

*Southern
Cathedrals festival*



Salisbury 16 – 20 July 2025

The 2025 Southern Cathedrals Festival will mark the anniversaries of several important composers:

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (1525–1594) was an Italian composer whose work epitomises the music of the late Renaissance. Widely regarded as one of the leading composers of 16th-century Europe, Palestrina’s influence on sacred music is unparalleled. Born in the town of Palestrina near Rome, he moved to Rome in 1540 to study under Claude Goudimel, a notable Huguenot music theorist and composer.

Palestrina spent much of his life in Rome, dedicating his career to the refinement of polyphonic choral music. From 1544 to 1551, he served as the organist at the Cathedral of St Agapito, the principal church of his hometown. He is most celebrated for his masses and motets, which demonstrate an extraordinary balance of clarity, harmony, and spiritual depth.

As we celebrate the 500th anniversary of his birth, Palestrina’s music will be featured in a special concert on **Friday, 18 July at 18:30**. The performance will bring together the Rose Consort of Viols and our cathedral choirs.

Orlando Gibbons (1583–1625) was a renowned English composer and keyboard virtuoso, celebrated as one of the last great figures of the English Virginalist and Madrigal Schools. His music bridges the late Renaissance and early Baroque periods, showcasing both technical brilliance and emotional depth.

Throughout his career, Gibbons maintained strong connections with the English court, enjoying the patronage of King James I and Prince Charles. His contributions to English music are profound, particularly in the realm of keyboard compositions and choral works. Among his notable achievements are Parthenia – the first printed collection of keyboard music in England – and a wealth of madrigals and motets. His best-known madrigal, The Silver Swan, remains a timeless masterpiece, celebrated for its poignant beauty and elegant simplicity.

Marking 400 years since his death, Gibbons’ remarkable music will also be performed during the concert on **Friday, 18 July at 18:30**.

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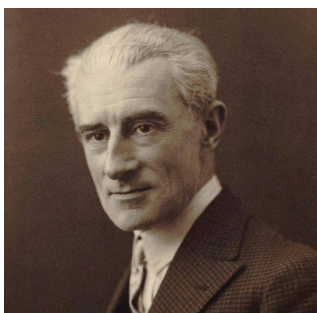
Welcome

We are delighted to welcome you to the Southern Cathedrals Festival in Salisbury Cathedral and St Thomas’s Church in the centre of the city.

The SCF celebrates the glorious tradition of music in cathedrals and these five days offer a feast of high quality performances with seven sung services and eight concerts. We are delighted that the first of these concerts, on the Wednesday, will be directed by Sir John Rutter. Another major event, a talk by Salisbury Senior Lay Vicar Stephen Abbott, will reflect on his many years of service to the music of Salisbury Cathedral. Anniversaries of four composers – Gibbons, Palestrina, Ravel and Rutter – will also be marked during the Festival.

We treasure the friendship between the cathedrals and communities of Chichester, Salisbury and Winchester and we look forward to sharing the Southern Cathedrals Festival with you.

David Halls	<i>Salisbury Cathedral</i>
Charles Harrison	<i>Chichester Cathedral</i>
Andrew Lucas	<i>Winchester Cathedral</i>



Maurice Ravel (1875–1937) was a French composer whose works continue to enchant audiences with their exquisite craftsmanship and emotional depth. Born in Ciboure, near Biarritz, Ravel is often associated with Impressionism, alongside Claude Debussy. However, both composers distanced themselves from the label, preferring to define their music on their own terms.

By the 1920s and 1930s, Ravel was celebrated as France's greatest living composer. His mastery of orchestration set him apart, enabling him to transform piano works into orchestral masterpieces. Among these, his 1922 arrangement of Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition* remains a towering achievement, showcasing his unparalleled ability to bring vivid imagery to life through music.

In honour of 150 years since his birth Ravel's music will feature prominently in this year's Festival. Don't miss the Piano Trio Concert on **Thursday, 17 July at 11:30**, and the Late Night Piano Duets by Candlelight on **Friday, 18 July at 21:00**.



