzled us with a recital of extraordinary brilliance.

I have often commented in these reviews on the fact that the repertoire for wind instruments does compare well with that for piano or strings, and so it was in this recital where the large majority of the works were arrangements. We did, however begin with two originals, Dawn for solo oboe by Thea Musgrave and the beguiling Interlude by Finzi both sensitively played by the duo. Three contrasting arrangements followed, a cantata movement by Bach, a fascinating reconstruction of Ravel's delightful piano Sonatine, and a dramatic working of Deep River by Coleridge-Taylor.

The second half began with the famous oboe concerto by Marcello followed by a thoughtful account of Samuel Barber's Canzonetta. Next came four song arrangements, two by Mendelssohn, one by his contemporary, Robert Schumann and a delicious re-working of a song by Lili Boulanger. This wonderful recital ended with a thrilling performance of Schumann's Adagio and Allegro, originally written for the newly-developed valve horn.

This season has been a cornucopia of brilliant performances from an exciting variety of musicians, bringing to this quiet corner of Somerset five wonderfully diverse evenings of music –making. Roll on the 2026 season starting on March 21st.

Peter Merry



St Andrew's Church

St Andrew's church, the venue for our concerts, is one of the finest in this part of Somerset. A typical example of the 'perpendicular' style of the late fifteenth century, it is built of wonderfully warm-coloured local Ham stone and, with its large traceried windows and high arches, is full of light (in the day time!). Like many parish churches built in medieval times, when music played such an important part in religious services, the acoustics are very fine too.

Inside, it has many interesting

furnishings too: including part of a splendid rood screen across the north and south aisles, a good collection of early sixteenth-century carved bench ends, and an unusual seventeenth-century double monument to two members of the Jennings family, Marmaduke and Robert. There's a magnificent fan vault in the porch too, whereby hangs a tale. These and other features of the church will form the subject of short pieces in future issues of the Curry Rivel Music Newsletter.

Buy tickets, make a donation or download the
Gift Aid form here:

<https://curry-rivel-music.sumupstore.com/>

Concert Diary

Coming up in Curry Rivel Music's 2026 season calendar:

- **Saturday 21st March:**
Huw Wiggin (saxophone) and Oliver Wass (harp)
- **Saturday 25 April:**
Tim Horton (piano)
- **Saturday 26 September:**
Gerard Flotats (cello) and Julian Chan (piano)
- **Saturday 24 October:**
Crispian Steele-Perkins (trumpet) and Jonathan Delbridge (organ)

All concerts start at 7pm.

... and we think you might also like to know about these other concerts in our area:

Thur 19-21 Feb: Bath Bachfest - see www.bathbachfest.org.uk.

Fri 13th March: Concerts in the West – Bridport Arts Centre 11.30am – 12.30pm Geirbruour Anna Guomundsdottir (cello) and Antoine Peat (piano).

Fri 13th March: Concerts in the West – Ilminster Arts Centre 7.30pm: Geirbruour Anna Guomundsdottir (cello) and Antoine Peat (piano).

Sat 14th March: Concerts in the West - Dance Hall, Crewkerne. Geirbruour Anna Guomundsdottir (cello) and Antoine Peat (piano).

Thur 19th March: Cedars Hall, Wells Cathedral School, 7.00pm Maestro Concert: The Elias String Quartet with Gary Pomeroy (viola).

Fri 20th March: Milverton Concert Society – St Michael's Church, Milverton, 7.30pm. Guy Johnson (cello) and Melvyn Tan (piano).

Sat 21st March: Wells Cathedral Oratorio Society: Durufle Requiem and Haydn Nelson Mass - 7.00pm.

Fri 27th March Wells Cathedral: Armonico Consort: St Matthew Passion. 7.00pm

Fri 10th April Concerts in the West: Bridport Arts Centre - 11.30-12.30 Ensemble Augelletti.

Fri 10th April Concerts in the West – Ilminster Arts Centre 7.30pm Ensemble Augelletti.

Sat 11th April Concerts in the West - Dance Hall, Crewkerne. Ensemble Augelletti.

Sat 18th April South Somerset Choral Society - St Mary's Chard: Handel: Acis and Galatea, Schubert: Mass in C.

30th Apr - 7th May: Sherborne Abbey Festival.



Charity Gift Aid Declaration – multiple donation

Boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate

Gift Aid is reclaimed by Curry Rivel Music Club from the tax you pay for the current tax year. Your address is needed to identify you as a current UK taxpayer.

In order to Gift Aid your donation you must tick the box below:

I want to Gift Aid my donation of £_____ and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years to CURRY RIVEL MUSIC CLUB.

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

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Please notify the charity if you:

- want to cancel this declaration
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If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.

Bank account details for donations

Account name: Curry Rivel Music Club

Bank: TSB, PO Box 373, Leeds, W Yorkshire, LS14 9CG

Sort code: 30-18-16 *Account number:* 00476200