



Community partnership  
sponsor: **Taylor  
Wimpey**

---

Conductor: Geoff Bushell  
Leader: Kate Bailey  
Honorary President: Lord Vaizey of Didcot

---

Concert **13** – Sunday 4 February 2024

## PROGRAMME

Humperdinck	Hansel and Gretel: Overture
Duparc	Lénore
Borodin	Prince Igor: Polovtsian Dances
Tchaikovsky	Symphony no 6 "Pathétique"



---

[www.didcotconcertorchestra.org.uk](http://www.didcotconcertorchestra.org.uk)  
[www.facebook.com/didcotconcertorchestra](https://www.facebook.com/didcotconcertorchestra)

# Primrose Gardens at Valley Park

HARWELL, OXFORDSHIRE

1 & 2 BEDROOM APARTMENTS  
AND 2, 3, & 4 BEDROOM HOMES

## Looking for a fresh start?

*Let us take care of it*

Discover Primrose Gardens  
at Valley Park, Didcot!

This brand new community will offer green open spaces, including allotments and play areas, a community centre, schools†, and extra care facilities. It's the perfect development for growing families!

Scan the QR code to register your interest today!



### Key

- Taylor Wimpey Homes
- Persimmon Homes
- Main Road
- Pedestrian/Cycle Path

### Points of interest

- Proposed SEN School
- Proposed Primary School
- Community Centre/Local amenities
- Extra Care Facilities
- Balancing Pond
- Play Area
- Allotments
- Parks and Green Space
- Bridge to link to Milton Park
- Pavilion

VALLEY PARK,  
LAND OFF COW LANE,  
HARWELL, OXFORDSHIRE,  
OX14 4TX

#taylorwimpey  
Call 01235 330 771  
taylorwimpey.co.uk

# Taylor Wimpey

Normal Taylor Wimpey terms and conditions apply. The Development Layout does not show details of gradients of land, boundary treatments, local authority street lighting or landscaping. It is our intention to build in accordance with this layout. However, there may be occasions when the house designs, boundaries, landscaping and positions of roads and footpaths change as the development proceeds. Please check the details of your chosen property with your Sales Executive prior to reservation. Please speak to our Sales Executives regarding the tenure of our new homes. †Taken from google.co.uk/maps. †Proximity to schools mentioned is for information only and is not a guarantee of admittance. 56824/September 2023.

# PROGRAMME

## Hansel and Gretel: Overture      Engelbert Humperdinck (1854-1921)

Humperdinck started composing at the age of only seven, and despite objections from his parents who wanted him to study architecture, he went on to study music in Cologne and Munich. His travels to Naples brought him into contact with Richard Wagner, and he later assisted Wagner with *Parsifal* at Bayreuth, and tutored Wagner's son Siegfried. *Hansel and Gretel* – a fairy tale opera – was the final evolution of incidental music for a children's play, with text by Humperdinck's sister Adelheid Wette, to amuse the family. The opera's technical mastery and invention show the influence of Wagner. Many of the opera's themes are used in the overture, including the opening horn quartet which gives a premonition of the evening prayer at the end of Act 2 when fourteen angels watch over the principal characters falling asleep. The first performance was given in Weimar in 1893, conducted by Richard Strauss, and the second in Hamburg in 1894, conducted by Gustav Mahler. In the 1960s, the composer's name was taken as the stage name of pop singer Arnold Dorsey.



## Symphonic Poem: Lénore      Henri Duparc (1848-1933)

Eugène Marie Henri Fouques Duparc was born in Paris in 1848, studied piano with César Franck, and became one of the older man's first composition pupils. Following military service in the Franco-Prussian War, Duparc married Ellen MacSwinney, from Scotland, in 1871. In early life, the affluence of Duparc's family allowed him to devote himself to composition. He is best known for his 17 *Mémoires* or art-songs, but in 1885 at the age of 37 he stopped composing abruptly and became heavily critical of his own works, destroying many of them. This is thought to be because of a condition called neurasthenia, combined with blindness in 1913, and the effect of numerous bereavements. Apart from four pieces, Duparc's condition was to render him compositionally silent for the last 40 years of his life. *Lénore* is a symphonic poem based on the ballad of the same name by Gottfried August Bürger (1747-1794). It was written in 1875. Bach was Duparc's model for rich textures and Gluck inspired his taste for a large melodic line. Duparc also met and was inspired by Wagner, attending the first performance of *Die Walküre*. However Wagner was unfashionable after the First World War, so Duparc formed concert associations with