Sir John Rutter is a well-known English composer, conductor, editor, arranger and record producer, mainly of choral music. He was born in 1945 in London and educated at Highgate School, where his fellow pupils included John Tavener.

As a chorister while at the school he took part in the first recording of Britten's *War Requiem* under the composer's baton. After studying at Clare College Cambridge he founded his own choir, the Cambridge Singers. Rutter also works as an arranger and editor, and as a young man collaborated with Sir David Willcocks on five volumes of the extraordinarily successful *Carols for Choirs* anthology series.

We are delighted that Sir John is able to join us this year and will open the Festival with a Workshop at 13:00 and Concert at 18:00 on Wednesday, 16 July in the Cathedral Nave led by Salisbury's Cathedral Choir, Chamber Choir, Junior Choir and Youth Choir.

WEDNESDAY 16 JULY

- 13:00 **'Come and Sing' Workshop** (*Nave/Spire Crossing*)
with Sir John Rutter £25
- 16:30 **Choral Evensong** (*Quire*)
Salisbury Cathedral Girl Choristers
- 18:00 **'Come and Sing' Choral Concert** (*Nave/Spire Crossing*)
with Sir John Rutter and Salisbury Cathedral Choir,
Chamber Choir, Junior Choir and Youth Choirs £18
- 21:00 **Compline** (*North Transept*)
Lay Vicars of Salisbury Cathedral

THURSDAY 17 JULY

- 10:00 **Choral Mattins** (*Quire*)
Chichester Cathedral Choir
- 11:30 **Piano Trio Concert** (*North Transept*) £18
Daphne Moody – violin
Bryony Moody – cello
David Halls – piano
Music by Mendelssohn and Ravel
- 16:30 **Choral Evensong** (BBC recording) (*Quire*)
Girl Choristers of Salisbury and Winchester,
Chichester Cathedral Choir and all Lay Vicars
- 17:30 **Patrons' Reception** (*Cloisters*)
- 18:30 **Organ Concert** (*Nave/Quire*) £18
John Challenger
with large screen
- 21:00 **Late Night Concert** (*North Transept*) £18
Lay Vicars of Salisbury Cathedral

FRIDAY 18 JULY

- 10:00 **Choral Mattins** (*Quire*)
Boys and Lay Clerks of Winchester Cathedral
- 11:30 **Talk – In Quires and Places where we sing** £10
Stephen Abbott (North Transept)
- 
- 16:30 **Choral Evensong** (*Quire*)
Lay Vicars of Salisbury Cathedral
- 18:30 **Concert** (*West End*) A £28, B £20, C £17, D £11
Senior Choristers and Lay Vicars of the Three Cathedrals with the Rose Consort of Viols
Music by Gibbons and Palestrina
- 21:00 **Late Night Piano Concert** (*North Transept*) £18
David Halls and Alistair Watson
Music by Mozart, Ravel and Sullivan

SATURDAY 19 JULY

- 10:30 **Festival Eucharist** (*Nave and Quire*)
Boy Choristers of Salisbury and Winchester, Chichester Cathedral Choir and all Lay Vicars
Preacher – The Rev Lucy Winkett
President – The Bishop of Salisbury,
The Rt Rev Stephen Lake
This service will be live streamed
- 12:15 **Festival Lunch** (*Sarum College*) £28
- 14:30 **Concert** (*St Thomas's Church*)
Elizabeth Kenny – lute £18
- 18:30 **Concert** (*West End*) A £39, B £32, C £28, D £17
Haydn's Nelson Mass and Mozart's Vespers
The Combined Choristers and Lay Vicars of the Three Cathedrals with The Hanover Band

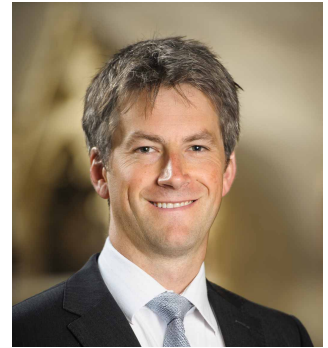
LATE NIGHT MUSIC

At this year's Festival, there will be opportunities to enjoy the candlelit stillness of Salisbury Cathedral with Compline on Wednesday and Late Night Concerts on Thursday and Friday.

