

**Chopin Society UK**



**CHOPIN  
SOCIETY  
— UK —**

**NEWSLETTER  
Winter—Spring 2025**

# VENUE & TRAVEL INFORMATION for our main venue

## Westminster Cathedral Hall (behind the Cathedral) Ambrosden Avenue London SW1P 1QW

*Cathedral Hall was designed by Cathedral Architect John Francis Bentley, and represents some of his finest work. When completed in 1902 it was originally known as Chapter Hall, and was used for liturgical services until the Cathedral itself was permanently opened on Christmas Eve 1903. Retaining the exquisite Edwardian features of its original design, it boasts excellent facilities, and is fully accessible to wheelchair users.*

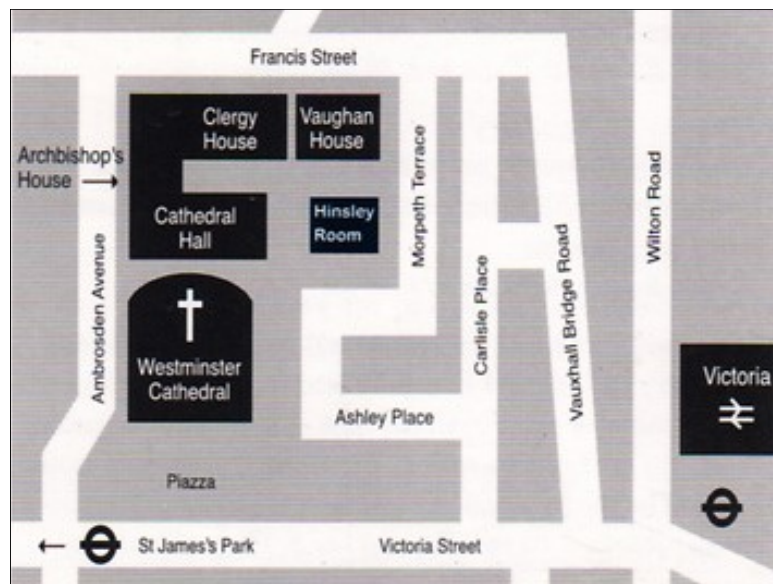
*The Hall can seat up to 280 and the Chopin Society are using it for the majority of their events in 2024. Doors open 45 minutes before the start of the recital. You are requested not to arrive any earlier than that.*

## GETTING THERE COULDN'T BE SIMPLER

Trains: Victoria mainline station.

Tube: Victoria or St. James's Park (less than 5 minutes' walk).

Buses: nos.16, 38, 44, 52, 73, 82, 170, 185, 239, C1, C2 and C10 to Victoria station, or nos. 11, 24, 211 or 507 stop right outside the Cathedral.



*For a clearer version of this map and a picture of the Hall,  
visit [www.chopin-society.org.uk/venues](http://www.chopin-society.org.uk/venues)*

# Concert Diary at Westminster Cathedral Hall

## Sunday January 26th at 4.30pm

### ROSE McLACHLAN recital

*Beethoven, Schumann, from Nocturnes for Chopin, Chopin*

Members of the Chopin Society: FREE

Friends of the Chopin Society: £10, £8 (seniors over 60)

Non-Members: £16, £14 (seniors), £8 (students)

Tea tickets: £10, £5 (students), £4 (Youth Members)

## Sunday February 23rd at 4.30pm

### DANNY DRIVER recital

*Adès, Handel, Beethoven, Chopin, Ligeti, Frank*

Members of the Chopin Society: FREE

Friends of the Chopin Society: £10, £8 (seniors over 60)

Non-Members: £16, £14 (seniors), £8 (students)

Tea tickets: £10, £5 (students), £4 (Youth Members)

## Sunday March 23rd at 4.30pm

### BOBBY CHEN recital

*Schubert, Haydn, Liszt, Cant, Chopin, Schubert-Liszt*

Members of the Chopin Society: FREE

Friends of the Chopin Society: FREE

Non-Members: £16, £14 (seniors), £8 (students)

Tea tickets: £10, £5 (students), £4 (Youth Members)

### TO BOOK

Tickets go on sale approximately one month before the performance date

Members & Friends should contact the Chopin Society Office

on [info@chopin-society.org.uk](mailto:info@chopin-society.org.uk) or phone 0203 144 0033

Non-Members please search the website [WeGotTickets.com](http://WeGotTickets.com).

