

MUSIC FESTIVAL

2022



**Thursday 10th - Sunday 20th
November**

**St Andrew's Psalter Lane Church
Sheffield S11 8YL**

ANNOUNCEMENT

It is nine years since Ray Kohn launched the annual St Andrew's Music Festival. Since then, Ray has introduced hundreds of performers and the work of over forty living composers to our audiences. He has featured as a violinist in his klezmer band and as a composer whose music has been performed by celebrated string quartets. He founded the Delphi Trust in 1999 specifically to support live music and has guided the Trust to ensure that the festival is properly resourced. He will continue to work as our honorary secretary but feels the continued success of the festival can best be ensured by passing over the direction of the concerts to a younger musician.

We are grateful to Ray for all his work, his commitment to live music and the passionate support he has given to many fellow composers and performers. But in 2022 he is keen that we introduce a new Festival Director.

Gavin Usher is an experienced conductor, professional violinist and teacher. He led the Leeds 'In Harmony' programme with Opera North – similar to El Sistema in Venezuela – and is strategic director of the Peak District Music Centre. He heads Sheffield Arts Studio and runs the cabaret-style Cutting Edge theatre that has brought scores of young people forward to perform solo work. Ray and our trustees are confident that Gavin can provide the drive required to create many new musical experiences in the annual festival as his musical intelligence and sensibilities have a proven and distinguished track record.



Paul Jagger
Chairman, the Delphi Trust

THURSDAY 10th NOVEMBER

Steel City Choristers and the Sheffield Horn Quartet

Steel City Choristers is a community-based choir for children and adults with a central mission to take singing and choral music out into Sheffield and its surrounding areas. Through its work, the choir engages diverse communities throughout the region, and is passionate about increasing visibility and opportunities in choral music. Since its formation in September 2020 after the closure of Sheffield Cathedral Choir, Steel City Choristers is establishing itself as one of the region's leading choirs, with recent performances taking place in concerts, recordings and supporting worshipping communities in church services. Additionally, the choir has performed on BBC radio and television. The choir's full story, and information about how you can get involved, can be found at www.steelcitychoristers.org.uk.



Local horn players Tim Page, Jo Towler, Simon Twigge & Rachel Wilkes were trained at such institutions as the Royal Academy of Music, the Royal College of Music, and the Royal Northern College of Music. They have performed with leading orchestras like the Halle, the BBC Symphony, BBC Philharmonic, the Philharmonia, the Royal Liverpool, the Czech Symphony and the London Symphony Orchestras. They have also played for Opera North, the Bolshoi Ballet, Northern Ballet Theatre Sinfonia and Manchester Camerata. Between them they have taught at the Royal Academy, the Purcell School, Sheffield Music Academy, Watford School of Music, Sheffield Music Hub, Derby & Derbyshire Music Partnership and coached various youth orchestras. They delight in each other's company and musicianship so are especially happy to have this opportunity to take part in this concert for voices and horns.



SATURDAY 12th NOVEMBER

the Sheffield Choral

You are invited to join the Sheffield Choral for our autumn concert. Details of the programme and how to buy tickets will be available closer to the date on our website and social media.

For the past 50 years the Sheffield Choral have been delighting audiences both in Sheffield and around the world. Both our membership and our repertoire have expanded over the years, and we are now a choir of around 50 people who enjoy singing all kinds of music, both accompanied and *a cappella*, from early music to modern part-songs, as well as major choral works. We are also proud of our work with many charities, both local and national to help raise thousands of pounds for some great causes.



SUNDAY 13th NOVEMBER

Villiers String Quartet



*Katie Stillman, violin 1, Tamaki Higashi, violin 2
Carmen Flores, viola, Leo Melvin, cello*

Hailed as “Champions of British Music” (The Observer), the Villiers Quartet has become one of the most recognised quartets in the UK for the performance of British music. The VQ has released acclaimed recordings of works by Elgar, Delius, Peter Racine Fricker, William Sterndale Bennett, David Matthews, and most recently music by William Alwyn and Kuljit Bhamra, MBE. In 2020 they gave the world premiere of the complete 1888 Delius string quartet, featuring movements in their original versions uncovered by Professor Daniel Grimley from Oxford University. The broad curiosity of the Villiers Quartet and its passion for teaching and performing have made the VQ a valuable resource for students and audiences alike. Inspiration comes from the heart of the Villiers Quartet's philosophy: **to believe in the art of string quartet.**

SHEFFIELD STUDIO ARTS



I am delighted to introduce Gavin Usher to any of our audiences who do not yet already know his work. Many young players already know Gavin as one of the region's leading teachers.

He is an outstanding conductor as reviewed in 'Sound and Heard International' (<https://seenandheard-international.com/2015/05/gavin-usher-brings-out-the-best-in-his-musicians/>).