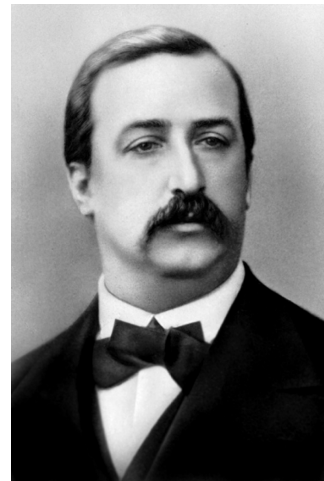


Fauré, Chausson and Saint Saëns. The latter intervened in the orchestration of *Lénore* – a simple slow introduction, an *allegro*, and *coda adagio* and *pianissimo*.

## Prince Igor: Polovtsian Dances

Alexander Borodin (1833-87)

Borodin's folk opera *Prince Igor* was written in 1887, and remained incomplete at his death later that year. The opera was completed by Rimsky-Korsakov and Glazunov, but is rarely performed today except for its overture and Polovtsian Dances. The Dances appear towards the end of the second act, during a lavish feast given by Khan Konchak, the leader of the Polovtsi – a twelfth-century race of Tartars in Central Asia. The first dance brings the procession of the royal captives with an oriental melody for flute and oboe. Then comes the dance of the savage men, accompanied by a lively tune for clarinet. In the dance of the boys, war games are simulated, denoted by syncopated strings and cymbal clashes. Young girls then dance to a sensual oriental melody for violins and cellos. At the end, the dancers salute the Khan Konchak to music that is brilliant in colour and dynamic in rhythm. Although often performed in the original version with choir, tonight's performance is the orchestral arrangement by Rimsky-Korsakov.



---

Interval – 20 minutes – refreshments downstairs

---

## Symphony no 6 "Pathétique"

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840-93)

- I – Adagio - Allegro non troppo – Andante – Moderato mosso – Andante – Moderato assai – Allegro vivo – Andante come prima – Andante mosso
- II – Allegro con grazia
- III – Allegro molto vivace
- IV – Finale: Adagio lamentoso – Andante

Although Tchaikovsky was born in Russia, his paternal family came from Ukraine. The original family name was Chaika ("Seagull") before it was changed to the more noble-sounding Chaikovsky by the composer's grandfather, who eventually moved to Russia. Pyotr Ilyich's great-grandfather, Fedor Chaika, was born in Kremenchuk, Ukraine, and became a Cossack who served in the Zaporozhian army.



The numbering of the symphonies is anomalous – the

*Pathétique* was the eighth to be started, and the seventh to be completed. The 'extra' non-numbered symphonies are the epic *Manfred*, composed between the fourth and the fifth, and the *Symphony in E flat*, begun after the fifth, but abandoned by the composer and completed in the 1950s by Semyon Bogatyrev, for a premiere in 1957.

Written between February and the end of August 1893, the composer entitled the sixth numbered work "The Passionate Symphony", employing the Russian word *Pateticheskaya*, meaning "passionate" or "emotional", which was then translated into French as *pathétique*, meaning "solemn" or "emotive". Tchaikovsky himself conducted the first performance in St Peterburg, only nine days before his death.

The work begins away from the home key with a soulful bassoon over divided double basses, and the whole movement is much more introspective than would be expected for a Russian symphony of its time, alternating in tempo and between major and minor. Of especial note are the exquisite clarinet solos.

The second movement is a lop-sided waltz in five-time, while the third movement is an unrelenting scherzo, with a fraught 291-bar wait for the cymbal player's four clashes. The end of the scherzo is a trap for an unwary audience which is tempted (but requested not!) to applaud before the stirring conclusion.