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## FOR OTHER CONCERTS \*

See page 10

**\* THE MEMBERS' MATINEE (page 10) IS ONLY OPEN TO CHOPIN SOCIETY MEMBERS. A BOOKING FORM IS ENCLOSED WITH THIS MAILING FOR ALL THOSE WHO ARE ELIGIBLE.**

## ARTIST NOTES & PROGRAMMES

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**January 26th at 4.30pm**

### **ROSE McLACHLAN Recital**

Rose McLachlan comes from a family of musicians and began piano lessons with her father aged 7. Shortly after she joined Chetham's School of Music where she studied with Helen Krizos. In 2020, she entered the Royal Northern College of Music, and now is at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama under the tutelage of Charles Owen, Martin Roscoe and Ronan O'Hora.

She appears frequently with orchestra, making her debut aged 13 in the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. She has performed with the BBC Concert Orchestra, conducted by Barry Wordsworth and was broadcasted twice on Radio 3. As a result of winning the PianoTexas Festival concerto competition, she performed with the Fort Worth Symphony. In 2023, she performed Saint Saens' 'Carnival of the Animals' in the Bridgewater Hall with the Hallé orchestra. In September 2024, Rose performed alongside Jean-Efflam Bavouzet and Andrea Nemezc in Mozart's triple piano concerto, with the Manchester Camerata conducted by Gabor Tacz-Nagy. This was broadcast on BBCR3 and will be released on the Chandos Label.

Rose has already had considerable successes in national and international competitions; she was the overall winner of the 2016 Scottish International Youth Prize at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and as a result of winning the Yamaha Prize in the 2017 EPTA UK competition, Rose performed at St. Martins in the Fields. As an overall winner of the Chetham's concerto competition in February 2018, Rose was

selected to perform the Ravel G major concerto with the Chetham's symphony orchestra during the 2018-19 season. In 2018 Rose also won the Chopin and Beethoven prizes at Chetham's and in 2019 she was overall winner of the junior intercollegiate Beethoven Piano Society of Europe competition. Also, in 2019 Rose was the overall winner of the 11th "Dora Pejacevich" competition organised by EPTA Croatia. In 2022, Rose was awarded the Chopin Prize at the RNCM and later that year awarded the Silver Medal by the Musicians Company.

2018 saw her first commercial recording being issued by Divine Art, performing 'Five Hebridean Dances' by John McLeod and in January 2020, Rose recorded piano duets by the distinguished British composer, Edward Gregson, with her father for a new commercial recording on the Naxos label.

In 2023, in collaboration with EVC Music Publications, a new anthology '22 Nocturnes for Chopin' which commissioned 22 female composers to write pieces inspired by Chopin was released. Since the launch at Steinway Hall, it has been played over the world, with its recent complete performance by Rose at King's Place as part of the London Piano Festival 2024.

Rose is an avid chamber musician; playing in a piano trio, piano duo and with singers. She has performed major song cycles, including Schumann's Liederkreis in the Manchester Song Festival. With her trio, they were awarded Nosseck Prize at the RNCM for their performance of Arensky's Trio no. 1. Rose has performed in Germany, Switzerland and the UK with violinist Esther Abrami.

Rose is extremely grateful to receive support from The Caird Trust, The Sir James Gibb award, Michael McLean and she is a Talent Unlimited artist. This

concert is sponsored by the Robert Turnbull Foundation.

For us Rose will play:

Beethoven – Sonata No.5 in C minor,  
Op. 10 No. 1  
Schumann – Davidsbündlertanze  
From *Nocturnes for Chopin* book :  
Katie Jenkins – Nocturne Cerddorieth i  
Bronwyn  
Olga Berman – Nocturne Elegy  
Charlotte Botterill – Nocturne Waves  
Collide with the Precipice  
Chopin – Sonata No.3 in B minor, Op.58

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## February 23rd at 4.30pm DANNY DRIVER Recital

One of Britain's most respected pianists, Danny Driver is recognised internationally for his sophistication, insight and musical depth. His studies at Cambridge University and the Royal College of Music inspired his holistic approach to performance and enabled him to cultivate a broad repertoire from JS Bach and Handel to the present day.

Solo engagements have included orchestras such as the Hallé, Royal Philharmonic, Philharmonia, London Philharmonic, BBC Scottish Symphony, Bournemouth Symphony, American Symphony, and Minnesota Orchestras, as well as two appearances at the BBC Proms. Recital highlights have included frequent visits to London's Wigmore Hall, among them a three-concert series focused on György Ligeti in 2021-2022, and where a five-concert 'Variations' series is planned for the 2025-26 and 2026-27 seasons. Driver's international work has included engagements in the USA, Canada, Sweden, Finland, Italy, Germany, Australia, China and Hong-Kong. 2024-25 season highlights include performances with the

Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, the European première of Lyell Cresswell's Piano Concerto no.3 with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, and a debut recital in New York's Carnegie Hall in March.