On Thursday and Friday, you can enjoy a glass of wine or fruit juice in the Festival Club (Cathedral Refectory) before or after the concerts, which is included in the price of your ticket.



David Halls



Alistair Watson

THE REFECTORY RESTAURANT

Salisbury Cathedral Refectory is an award-winning venue open all year round with stunning views of the spire through its glass roof, serving a selection of delicious cakes, sausage rolls, deli sandwiches and hot and cold drinks. You can eat in or take your meal out for a picnic in The Close.

You can contact the Refectory at refectory@salcath.co.uk or call 01722 555175 to reserve a table. For the Festival, the Refectory is the location for the Festival Club.

FESTIVAL CLUB

The Festival Club is open to all during the SCF in the Cathedral Refectory.

From Wednesday 16 July there are evening suppers from 17:30 to 18:30 which can be pre-booked.

The Festival Club will be open for the Late Night Concert on Thursday 17 July and the Late Night Piano Duets on Friday 18 July from 20:20 to 23:00 offering wine by the glass (£6.50) and other drinks; also cheese platter with fruit (£9.95).

PATRONS OF THE FESTIVAL

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

The benefits of becoming a Patron include:

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

The minimum annual subscription is £25 (which is made more valuable to the SCF through the Gift Aid Scheme). If making a purchase by telephone and wishing to gift aid please contact Ed Rimmer at the time of booking on 01722 622270.

For further details, please contact the Patrons' Secretary, Matt Geer via the 'Contact Us' tab on the Festival website: southerncathedralsfestival.org.uk or email: doctor.mattgeer@outlook.com or Mobile: 07933 214721.

PATRONS' WELCOME

Thursday 17 July at 17:30

The Patrons' Welcome is open to all Patron Members of the Southern Cathedrals Festival (SCF) and will be held in the West Cloister following the BBC Recording of Evensong on Thursday 17 July.

FESTIVAL LUNCH

Saturday 19 July at 12:15

The Festival Lunch will take place in Sarum College in The Close, following the Festival Eucharist on Saturday 19 July. It will be a Buffet Lunch (Self Service) of two courses including wine and soft drinks, and will cost £30.

Sarum College is a short walk from the Cathedral on the North Side of The Close. This event must be pre-booked with SCF by the 25 June.

THE FESTIVAL SOUVENIR PROGRAMME

Full details of all services and concerts will be given in the Programme. This will contain a plan of The Close, its surroundings, including the location of St Thomas's Church, Sarum College and the Festival Box Office during the Festival. The Programme may be purchased in advance online or from Salisbury Cathedral shop. From 11 July, programmes bought online can be collected from the Festival Box Office, located in the main Cathedral visitor entrance.

Separate orders of service will be available free of charge for all sung Cathedral services.

VENUES, PROGRAMMING AND VISIBILITY

All concerts and events will be held in the Cathedral unless otherwise indicated. The published programme is subject to alteration. There may be some seats where visibility is limited by reason of the architecture of the venue.

ST THOMAS'S CHURCH

St Thomas's Church is approximately eight minutes' walk from The Close via the High Street. There is no parking at the church but nearby car parks are detailed under Car Parking in this brochure.



The Doom painting above the chancel arch in St Thomas's Church was re-discovered in 1819 by Victorian restorers, restored in 1881 and repainted again in 1953.

ACCESSIBILITY

The Cathedral, St Thomas's Church and Sarum College are accessible to those in wheelchairs or with other disabilities.

Toilets with wheelchair access are available at the Cathedral off the Cathedral Cloisters and St Thomas's Church.

A loop system is in operation for the spoken word at St Thomas's Church and the Cathedral.

CAR PARKING

Public car parks near the Cathedral are in New Street (**closes at 20:00**) and Crane Bridge Road. More distant car parks are in Brown Street, Salt Lane and the Central Car Park.

There is no free public parking available in the Cathedral Close but spaces are available at £10 per day.

A limited number of Patrons' permits at a cost of £15 each will be available for parking in the Cathedral Close. The permit will be issued for the duration of the Festival and a specific vehicle; it is not transferable and vehicles will be parked at their owners' risk.