The finale is unlike any other in symphonic writing. It is an evocation of the sadness which afflicted Tchaikovsky's life, but it is also the conclusion of the symphony's underlying theme, life itself. It is perhaps no coincidence that the first movement clarinet solos are given the metronome mark – 60 – the beating of the resting human heart, and that, after every dynamic from *pppppp* to *ffff*, the divisi double basses which started the symphony's journey return to conclude the work with the finale's throbbing heartbeat, now irregular and fading into the silence of death. For Tchaikovsky, that silence came only a few days after the symphony's completion.

Tchaikovsky's *Pathétique* symphony stands alone in depicting the human spirit. It rises above other self-epitaphs, such as the final ninth symphony of Bruckner or Richard Strauss's *Death and Transfiguration*, in portraying the contrasts of human emotion, and of the final unashamed release of passing on to another world.

*Programme notes by Geoff Bushell*





## Vineyard Accountants

Personal and Business  
Accountancy and Taxation  
Professionals in Abingdon  
for over 30 years

t: 01235 555 315  
[www.vineyard.accountants](http://www.vineyard.accountants)

We provide expertise in  
all areas of accountancy  
services including:

### Personal Tax Services

- Self-Assessment Income Tax
- Tax Planning
- Capital Gains Tax

### Business Tax Services

- Financial Statements
- Book Keeping
- Accounting Software

Contact us for more information or to  
arrange a free initial meeting



Using the latest state-of-the-art printers and finishing tools,  
Digipress specialises in large-format printing, such as:

**HOARDINGS | POS AND RETAIL DISPLAYS | WINDOW VINYLs**  
**OFFICE REFITS | EXHIBITIONS | EVENTS**  
**BANNERS AND MUCH MORE**

Guaranteeing quick and efficient turnaround times, coupled with a really  
friendly and knowledgeable Customer Support team, you'll be hard pressed  
to find a more affordable and reliable printer than us.

**T:** 01235 750700 **W:** [www.digipressltd.co.uk](http://www.digipressltd.co.uk) **E:** [sales@digipressltd.co.uk](mailto:sales@digipressltd.co.uk)  
Unit 1a, Basil Hill Road, Didcot, Oxfordshire, OX11 7HJ

# ABOUT DCO

Didcot Concert Orchestra (DCO) was founded in 2017 by local amateur musicians Jackie and Geoff Bushell. Realising that the rapidly growing town was bringing ever more orchestral musicians and larger potential concert audiences to the area, Jackie and Geoff felt it could now support its own full-size performing orchestra and become a cultural destination for classical music. Audiences in the Didcot area would then be able to experience high-quality classical orchestral music without needing to travel to London or Oxford, at an accessible price. Participation in classical music, whether as a listener or a performer, has been shown to bring many benefits in health and wellbeing to individuals and to the community.

The orchestra aims to give local musicians and audiences the opportunity to experience a very high standard of performance. This level of attainment is achieved by personal invitation or audition of players, and through the support and encouragement of professional string section leaders. Players meet for just four rehearsals before each concert, usually over a nine day period.

DCO gave its inaugural performance in early 2018 and programmes three concerts each year, all at Cornerstone. Focusing on popular classical music from the Romantic era, each concert also offers new experiences to both audiences and players by including at least one "rare gem" that is very seldom, if ever, heard in the public concert hall. Future programmes are listed on the back of this programme and on DCO's website at [www.didcotconcertorchestra.org.uk](http://www.didcotconcertorchestra.org.uk).

## Sponsorship

DCO is a not-for-profit unincorporated charitable association, underwritten by the founders. Putting on concerts incurs significant costs which our generous sponsors and benefactors help partly to defray. The orchestra welcomes offers of sponsorship from philanthropic businesses, organisations and individuals who are keen to support the performing arts in south Oxfordshire. If you can help us put on future concerts, please contact us via [www.didcotconcertorchestra.org.uk](http://www.didcotconcertorchestra.org.uk).

## Participation

If you play an orchestral instrument to a high standard, and are interested in participating in future concerts, DCO would love to hear from you. Contact us via [www.didcotconcertorchestra.org.uk](http://www.didcotconcertorchestra.org.uk) or come and speak to us at a concert.



DCO is a member of Making Music, which provides advice, support and resources for leisure-time musicians and music groups across the UK.