Equally at home in chamber music as in solo performance, Driver's musical partnerships include artists such as Chloë Haslip, Jack Liebeck, and Bomsori (violin), Christian Immler (baritone), Oliver Coates and Natalia Klein (cello). Recent projects have included a complete traversal of Beethoven's Sonatas for Violin and Piano with Chloë Haslip at Turner Sims Concert Hall (recorded live for Rubicon Classics), and song recitals at the Salle Bourgie (Montreal), Deutschlandfunk RaderbergKonzerte (Köln), and Maison de la Radio (Paris). Driver also performs with esteemed string quartets including the JACK, Parker, Carducci and Brodsky Quartets. He is often heard on classical radio stations around the world, including BBC Radio 3.

Since 2008, Driver has released an extensive series of acclaimed recital and concerto recordings on the Hyperion label, including repertoire by György Ligeti, Carl Phillip Emanuel Bach, G. F. Handel, and Amy Beach, and has been twice nominated for a Gramophone Award. Future releases are to include J. S. Bach's Goldberg Variations, Ligeti's *Musica Ricercata*, and a recital disc of Schumann and Fauré.

He will play:  
Thomas Adès – *Darknesse Visible*  
George Frideric Handel – Suite no 5 in E major  
Ludwig van Beethoven – Sonata in C Op. 111  
Fryderyk Chopin – Nocturnes Op. 27 no 1 (C# minor) and no 2 (D flat major)  
György Ligeti – Etudes: Galamb Borong, Fém, Fanfares  
Gabriela Lena Frank—Nocturno

## **March 23rd at 4.30pm**

### **BOBBY CHEN**

#### **Recital**

Described by International Piano Magazine as: "...an armour-clad player of complete technique, a thinking musician, a natural Romantic.", BOBBY CHEN was a pupil of Ruth Nye MBE and Hamish Milne at the Yehudi Menuhin School and the Royal Academy of Music, and burst on the scene in playing Beethoven's Triple Concerto in a British tour with Lord Yehudi Menuhin and the Warsaw Sinfonia, and a recital at the Royal Festival Hall as part of the South Bank Prokofiev Festival.

Since then, he has performed as concerto soloist with several orchestras including the Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields, Singapore Symphony Orchestra, Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra and the London Sinfonietta, under the baton of conductors Matthias Bamert, Maximiano Valdés, Michał Nesterowicz, Sir Neville Marriner, Pierre-André Valade, Lan Shui, Jonathan Bloxham and Giancarlo Guerrero. He has broadcast live for UK's Classic Fm, Ireland's Raidió Teilifís Éireann (Radio Television Ireland), Hong Kong's Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) and USA's Pianoforte Chicago.

He was one of the pianists selected for the South-East Asian début of the Complete Beethoven Sonatas Cycle in Singapore, and has performed solo recitals and piano concertos at Hong Kong's City Hall, Italy's Fazioli Concert Hall, Dublin's National Concert Hall, Kuala Lumpur's Dewan Filharmonik Petronas, Singapore's Victoria Concert Hall, Turku's Sibelius Museum, and at UK's Bridgewater Hall, Royal Concert Hall, Cadogan Hall, Purcell Room, Reid Concert Hall, Royal Overseas League and Menuhin Hall, including four solo recitals at the Wigmore Hall.

He has performed chamber music at Beijing's Forbidden City Concert Hall, Vigo's Auditorio Sala de Concertos Martín Códax, London's Royal Academy of the Arts and the Wigmore Hall. Festivals he has appeared at included São Paulo's Musica Nova Contemporary Music Festival, Sweden's Lidköping Music Festival, Ireland's Music for Wexford and Wicklow

Arts Festival, and at UK's Worcester Three Choirs Festival, Guildford International Music Festival and Bristol International Piano Duo Festival. He has represented Malaysia at the 27th Annual Federation of Asian Cultural Promotion (FACP) Conference, and celebrated Malaysia's 50th Anniversary as a nation by giving the world premiere performance of a new piano concerto at London's Cadogan Hall.

He has given world premiere performances of music by Tazul Izan Tajuddin, Stephen Goss, Douglas Finch, Cheryl Frances-Hoad, Arnold Griller, Stephanie Cant and Benjamin Dwyer. He has performed together with artist Geraldine van Heemstra an innovative Lecture-Recital on 'Pictures at an Exhibition' by Mussorgsky. He is elected an Associate of London's Royal Academy of Music (ARAM), selected as an Honorary Member of the Royal Academy of Music Hong Kong Alumni Association (RAMHKAA), and is currently a trustee of both the Beethoven Piano Society of Europe (BPSE) and the Piano Trio Society (PTS). He was one of the sponsors for both the 2020 and 2022 editions of the UCSI University International Piano Festival & Competition in Malaysia. He was on the summer teaching faculty at Cambridge Chamber Academy in 2021, 2022 and 2023. He was on the teaching faculty at the Surrey Music Academy Chamber Music Workshop in 2024. He was on the teaching faculty at Chetham's International Piano Summer School in 2012, 2015, 2018 and 2024. He is founder of the biennial Overseas Masters Winter Piano Academy (OMWPA), which has taken place on the premises of the Yehudi Menuhin School in 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018, 2022 and 2024.