Applications for permits should be made in writing to:

Ed Rimmer,
SCF Patrons' Parking,
Wyndham House,
65 The Close,
Salisbury,
SP1 2EN

with the vehicle registration number, a cheque for £15 made payable to SCF and a stamped self-addressed envelope.

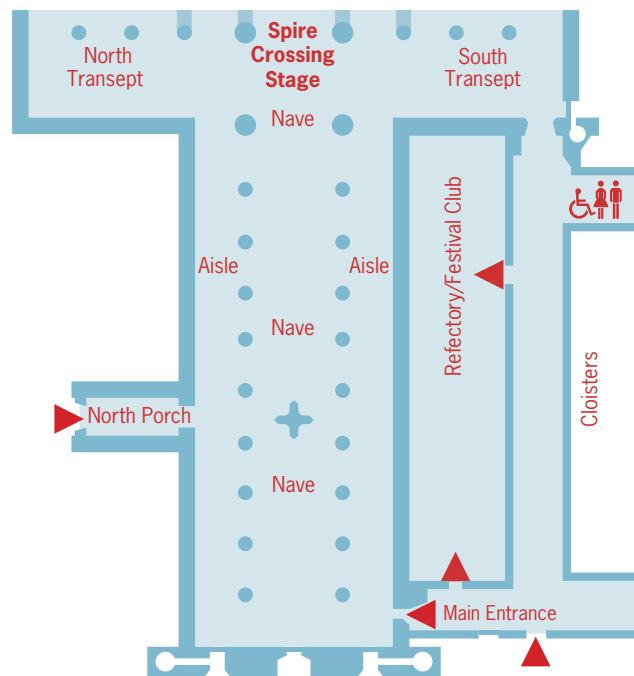
Or email concertprogrammmanager@salcath.co.uk with a phone number and you will be called for payment.

VISITOR INFORMATION

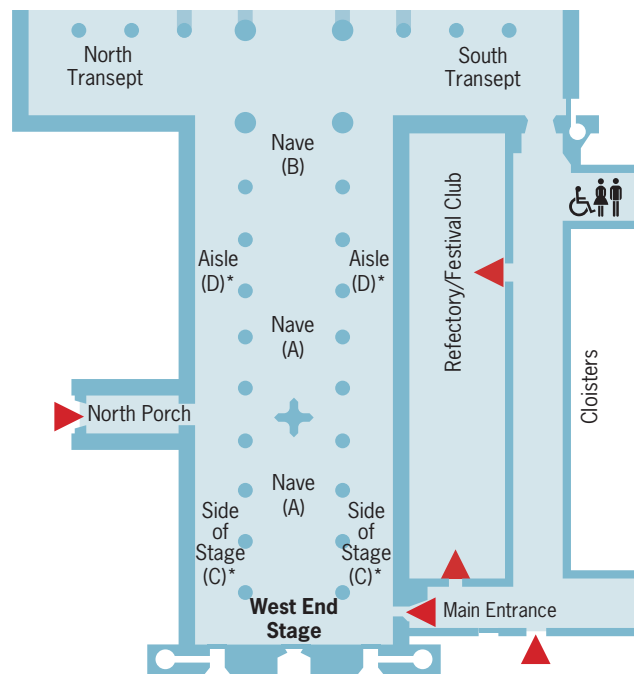
Further copies of this booking brochure are available from:
southerncathedralsfestival.org.uk or
salisburycathedral.org.uk

CATHEDRAL SEATING PLAN

Spire Crossing Concert



West End Concert



BOOKING

Booking is now open and booking options are available as follows:

Book online

Tickets can be booked online at www.salisburycathedral.org.uk/scf

Book by telephone

Call 01722 656555. Please check the Cathedral website for SCF box office opening times. Please email us at boxoffice@salcath.co.uk or call 01722 656555.

If you are unable to reach us by phone, please email us with your name and contact information.

Book in person

Please call ahead to arrange a time to book in person at the Festival Front Desk.

Tickets will also be available at concert venues from one hour prior to performance.

No refunds or exchanges will be made.



CHICHESTER
CATHEDRAL



Southern Cathedrals Festival
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