# CONDUCTOR

## Geoff Bushell

Geoff Bushell studied conducting with George Hurst, Denise Ham, Michael Rose and Adrian Leaper. He was conductor and musical director of Oxford-based St Giles Orchestra for 40 years from 1983 to 2023, and regularly conducts other orchestras in the area. Highlights of Geoff's conducting career have included large-scale performances of Orff's *Carmina Burana*, Verdi's *Requiem* and Elgar's *The Dream of Gerontius* with 200 performers, a recording of Walton's *Crown Imperial March* broadcast on the BBC One Show, and being invited since 2022 to conduct annual charity concerts of Aylesbury Vale Concert Orchestra, which have already featured international guitar soloist Xuefei Yang and Classic FM presenter John Brunning at Aylesbury's Waterside Theatre. With a growing repertoire of over 400 different works conducted in public concerts, Geoff is renowned for introducing players and audiences to lesser-known but unjustly neglected romantic repertoire, of which he has conducted several UK premieres. As well as playing the horn in a number of orchestras, Geoff also composes romantic-style pieces, including five commissions from Abingdon and District Musical Society to celebrate its major anniversaries.

# LEADER

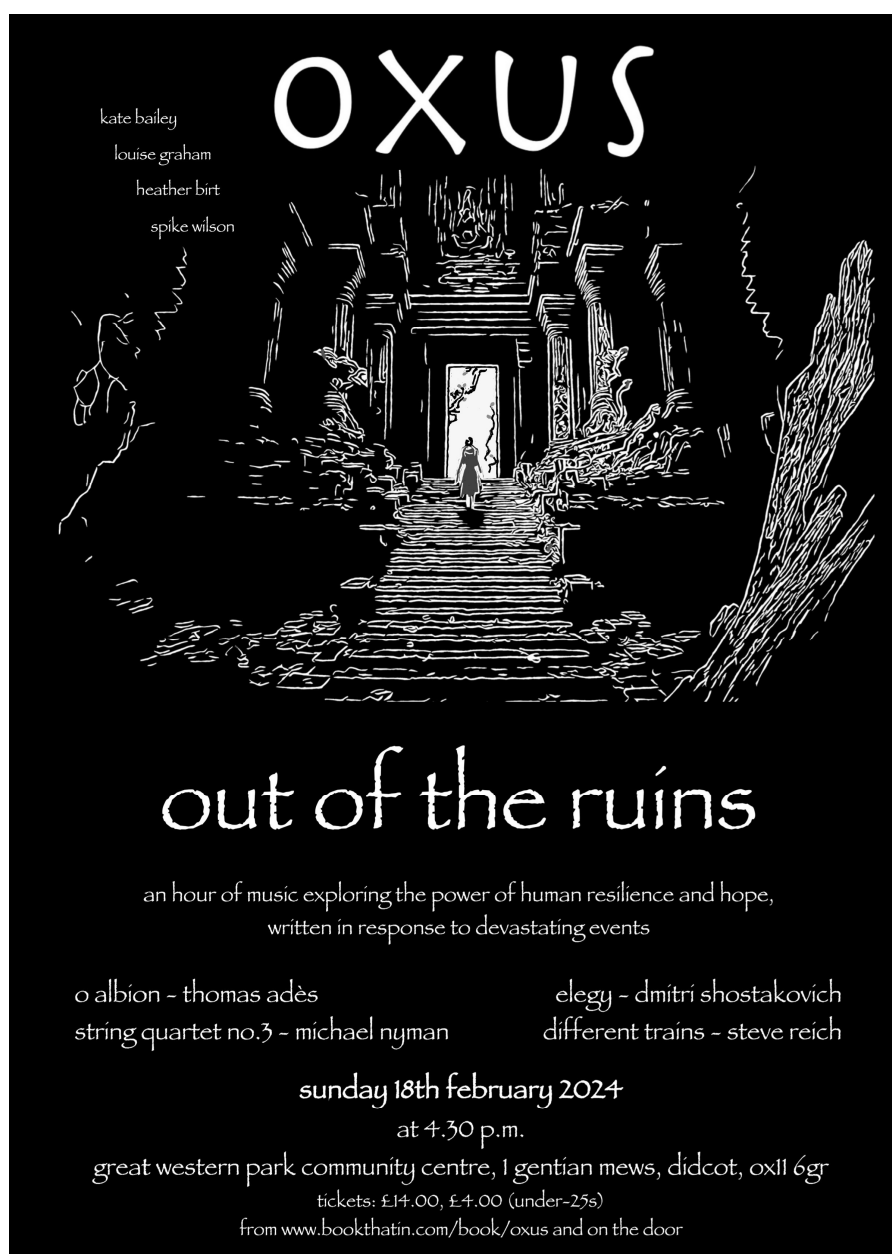
## Kate Bailey

Kate began her violin studies with Pamela Spofforth at the age of nine, and was an early member of Pro Corda, where she gained a love of chamber music. Whilst reading Music at University College, Oxford, she studied with David Ogden and Emanuel Hurwitz, and then went on to study with Erika Klemperer at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. Kate has played in the string quartet, OXUS for the last ten years, specialising in approachable contemporary works such as Steve Reich's *Different Trains* and Elvis Costello's *The Juliet Letters*. She is also a founder member of The Holywell Ensemble (formed in 1984), a flexible chamber group renowned for its committed and evocative performances of British chamber music on CD and in the concert hall, which was described by the BBC Music Magazine as "one of the most important chamber music groups on the British musical scene". Kate lives in Oxford, and regularly leads a number of orchestras in the area. She is also a freelance orchestral player and has performed a number of concertos, including Beethoven's *Triple Concerto* with her colleagues from The Holywell Ensemble, and in March 2018 she performed Mozart's *Sinfonia Concertante* with viola player Heather Birt.