He has performed as solo recitalist at Corpus Christi College in Oxford, at Pembroke College in Cambridge and at the Royal College of Music as part of a fundraising campaign to raise more than three million pounds for the construction of a new music centre at Monkton Combe School near Bath. He had also offered one masterclass as part of an auction organised by the Asfari Foundation in aid of UNICEF (UK). Highlights between 2018 and 2020 included a solo recital and performances of Beethoven 4th Piano Concerto at the Dewan Filharmonik Petronas in Kuala Lumpur on his 4th visit there as soloist with the Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra, a 2-piano recital with

regular duo partner Douglas Finch on the opening day of the inaugural 'Chetham's International Piano Series' at the Stoller Hall in Manchester, solo recitals at the inaugural recital series at Bowerman Hall near Bath, at London's St. Mary's Perivale and Farm Street Church, and a special solo recital for the British Jesuit Alumni/ae Charitable Trust at Ognisko Polskie in support of The Langlands School and College in Chitral, Pakistan.

Highlights in 2021 and 2022 included a solo recital in support of Rainforest Concern at the Travellers Club, a solo recital of women composers featuring the Boulanger sisters and Clara Wieck/Schumann in the presence of Alderman Emma Edham for FIWAL (The Federations of International Women's Association in London) at Ironmongers' Hall, a solo recital at Farm Street Church in Mayfair which had raised more than two thousand eight hundred pounds for Caritas Ukraine, a performance with Leslie Howard and Simon Callow CBE of a new 4-hands version of Prokofiev's 'Peter and the Wolf' at the Reform Club in support of The David Nott Foundation, and a private solo recital at Farm Street Church in Mayfair for CAFOD (The Catholic Agency for Overseas Development) in aid of the East Africa Food Crisis.

Highlights in 2023 included a solo recital in aid of Jesuit Missions' Turkey and Syria earthquake appeal and Jesuit Refugee Services in Syria in the presence of Guests of honour from the Turkish embassy, a performance with Alberto Portugheis featuring Jacob Costard in the presence of HM Lord-Lieutenant of Surrey Michael More-Molyneux for OASIS (Oasis Childcare Centre Ltd), a performance as concerto soloist with Brandon Hill Chamber Orchestra conducted by Daniel Robert Cushing for Bath Recitals, a recital for the Grieg Society of Great Britain as well as two private London recitals for winning bidders of auctions organised separately by the Keyboard Charitable Trust and an unnamed individual.

Highlights in 2024 included the world premiere performance with Douglas Finch of 'Songs of the Chenfinch' for two pianos composed by Arnold Griller, a solo recital towards the Humanitarian Relief Fund of the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem through the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of

Jerusalem, a solo recital towards the 'Jubilee 175 Fundraising Campaign' of Farm Street Church, a 2-piano performance with Simone Tavoni and four singers of the complete Symphony No.9 by Beethoven at the Reform Club in support of The David Nott Foundation as well as a duo recital with violist Sarah-Jane Bradley at the Old Divinity School St John's College Cambridge.

Bobby Chen will play:

Schubert - Four Impromptus D.899 Op.90

Haydn - Sonata in C major Hob XVI:50

Liszt - Transcendental Étude No. 9 in A major, "Ricordanza"

Stephanie Cant - Seven Fantasies based on Turning the Tide

Chopin—Three Mazurkas Op.59

Chopin—Four Mazurkas Op.17

Schubert-Liszt— Ave Maria S.558 No.12

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**AVAILABLE NOW**

**SPECIAL OFFER  
ON MEMBERSHIP**

**UP TO 3 MONTHS'  
EXTRA CONCERTS FOR NO  
EXTRA £s!**

**SEE PAGE 9  
FOR FULL DETAILS**

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**A VERY WARM  
WELCOME  
to the latest  
CHOPIN SOCIETY  
MEMBERS & FRIENDS**

Mr. Daisuke Aizawa  
Mrs. Antoniette Ansaldo  
Mrs. Anthea Barnes  
Mr. James Dalglish  
Ms. Adelaide Di Maggio  
Mr. Kenny Fu  
Mr. Andrew Jeffery  
Mr. Matthew Kaung  
Ms. Luisa Martin  
Mr. Marek Pruszcwicz  
Mr. Max Stuvén  
Mr. Andrew Troullides  
Mr. & Mrs. Kaori Yamamura

***If you are not already  
a Member,  
now  
is a good time to join, as  
our generous annual  
“Rollover” offer has started.***