As a freelance violinist he has played with many professional orchestras like Opera North and the BBC Philharmonic.

As a teacher, he led the Leeds 'In Harmony' programme with Opera North and is the strategic director of the Peak District Music Centre.

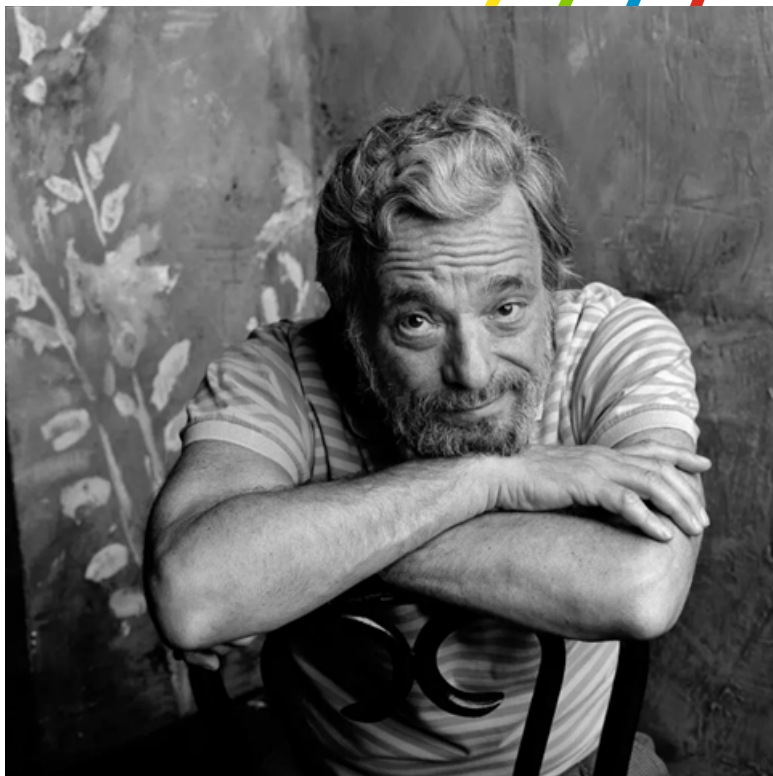
His company, Sheffield Studio Arts, has overseen many musical initiatives like the cabaret-style Cutting Edge theatre that has brought scores of young people forward to perform solo work. The annual St Andrew's Music Festival will benefit from his entrepreneurial approach, extensive music experience and fine musical ear.

Ray Kohn, Secretary of the Delphi Trust

THURSDAY 17th NOVEMBER

Sheffield Arts Studio

Stephen Sondheim Memorial Concert



Stephen Sondheim
"Writing is a form of mischief"

Hailed as one of the most important artists of musical theatre in the 20th century, Stephen Sondheim sadly passed away in November 2021. This concert will mark his one-year anniversary and lead as a tribute to his fantastic work as both a composer and lyricist. A great innovator, Sondheim played a major role in the shaping of the modern-day musical and many current composers cite him as a major influencer of their own work. His works include *Sweeney Todd*, *West Side Story*, *Into the Woods* and *Company* and many of them are amongst the most revived musicals to date. He has won Tony Awards, Academy Awards, Grammy's and a Pulitzer Prize not to mention being awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

This concert will see many of his best loved songs performed by the talented performers of Sheffield Arts Studio (formerly Cutting Edge Theatre) accompanied by piano.

FRIDAY 18th NOVEMBER

Sheffield Music Academy



Sheffield Music Academy exists to inspire excellence and we have been providing specialist training for young people aged 4-19 years old with outstanding musical ability, dedication, and potential across the Sheffield City Region and beyond for the last 15 years. Our teaching staff travel from across the UK to share lively and innovative music tuition to our students, who have over 40 performance opportunities throughout the year to nurture and develop their talent.

We are delighted to return to the St Andrews Festival this year to showcase our passionate young musicians! You can read more about what the Academy offers and see our upcoming concerts on our website: www.sheffieldmusicacademy.org.

SATURDAY 19th NOVEMBER

Morning Event for 0-5 year olds with Polly Virr

10.15-11 am & 11.30-12.15



Concerteenies

Multi-talented Polly Virr gives a special cello and loop pedal performance for young children and their grown-ups.

With inspirational contemporary music, informal introductions, audience participation, dancing, bubbles and percussion, this is a highly engaging live music experience! Enjoy a complimentary tea or coffee and meet other families with young children. There are nappy-changing facilities and you're welcome to breastfeed.