# OXUS

Kate Bailey and Louise Graham (violins), Heather Birt (viola) and Spike Wilson (cello), are the members of OXUS – an innovative and vibrant string quartet, formed in 2006. They perform music from all eras, but specialise in contemporary repertoire and give regular recitals and workshops in schools and colleges. OXUS frequently works with other performers and media, performing works including Steve Reich's *Different Trains* with electronics; an original composition by and with jazz guitarist Pete Oxley; and, with actor-singer Nicholas Cass-Beggs, *The Juliet Letters* by Elvis Costello and The Brodsky Quartet. Performances include appearances at the Institute of Contemporary Art in London, the Oxford Contemporary Music Marathon, and the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, and they have also enjoyed the challenge of working with artist Pam Foley, composing and improvising, for a project on Chronic Grief, entitled *Routes of Sorrow*.



The poster features a central white line drawing on a black background. It depicts a long, perspective view of a stone staircase leading up to a doorway at the end of a ruined hallway. The walls and ceiling are crumbling, with debris scattered on the floor. A small figure of a person is walking away from the viewer towards the doorway. The word 'OXUS' is written in large, white, serif capital letters at the top. Below the drawing, the title 'out of the ruins' is written in a white, lowercase, serif font. At the bottom, there is a block of white text providing details about the performance.

kate bailey  
louise graham  
heather birt  
spike wilson

# OXUS

## out of the ruins

an hour of music exploring the power of human resilience and hope,  
written in response to devastating events

o albion - thomas adès  
string quartet no.3 - michael nyman  
elegy - dmitri shostakovich  
different trains - steve reich

sunday 18th february 2024  
at 4.30 p.m.

great western park community centre, 1 gentian mews, didcot, ox11 6gr  
tickets: £14.00, £4.00 (under-25s)  
from [www.bookthatin.com/book/oxus](http://www.bookthatin.com/book/oxus) and on the door

# DCO WOULD LIKE TO THANK...

**Partnership sponsor** Taylor Wimpey – [www.taylorwimpey.co.uk](http://www.taylorwimpey.co.uk)

**Season sponsors** Vineyard Accountants – [www.vineyard.accountants](http://www.vineyard.accountants)  
DigiPress – [www.digipressltd.co.uk](http://www.digipressltd.co.uk)

**Benefactors** Dr Jon Spiro, Sue Hurst, Chris Fletcher-Campbell,  
Eleanor and Nick Hards, Pam Evans

**Publicity partners** Round & About, The Didcot Directory, BBC Radio Oxford,  
The Northbourne Centre\*

\* The Northbourne Centre is a community space available for hire in Church Street, Didcot. Contact [daca.booking@gmail.com](mailto:daca.booking@gmail.com) for hire enquiries.