***For details  
see page 9 →***



**A  
POLITE NOTICE**

**The doors officially open  
45 minutes  
before our concerts start,  
which gives plenty of time  
for people to find a seat  
and settle in.**

**We would really appreciate it  
if audience members  
didn't arrive  
any earlier than this.**

**Immediately before a recital  
the Steinway tuner is hard at  
work, or sometimes the pianist  
is warming up.**

**Neither of them needs the  
background noise and distraction  
of an audience coming in and  
watching  
their every move.**

**Also the Society's Committee  
and caterers must have time to set  
everything up.**

**Thank you for your  
understanding.**





***EXTRA RECITALS!  
NO EXTRA CHARGE!***

***JOIN THE CHOPIN SOCIETY  
IN JANUARY,  
FEBRUARY OR MARCH,  
AND YOUR MEMBERSHIP WILL RUN  
RIGHT THROUGH TO  
MARCH 31st 2026***

**YOU'LL GET FREE ENTRY TO OUR STANDARD  
CONCERTS, RECEIVE REGULAR NEWSLETTERS,  
ENJOY REDUCED TICKET PRICES & PRIORITY BOOKING  
FOR ANY SPECIAL EVENTS,  
AND BE ENTITLED TO TAKE PART IN —or attend—  
OUR FAMOUS MEMBERS' MATINEES**

***MEMBERSHIP FORMS AVAILABLE AT CONCERTS,  
OR GO TO THE WEBSITE  
[www.chopin-society.org.uk](http://www.chopin-society.org.uk)***

***You could also  
EMAIL [info@chopin-society.org.uk](mailto:info@chopin-society.org.uk)  
OR PHONE Secretary Gillian Newman on 0203 144 0033  
and she'll pop a form in the post***

**MEMBERS' MATINEE**  
**SUNDAY APRIL 13<sup>th</sup> at 3.30pm for 4.00**  
**in St. John's Wood NW8**  
**By kind permission of Sir Sydney & Lady Lipworth**

We are most grateful to Lady Lipworth and her husband Sir Sydney who have a wonderful house in Hamilton Terrace with an acoustically designed concert room. Our Members' Matinées continue to be heavily over-subscribed, and are absolute highlights in the Chopin Society's year.

The President & Committee are anxious everyone should understand the nature of these rather special concerts. "Members' Matinées" are exactly that. They are primarily for the benefit of our pianist Members and their friends. No advertising takes place, and the general public is only admitted as the guests of Members. These events are free to performers, but Members and guests must pay £20.

It must also be pointed out that these informal afternoons are not part of our standard concert series. No auditions are held, and the programme is planned around the repertoire offered, rather than the standard of the performers. Anybody who can play the piano to at least Grade V11 standard (adult learners, amateurs, students & professionals) is welcome to take part. No performance fees are paid.

So, to come to a Members' Matinée expecting a uniformly professional standard of playing is to miss the point entirely.

Playing in public is an ordeal at first of course, but a necessary one. Like all the arts, music is a form of communication; a way of sharing experiences and emotions. And after all, there is nothing quite as encouraging to the performer as some well-earned applause! Amateur pianists in particular need the motivation of working towards a performance date. It helps concentrate the mind and results in steady progress. Piano teachers are therefore very keen on performance opportunities for their pupils— but in reality these are few and far between.

We like to think we are carrying on a tradition from Chopin's day, when playing an instrument was an important social skill, and concerts and impromptu performances of all kinds were often given amongst friends in private houses. In the days before mass entertainment it was a popular pastime at all levels of society.

**Pianists should think carefully about what they would like to play. As a general rule it is advisable to choose pieces that are well within your capabilities and not be too ambitious.**

If you have taken part in a Members' Matinée before, we would prefer you not to play a piece you have recently played at an earlier Matinée.

Newcomers should know it is not necessary to perform Chopin. Some people do of course, but it's always nice to have a mixture of composers. If people want to perform their own compositions, they must bring a copy of the music, as improvisations are not allowed.

Important! People who have played at a Members' Matinée cannot say in their CVs they have performed for the Chopin Society. It is not a professional engagement.