Polly Virr is an inspirational contemporary performer working as a soloist, with orchestras, bands and ensembles around the UK including Kaleidoscope Orchestra, Manchester Collective, The Charlatans and Gatecrasher Orchestra. As an educator, she has worked as a teaching artist with Opera North's 'In Harmony' project in Leeds and is cello tutor for Olympias Music Foundation based in Manchester. She has performed regularly at Manchester Children's Hospital, and in 2021 Polly was a mentor for Sheffield's Hubfest Momentum.

Tickets:

Adults £9.50, first child and under 1s free. Additional children £2.50. Refunds are available up to one week before the event.

SATURDAY 19th NOVEMBER

Guild of Strings and Polly Virr



The Guild of Strings was formed in April 2017, with the ambition to perform the vast repertoire of beautiful string music in exciting and innovative ways. The first rehearsal was a huge success and since then the players have continued to meet regularly, whether in person or online through the COVID19 lockdowns, and have performed in venues across Sheffield and South Yorkshire as small ensembles and string orchestras.

Highlights of our musical journey so far have been making music for babies and infants with Polly Ives and the highly popular Concerteenies series of concerts, as well as joining with the fabulous ladies of Sonority Choir. We particularly enjoy performing at Whirlow Spiritual Centre as the acoustics and garden backdrop are so very special.

Future plans include a new collaboration with The Newland Symphonic Pop Orchestra, a reunion concert with Sonority Choir and a project involving young musicians from South Yorkshire and Derbyshire.
<http://www.facebook.com/guildofstrings>

Polly Virr is a professional freelance cellist based in the UK, where she performs as an improviser, chamber musician, orchestral cellist, soloist and session musician, alongside working as an educator, mentor and composer. She is a graduate of Manchester's Royal Northern College of Music. Polly plays with many orchestras but as a performer and composer, she strives to work within many different musical genres, exploring and experimenting with her cello. She composes and performs her own music for cello and electronics in many venues around the UK and has recorded her compositions for TV and film. Her workshops using her loop pedal focus on improvisation and creative composition for organisations like Opera North, Sheffield Music Hub, Peak District Music Service, Leicester Music Service and various individual schools.

Polly also works as a Music for Health Practitioner, taking live music onto the wards of Manchester Children's hospital, making music with patients, staff and families. As an educator, Polly has worked as a music tutor for Opera North and Liverpool Philharmonic's 'In Harmony' programmes. She frequently delivers educational workshops exploring creative composition. Last year, Polly was proud to be a mentor for Sheffield's Hubfest Momentum and she currently works for the Olympias Music Foundation, teaching cello to individuals and small groups of children and young people. Find out more about Polly at:

www.pollyvirrcello.com Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/cellovirr/>

Facebook : <https://www.facebook.com/pollyvirrcell>

SUNDAY 20th NOVEMBER

John Savournin, bass-baritone



Sheffield born John Savournin introduces a highly entertaining evening showcasing the songs from ever-popular operettas.

His concert engagements have included Wigmore Hall and Purcell Room recitals as a Park Lane Group Artist and prize-winning Yeomen of the Worshipful Company of Musicians. He has sung in Messiah for Raymond Gubbay and Mozart's Requiem for the Three Choirs Festival. He has recorded with the BBC Singers / BBC Concert Orchestra and most recently, Father and Dragon in Lampe's 'The Dragon of Wantley with The Brook Street Band and Resonus Classics, both conducted by John Andrews.

He has worked with celebrated companies like English National Opera where he was Captain Corcoran in HMS Pinafore, Opera Holland Park's Pirates of Penzance where he was the Pirate/King (which he also directed); the Badger/Priest in Opera Holland Park's Cunning Little Vixen and directing Scottish Opera's Opera Highlights Spring tour. He is Artistic Director of the Charles Court Opera and ran their annual 'Boutique Pantomime' Beowulf.

During summer 2022, his diary includes Verdi's Requiem with Lichfield Choral Society, The Yeomen of the Guard for Grange Festival, and directing Gilbert & Sullivan's HMS Pinafore and Patience on tour. His 2022/23 season will also feature his debut as Major Domo/Truffaldino Ariadne aux Naxos for Opera North.

THE DELPHI TRUST

The Delphi Trust showcases emerging musical talent and contemporary work in the annual St Andrew's Festival.

ALL EVENING CONCERTS RUN FROM 7pm to 9pm

Trustees are keen to encourage audiences into this excellent venue and deliberately keep our normal ticket prices very low: £5 (children free).

Over the past nine years we have ensured that all professional performers are properly paid. So the festival would not be possible without our enthusiastic volunteers and the financial support from similarly motivated organisations:

Sheffield Co-operative Society



St Andrew's Psalter Lane,

The Cutlers Company
Charitable Trust,



Sheffield City Council,



Wharfedale Foundation,

The Wharfedale Foundation

D'Oyly Carte Trust,

The Sheffield Town Trust



Sheffield Town Trust
dedicated to supporting good causes in Sheffield