## JOIN OUR MAILING LIST



Our limited resources mean we cannot publicise our concerts as widely as we would wish, so please help us grow our audience by joining our emailing list to receive advance notice of concerts and updates when tickets go on sale. Scan this QR code and subscribe at [www.didcotconcertorchestra.org.uk](http://www.didcotconcertorchestra.org.uk)



# PERFORMERS – 4 FEBRUARY 2024

CONDUCTOR	Geoff Bushell	VIOLIN 1	Kate Bailey ★ Karen Sancto Misha Brazier Tope Jennifer Robinson Iris van Pijlen Andrew Frawley
LEADER	Kate Bailey		
<hr/>			
FLUTE	Sue Hurst Kate Geary		
PICCOLO	Rachel Wright Rachel Wright	VIOLIN 2	Louise Graham ★ Eleanor Bagg Rosie Bruce Jeanette Thomas Alison Forrow Pat Field Liz Lochhead
OBOE	Alan Evans Sophie Hebden		
COR ANGLAIS	Sophie Hebden		
CLARINET	Lisa Walker Jackie Bushell	VIOLA	Heather Birt ★ Robert Spencer Rhian Frankcom Margarete Lucas Karen Braden Louise Hill
BASSOON	Will Grainger Bea Waterfield		
HORN	Sean Frankcom Paul Willett Sue Cooke Brian O'Rourke	CELLO	Spike Wilson ★ Polly Silk Sarah Higgins Andrew Clark Maxwell Lisa Rees Sarah Sparrow
TRUMPET	Alison Davidson Jonathan Shapiro		
TROMBONE	Nigel Howard Charlie Vereker Stephanie Howard	DOUBLE BASS	Chris Seddon Richard Hodby
TUBA	Matt Sanders		
TIMPANI	Chris Fletcher-Campbell		
PERCUSSION	Jackie Mann		

★ professional musicians

Total 48 players

# NEXT CONCERTS

## 14 Sunday 19 May 2024 at 4pm at Cornerstone

With soprano Hannah Fraser-Mackenzie

Grieg	<i>Peer Gynt: Instrumental and vocal highlights</i>
Granados	<i>Goyescas: The Maiden and the Nightingale</i>
Wolf-Ferrari	<i>Suzannah's Secret: Overture</i>
Offenbach	<i>Orpheus in the Underworld: Overture</i>
Johann Strauss II	<i>Die Fledermaus: Overture</i>
Ippolitov Ivanov	<i>Caucasian Sketches: Suite 1</i>
Johann Strauss II	<i>Voices of Spring</i>

## 15 Sunday 13 October 2024 at 4pm at Cornerstone

Coates	<i>The Three Elizabeths</i>
Harty	<i>With the Wild Geese</i>
Elgar	<i>Pomp &amp; Circumstance March no 4 in G</i>
Delius	<i>Florida Suite</i>

## 16 Sunday 9 February 2025 at 4pm at Cornerstone

Tchaikovsky	<i>Nutcracker Suite</i>
Henry Hadley	<i>The Ocean</i>
Dvořák	<i>The Noon Witch</i>
Suk	<i>Symphonic Poem: Prague</i>

## 17 Sunday 18 May 2025 at 4pm at Cornerstone

Prokofiev	<i>Symphony no 1 "Classical"</i>
Lyadov	<i>Sorrowful Song</i>
Dvořák	<i>Czech Suite</i>
Larsson	<i>Pastoral Suite</i>
Beethoven	<i>Symphony no 8</i>

## 18 Sunday 12 October 2025 at 4pm at Cornerstone

Goldmark	<i>The Queen of Sheba: Overture</i>
Karłowicz	<i>Eternal Songs</i>
Elgar	<i>In the South</i>
Respighi	<i>The Pines of Rome</i>

Please see further information at [www.didcotconcertorchestra.org.uk](http://www.didcotconcertorchestra.org.uk)