**Booking form enclosed. You are strongly advised to book early to avoid disappointment, as seats and pianist slots are strictly limited. The full venue address plus travel directions (if requested) will be sent to successful applicants with their tickets.**



## ***WHEN DO I RENEW?***

***MOST MEMBERS AND FRIENDS  
NEED TO RENEW THEIR  
SUBSCRIPTIONS AT THE END OF  
MARCH.***

***PLEASE CHECK THE EXPIRY DATE  
ON THE BACK OF YOUR  
MEMBERSHIP CARD.***

***A RENEWAL FORM IS INCLUDED  
WITH THIS NEWSLETTER  
FOR EVERYONE WHO NEEDS ONE.***



**We cannot stop  
audience members  
taking  
photographs on  
their mobile phones.**

**But if you use flash,  
please wait until  
the pianist  
is acknowledging  
applause.**

**Do not photograph  
them when they  
are playing.**

**Thank you.**

**HURRAH!!!**

**We have**

**9,856**

**Facebook  
followers**



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Chopin news,  
and photos of our  
events**

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**Please  
remember  
to  
SILENCE  
Digital watches,  
Pagers etc.  
and  
SWITCH OFF  
Mobile phones  
before the  
Recital begins.**

**Thank you.**

***KEEP RIGHT UP TO  
DATE ...***

**with the latest Chopin Society  
news & photos via our website  
and Facebook account.**

**Secretary Gill Newman will  
also be happy to email you  
with concert reminders  
if she has your email address.**

**You do not need to be a  
member of the Society. So if  
you've only recently gone  
online—or changed email  
providers—do let her know.**

**We now need your permission  
to email you, and you can of  
course opt out at any time.**

***Be assured we will never  
share your email or postal  
address with third parties,  
being bound by the  
provisions of the  
Data Protection Act 2018***





## **STAY FOR TEA and meet the artist**

**‘Tea’ is in fact a generous buffet consisting of a variety of freshly made sandwiches with traditional fillings, (including veggie options), savouries, crisps and cheese straws. Then there’s cakes and chocolate biscuits, all served with your choice of tea, coffee, fruit juice, mineral water or a glass of rather good wine.**

**It’s nice to relax and chat too, and you’ll find it easy to make new friends when you’ve all just listened to an excellent concert. The artists usually attend the tea and are happy to meet their audience. So why not give it a go! We can serve up to 70 people.**

**Tea tickets are a very reasonable £10, or £5 (students). Youth Members pay £4.**

**Book in advance: [info@chopin-society.org.uk](mailto:info@chopin-society.org.uk) 0203 144 0033, or buy a tea ticket on the door on the day with cash or by cheque.**



**THE CHOPIN SOCIETY UK**  
**97A Onslow Square, London SW7 3LU**  
**UK Reg. Charity No. 271562. Founded 1971 by Lucie Swiatek**

## **The President's Letter**

13th January 2025

*Dear Members & Friends,*

I hope you all had an enjoyable Festive Season, with the chance to see family and friends, and have not suffered from the awful weather which has plagued so many, and got through the flu and other nasty viruses which have been so rampant just lately.

My own Christmas was very quiet as I had an operation on 16<sup>th</sup> December, which – although not serious – will put me out of action until the end of January, even though it went well and I am recovering as hoped.

The main problem in 2025 for Gill, our Secretary of at least 28 years, and myself, will be the gradual transference of the administration of the Society, which involves the bank, the computers and the siting of the office. Quite a few decisions have yet to be made.

Adam Repa and Yurie Lee have already taken over much of the management of concerts and are doing an excellent job. Chizuko Winter has kindly offered to become Membership Secretary, Treasurer Angela Delbourgo is dealing with the money side of things, and for the first time Co-Chair Marek Ostas is editing this Newsletter.

I cannot pretend that there will be no glitches during this transition period, and ask Members & Friends to be tolerant and excuse any confusions which may arise while these transfers are going ahead.

For example, some of our Committee were moving and changing their addresses and as a result there was a muddle about where cheques should be sent. This ended up with one of our Members (unconnected to the Administration) being sent a whole lot of cheques and application forms, which naturally was rather confusing and upsetting for them. Everything was sorted out, but – despite our apologies – this Member was so annoyed that they resigned their membership. Once more I offer our apologies for the inconvenience they had to cope with, together with a plea that should any other problems arise to do with membership applications or cheques, people will take a more charitable view during this difficult time. We really are doing our best to make sure things go smoothly!

Chizuko Winter will actually be taking on Membership Secretary duties in April at the start of the Society's financial year, so I would ask you for the moment to send renewal forms and membership applications and cheques to Gill at 97A Onslow Square as usual. A membership renewal form is enclosed with this Newsletter, for those who need one. Please could they be filled in and returned to Gill *even if you pay directly into the bank*, as until Angela has set up online banking, the only other way we have of knowing who has paid is when we receive the monthly statements.

We had some excellent concerts at Westminster Cathedral Hall in the Autumn. The first was given by Margaret Fingerhut MBE, a very distinguished British pianist with Polish and Ukrainian roots. Known for an impressively wide repertoire, her programme for us consisted of music by Chopin, Tansman and five Ukrainian composers – all unknown to most of us – who proved particularly popular.

