

Southern Cathedrals festival

16-19 July 2026



CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL

www.southerncathedralsfestival.org.uk

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Chichester: 16-19 July 2026

Welcome

You are warmly invited to the Southern Cathedrals Festival, which offers a vibrant programme of events, performances and services in Chichester Cathedral and other distinguished settings around the historic city centre.

We will celebrate the contribution of Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810–1876), Organist of Winchester Cathedral, and a significant figure in the renaissance of English cathedral music during the nineteenth century. The programme also acknowledges the 250th anniversary year of the declaration of American Independence with a performance of Aaron Copland's great choral work *In the beginning*, and pieces by Charles Griffes and Earl Wild. A newly commissioned work by Christopher Hussey, with a text by Rowan Williams, will receive its premiere during the final concert, and earlier repertoire by Palestrina (*Missa Papae Marcelli*), Vivaldi (*Gloria*) and Purcell (movements from *King Arthur*) will be featured in liturgical and concert performances.

Solo and chamber performances take their place alongside the choral concerts: soprano Natasha Page returns to sing in the beautiful surroundings of Pallant House Gallery; pianist Tim Rumsey gives a late-night recital in the Cathedral; Duo Dorado perform works by baroque masters; and distinguished German organist Markus Eichenlaub plays on the Cathedral's Mander/Hill instrument. We will also hear Dr Alan Thurlow (Organist at Chichester 1980–2008) in conversation with retiring Lay Vicar David Riley, who has served with distinction for 35 years.

The Southern Cathedrals Festival is a joyful expression of the friendship between our three cathedrals. We look forward to welcoming our family of audience members, worshippers, patrons, sponsors and musicians, and to sharing the Festival with you.

Charles Harrison *Chichester Cathedral*

David Halls *Salisbury Cathedral*

Andrew Lucas *Winchester Cathedral*

What's On

All events held in Chichester Cathedral unless otherwise specified. Free admission to all services. An online livestream will also be available for services marked with an asterisk (*).

Thursday 16 July

- 10.30** **Choral Mattins ***
Chichester Cathedral Choir
-
- 12.00** **Alan Thurlow in conversation with David Riley**
(*Vicars' Hall*)
David Riley reflects on over 30 years as a Lay Vicar in Chichester Cathedral Choir
Tickets: £10
-
- 16.00** **Choral Evensong (BBC Radio 3 recording)**
Chichester Cathedral Choir, and the combined boy choristers and lay clerks of Salisbury and Winchester
-
- 17.00** **Patrons' and Sponsors' Reception**
(*The Deanery Garden*)
Attendance by invitation only
Information about becoming a Patron can be found at the back of this brochure
-
- 20.00** **Organ Recital**
(*Cathedral Quire*)
Markus Eichenlaub
(*Organist, Heidelberg Jesuit Church*)
Featuring music by Bach, Heredia, Mützel, Karg-Elert, Cochereau, Bossi and Whitlock
Tickets: £25 / £15 under-25s



David Riley



Natasha Page

Ella O'Neill

Friday 17 July

- 10.30 Choral Mattins ***
The girl choristers and Lay Vicars of Salisbury Cathedral Choir
-
- 14.00 Song Recital: A Woman's Life**
(Pallant House Gallery, North Pallant)
Natasha Page (*soprano*) and Ella O'Neill (*piano*)
Featuring Schumann's *Frauenliebe und -leben* with other complementary works
Tickets: £25 recital only / £37 to include admission to Pallant House Gallery
-
- 16.30 Choral Evensong ***
The boy choristers and lay clerks of Winchester Cathedral Choir
-
- 18.30 Festival Concert: Wesley, Parry & Brahms**
Chichester Cathedral Choir, and the combined girl choristers and lay clerks of Salisbury and Winchester
Commemorating the 150th anniversary of the death of SS Wesley
Tickets: £42 / £35 / £20 / £15 under-25s
-
- 21.00 Late Night Piano Recital**
(Cathedral South Transept)
Tim Rumsey
Featuring music by American composers Charles Griffes and Earl Wild
Tickets: £25 / £15 under-25s

