

# Cornerstone concerts: Important information

## GETTING TO CORNERSTONE AND PARKING

Please note that Cornerstone has no direct road access, and the car parking, disabled drop-off point, and service yard for large instruments are all accessed from different roads (see below)

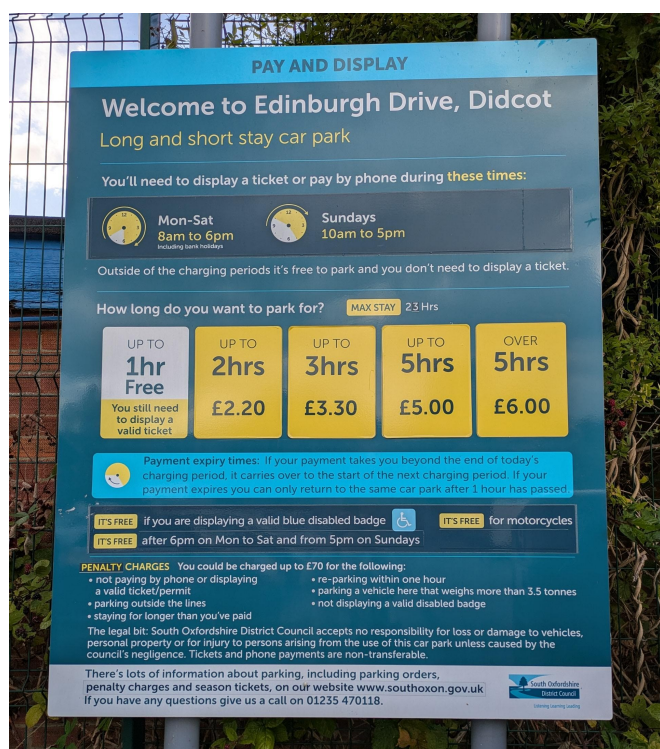
**UPDATE SEPTEMBER 2025: The Orchard Centre now charges on Sunday!** If you are parking from rehearsal until concert end, you will need to park in Edinburgh Drive Car Park, and select the “over 5 hours” option (£6.00). Otherwise you may be able to use the Orchard Centre or a combination of the two but please check out the new Orchard Centre car park tariffs carefully to avoid a fine (see below).

### Parking in Edinburgh Drive car park

SATNAV: OX11 7LT. Follow the A4130 from Milton Interchange into Didcot. At the second roundabout, turn right into Foxhall Road (B4493). At the next roundabout, turn left onto Broadway, and turn left just after the BHF charity shop on the corner of Edinburgh Drive. There is no vehicle access from the separate north section of Edinburgh Drive, but you can walk from the car park through a passage beside Cineworld and down steps/a long ramp to Cornerstone.

### Parking in the Orchard Centre car park

SATNAV: OX11 7ND. Follow the A4130 from Milton Interchange into Didcot. Continue past Didcot Parkway station and at the second set of lights, turn right into Central Drive, bear right past Sainsbury's petrol station, then turn left into the Orchard Centre car park. If parking to the front of Sainsburys, turn right at the top of the curved steps up the pedestrian street and Cornerstone is a two-minute walk. Alternatively if you park behind Sainsburys' service yard, 9 steps at the far end take you onto the top of Station Rd, with Cornerstone just a few yards away.



## **Access and parking for large instruments in the service yard**

SATNAV: **OX11 8RG**. Parking in Cornerstone's service yard for large instruments (harp, double basses, timps/percussion/keyboard only) is subject to availability and even just unloading there may be difficult if Cornerstone has other shows on at the same time. Please therefore assume this is not available unless we have let you know individually. Access to the service yard is from the south (Broadway). Follow the A4130 from Milton Interchange into Didcot. At the second roundabout, turn right into Foxhall Road (B4493). At the next roundabout, turn left onto Broadway. At the traffic lights just before Broadways Pub (on your left) turn left onto a pedestrianised area. Enter via the large silver coloured gates on your left, or if they are closed, park temporarily nearby, taking care not to block the bus lane, and call the Duty Manager on 07801 203544. (You may have to wait a few minutes for the Duty Manager to open the gates.)