This was a superb concert, very well received by the audience. Collection boxes were on display for the Ukrainian Cultural Association who raise money for vital medical supplies and equipment for the Lviv Children's Hospital, and we were delighted that Member Alla Sirenko, Founder and President of the Association, was able to attend. She reported back that we had raised a grand total of £255 for her extremely worthwhile charity.

Dmitri Alexeev gave a recital on October 20<sup>th</sup>, with a programme of Rachmaninov and Chopin. Because it is so difficult to bring off, Rachmaninov's 1<sup>st</sup> Sonata is rarely played, so it was a treat to hear Alexeev's stunning rendering. The second half was made up of romantic works by Chopin: Nocturnes, the Impromptu Op.51, Nouvelle Etudes and, to end, Liszt's arrangements of five Chopin Songs. Alexeev is one of today's finest Chopin interpreters, so it was no surprise to have a packed hall for this concert.

Sadly, this was not the case for the Rosamunde Trio on November 17<sup>th</sup>, and yet this was one of the best and most moving concerts I have ever experienced with the Chopin Society. The standard of performance was of the highest, and all of us who were there felt very privileged to have had the chance to hear such playing. The star of the show was Tchaikovsky's Piano Trio Op.50, which I did not know, but cannot wait to hear again. It had a great effect on everyone present. Martino Tirimo also played Chopin Mazurkas and the 4<sup>th</sup> Ballade, which showed him to be a master of Chopin performance.

There were two reasons why the audience was somewhat reduced, although there were well over one hundred there. A few years ago this would indeed have been considered a decent house for us. We must accept that we are a piano society. People join us because they like solo piano concerts, and chamber music will always be less popular.

There was however another reason on this occasion, in that the best time to hold the Promotion for the XIX International Chopin Piano Competition in Warsaw was the 24<sup>th</sup> November, a mere week after the Rosamunde Trio concert.

When Gill and I visited Warsaw in March last year, we agreed with the Fryderyk Chopin Institute to hold the Promotion – much as we had done back in 2019 – and as we felt we could not get it together before November, and also because December is always out of the question at Westminster Cathedral Hall due to all their Christmas activities, November 24<sup>th</sup> was the most convenient date. We were joined in the organisation of the Promotion by the London International Chopin Competition for Young Pianists, who sent out many of the invitations, so all thanks go to Piotr Michalik, Artur Haftman and Jenny Lee for their assistance.

The Promotion was supported financially by the Fryderyk Chopin Institute in Warsaw and the Polish Ministry of Culture, so we were able to have attractive invitations and programmes and put on a high-quality Reception.

It proved a very successful and enjoyable evening, with a large audience, all of whom were interested in the future Competition and delighted to have the opportunity to meet Aleksander Laskowski, Spokesman for the Chopin Institute, who gave an interesting talk at the beginning. This was followed by a brilliant recital from Martin Garcia Garcia, who already has a lot of fans here following his 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize win at the last Chopin International Competition in 2021. Under his fingers the piano sounded its best, and it was a great pleasure to hear the Polonaise Fantasie and four Impromptus, as well as the 1<sup>st</sup> Sonata Op.4, which – while it did not show Chopin at his finest – clearly presaged greater things to come.

What with the Promotion and Leslie MacLeod-Miller's Christmas Members' Matinée on 15<sup>th</sup> December, Members had plenty of festivities to enjoy at the end of the year, so I think a New Year party as well would quite frankly have been too much.

From what I heard, the Members' Matinée was especially enjoyable, with excellent music in Leslie's gorgeously decorated flat. I only wish I could have been there, but as I had my operation the next day, I thought it better to stay quietly at home. All our thanks go to Leslie for his fantastic support and generosity and for being such a good friend to the Chopin Society!

To go back a bit, on 19<sup>th</sup> October, I gave a talk "Mysteries surrounding Fryderyk Chopin" as part of the Chopin Festival at POSK, organised by one of our Members, Janusz Sikora-Sikorski, which was followed by a fascinating talk by Professor John Rink on "The Young Chopin". I had been rather



afraid my talk might be controversial, but people seemed to like it, and many asked for copies. However, I need to revise it first!

The Chopin Society will continue to support this Festival, as it will the London International Chopin Competition for Young Pianists at Ognisko, which will be holding its semi-finals on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March, starting at 10.00am, with the finals on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> March and the Prizewinners' Gala Concert at 7.30pm that evening. It would be great if some Members came to the Gala as the talent on display is truly amazing.

The Chopin Society's first concert in 2025 will take place on 26<sup>th</sup> January at Westminster Cathedral Hall, with Rose McLachlan, an exceptionally gifted young pianist as the artist. Rose is the daughter of Murray McLachlan – another brilliant pianist – who performed for us last January. Her concert will be supported by the Robert Turnbull Trust, an organisation which sponsors concerts given by exceptionally talented, but not yet established, young pianists aged between 18 and 30. We are most grateful to the Foundation for already backing several of the Society's concerts last year, including Gabriele Strata last Spring, Andrzej Wierciński at Hatchlands, and Gabrielé Sutkutė at Steinway Hall in the Summer.