Saturday 18 July

- 10.30 Festival Eucharist ***
Chichester Cathedral Choir, and the combined boy choristers and lay clerks of Salisbury and Winchester
Preacher: The Very Revd Nicholas Frayling, Dean Emeritus of Chichester
-
- 12.30 Festival Lunch**
(Vicars' Hall)
Limited capacity – attendance at this event must be pre-booked no later than **30 June**
Tickets £25
-
- 15.00 Chamber Recital**
(St John's Chapel, Chichester)
Duo Dorado (*violin and harpsichord*)
Featuring music by baroque masters including Bach and Vivaldi
Tickets: £25 / £15 under-25s
-
- 18.30 Concert: Vivaldi, Copland & Hussey**
Combined senior choristers and lay clerks of Chichester, Salisbury and Winchester
Featuring the Vivaldi *Gloria*; Aaron Copland's *In the beginning*; and *Songs from the Temple* – a new commission by Christopher Hussey
Tickets: £42 / £35 / £20 / £15 under-25s

Sunday 19 July

Services sung by Chichester Cathedral Choir

- 10.00 Choral Mattins**
11.00 Sung Eucharist *
15.00 Choral Evensong with Dismissal of Choristers *



Markus Eichenlaub

Booking

Existing and new Patrons have priority booking for ticketed events from **7 April**.

General booking opens **5 May**.

Advance bookings for concerts and recitals are available until 4.00pm on the day before the performance. Tickets may be obtained by the following means:

Online

Tickets can be booked online at:
www.ticketsource.co.uk/scf-chichester

By telephone

Call Ticketsource on **0333 666 3366**

Operation hours:

Monday to Friday 09.00 to 19.00 (excluding bank holidays).

Saturday 09.00 to 17.00.

Please note that if customers call outside of this time, they can leave a message on the answerphone system, and Ticketsource will return their call.

Please note: For security reasons, card details are not taken over the phone. When payment is required, customers will be sent a secure payment link by email or text message. This can be opened on a smartphone, tablet, or computer, so customers can complete the payment either by entering their card details or using a mobile payment method. The Ticketsource team will stay on the line to guide you through the process and confirm once the payment has been authorised and the booking is confirmed.

On the door

Tickets **for the Friday and Saturday evening concerts only** can be bought on the door from one hour before the performance.



Tim Rumsey



Duo Dorado

General Information

Cloisters Kitchen and Garden

Independent specialist caterer Seasoned has created a new café destination within the 600-year old Cloisters at Chichester Cathedral, serving locally roasted coffee and tea, freshly baked pastries, seasonal salads and artisan sandwiches with fabulous produce by some of Sussex's best independent makers.

With seating inside and outside, we serve freshly made light refreshments daily from our on-site kitchen. Cloisters Kitchen & Garden is the perfect place to meet friends for an informal lunch or afternoon tea.

Opening hours: 9.00am – 5.00pm

Festival Programme

The Festival Programme will contain full details of all activities during the Festival, as well as background information on the themes of this year's Festival and its performers. The Programme can be ordered in advance when you book your tickets, and during the week of the Festival can be collected or bought in person from the Cathedral Shop in the North Transept of the Cathedral, which will be open between 10am – 4pm Monday-Saturday.

Services

Separate service booklets will be available for all sung Cathedral services. Services will also be livestreamed where indicated.

Car Parking

There are several public car parks within easy walking distance of the Cathedral. Details of these can be found at www.chichester.gov.uk/carparks, or from the Chichester Tourist Information Centre at The Novium Museum, Tower Street, PO19 1QH. Please note that no public car parking is available in the Cathedral Close.

Offsite Venues

Both the Pallant House Gallery and St John's Chapel are within a ten-minute walk of the Cathedral. Please note that there are no toilet facilities available at St John's Chapel.

Become a Festival Patron

All supporters of the Festival are warmly invited to become Patrons.

The benefits of becoming a Patron include:

- Priority booking for all ticketed events;
- An invitation to each Patron to a special Patrons' event at each Festival;
- If you are unable to attend the Festival, a copy of the Festival Programme containing detailed notes about the music and performers will be sent on request after the Festival.

The minimum annual subscription is £25 – where possible, we ask that you consider making your donation more valuable to us through the Gift Aid scheme.

To become a Patron, please download and complete the registration form at:

www.southerncathedralsfestival.org.uk/bookingandpatrons

and return alongside your payment to:

Richard Paterson,
Chichester Cathedral,
Cathedral Offices,
The Royal Chantry,
Cathedral Cloisters,
Chichester, PO19 1PX.

richard.paterson.scf@chichestercathedral.org.uk

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