## **Disabled drop-off to front entrance**

SATNAV: **OX11 7NE**. Follow the A4130 from Milton Interchange into Didcot. Continue past Didcot Parkway station and at the first set of lights, turn right into what is the continuation of Station Road (no-through-road). Proceed past Enterprise Rent-A-Car up Station Road to the top end, where rising bollards operable only by service buses block your way. Drop passengers off here. Cornerstone will be in sight ahead and its entrance is 80 paces away. (Unfortunately it has no disabled parking).

## **By bus**

Buses stop in the pedestrianised section of Station Road a few steps from Cornerstone.

## **Walking from Didcot Parkway Station**

SATNAV: **OX11 7NE**. Cornerstone is a seven-minute walk. Turn left out of the main entrance of the station and follow the road until you reach a set of traffic lights (opposite Enterprise Rent-A-Car). Cross the road and go up Station Road past Enterprise until you come to some bollards at the top end. You will see Cornerstone in front of you.

## **ON ARRIVAL AT CORNERSTONE**

IF ARRIVING BEFORE 1100, enter via the service yard up pedestrianised Station Road (bus lane) – look for the large silver painted gates, which should be open. A small door to backstage should be propped open, which leads either to the stage (turn left) or backstage (straight on).

IF ARRIVING AFTER 1100, enter via Cornerstone's main entrance on the lower level, opposite Cineworld. For DCO concerts there is no need to sign in. Go up the stairs or use the lift to the first floor and through the backstage door to the left. Turn left again for the dressing rooms. Please leave instrument cases and covers in your dressing room.

## **DRESSING ROOMS AND GREEN ROOM**

The first door on the right is the ladies dressing room and the second door on the right is the gents dressing room (access codes available on the day). The green room is at the end (not locked). Please would string players leave instrument cases in the green room as the dressing rooms are not large enough for everyone with all the bigger instrument cases as well.

## **CONCERT DRESS**

Ladies: all black. Gents: black trousers and black shirt (no tie or jacket). Usually it is warm-to-hot on stage especially at the back under the lights. However, players in the first violins have been known to complain of a draught, so wearing layers may be advisable.

>>>

## **STANDS, LIGHTS AND STAGE FLOOR**

Please bring a stand, and also a stand light if you have one (not usually needed unless you are at the very back of the violins or cellos). Please ensure the stage floor is kept tidy, i.e. only necessary items such as water bottles.

## **USED PARTS AND PLASTIC BAGS**

Parts not needed for the second half can be put on the table in the green room. Please return all music here at the end of the concert, including the plastic bags.

## **BREAKS AND FOOD & DRINK**

The break is 1345-1600. There is a café downstairs next to Cornerstone's reception. Packed lunches can be eaten in the green room upstairs (a large room with fridge, microwave and kettle). Campagna Di Fratelli, Boswells and The Orchid Kitchen restaurants are almost on the doorstep. Sainsbury's (closes 16.00) is a two-minute walk down the main shopping street going towards the car park. M&S Foodhall (closes 16.00), Costa, Starbucks, Nando's, Berro Lounge, Kaspas Desserts, McDonalds and other shops are in the lower part of the shopping centre (down past Next).

## **CONCERT WALK-ON AND STAND-UP ARRANGEMENTS**

Cornerstone asks that everyone be clear of the stage half an hour before the concert (with the exception of the harpist who may still be tuning), so that the stage is empty as the audience is admitted. At 1555, we should line up in the corridor outside the dressing rooms in order of seating (heavy brass, percussion, bassoons, basses and cellos may like to enter via the far backstage door) and Cornerstone staff will give us the signal to walk on. As Geoff walks on in the first half, he will gesture for the orchestra to stand – strings please turn to face the audience.

## **HOW TO CONTACT US ON CONCERT DAY**

Please get last minute messages after 0930 to us via Cornerstone Reception on 01235 515144 or send an email to Jackie on [jbushell24@outlook.com](mailto:jbushell24@outlook.com).

Updated September 2025