February's concert on the 23<sup>rd</sup> will be given by Danny Driver, who I have been hoping to invite for some time, and on 23<sup>rd</sup> March Bobby Chen will be the artist. He is of course known to lots of you as he has played for us several times in the past.

Many of you attended the Members' Matinée last March held at Sir Sidney and Lady Lipworth's beautiful house in Hamilton Terrace, St. John's Wood. Held in their wonderful music room, with specially designed acoustics by Carnegie Hall technicians and originally opened by Leonard Bernstein, it was an afternoon to remember, with a magnificent tea to follow the concert.

I am delighted to say that Lady Lipworth CBE has very kindly offered her house for another Matinée to take place on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April. This will be an occasion to really look forward to, and all our thanks go to the Lipworths for their generosity

Application forms are enclosed for Members, and I would ask you to send them to Adam Repa as soon as possible please, *even if you pay directly into the bank rather than by cheque.*

Our next Young Artist's concert will probably take place in the Summer with winners from the London International Chopin Competition, hopefully at Ognisko, though no date has been fixed so far. I would like to reassure people that we haven't abandoned this project, and are very fortunate that Mr. Filip Slipaczek, who sponsored the concert at Ognisko last year, has kindly offered to do the same again.

Gill and I were so sad to hear that Member Jean Baudrand had died recently. He joined the Society in 2016 and regularly attended both concerts and Matinées until last year, when he became unwell. His family have been involved in the silk business in Lyon for centuries. A charming and cultured man, those of us who knew him will miss him very much.

This Autumn we were delighted that Ulrich Gerhartz of Steinways found time in his extremely busy schedule to voice our piano, and it has never sounded better. It is a true privilege to have him looking after our piano, so all thanks to him.

Our thanks also go to Peter McNulty, the Cathedral Administrator, who does all he can to see that our concerts go well. He assures me that soon there will be a new caretaker to replace Tom Preddle, who retired some time ago

Last, but definitely not least, I would like to say a big thank you to the Chopin Society's wonderful and hard-working Committee, without whom we could not consider putting on all the events we do. There are too many to name individually (apart from those I mentioned earlier), but I do hope they realise how much they are appreciated.

It only remains for me, on behalf of the Committee and myself, to wish you all a happy and healthy New Year 2025.

Yours sincerely

*Rose Cholmondeley*

President Co-Chairman Artistic Director

## GROUP VISIT TO WARSAW IN OCTOBER 2025

Originally, we had planned a visit to Warsaw in 2024, but because the Fryderyk Chopin Institute in Warsaw have kindly made some tickets available to us for the Finals and Prizewinners' Concert of the XIX Chopin International Piano Competition taking place in Warsaw this October, we decided it made more sense to organise the visit this year.

Chopin Society Co-Chairman Marek Ostas will be making the arrangements and has already provisionally reserved rooms in a central 4\* hotel 10 minutes' walk from the Philharmonia Hall where the concerts take place.

**IMPORTANT** The Chopin Society's tickets for the Competition will only be allocated to those booking for the Group Visit. We are extremely lucky to have them, as tickets sold out the day after booking opened.

### Break down of costs as of now.

Tickets to the Finals on 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> October and the Prizewinners' Concert on the 21<sup>st</sup> cost a total of £370 per person.

Airport transfers plus visits to Zelazowa Wola and the Chopin Museum will be approximately £200 per person.

This makes a grand total of approximately £1,170 per person, excluding all meals apart from breakfast, and flights – which you must book yourselves.

At 7.30 on the evening of the 17<sup>th</sup> October – the Anniversary of Chopin's death – a performance of the Mozart Requiem is always held in the Church of the Holy Cross, where Chopin's heart is kept. We cannot yet be sure whether we can get tickets for this, but are asking people to book their flight on LOT Airways Flight no. LO282 leaving from Heathrow Terminal 2 at 10.15 and arriving at 13.45. This will give people time to attend the Requiem should it be possible. The return flight on 22<sup>nd</sup> October is LOT Flight no. LO279 leaving Warsaw at 15.30 and arriving London at 17.20. At the moment the price for these flights is £213.42 per person return, and people will be transferred to the hotel.

Alternatively, there is a later BA flight (no. BA850) leaving Heathrow Terminal 5 at 13.45, arriving Warsaw at 17.15 on the 17<sup>th</sup>, and for the return, Flight no. BA847 – at 11.50, arriving London 13.35. The price for these flights at the moment is £180.62 per person return, but people would have to make their own way to the hotel, and it would rule out going to the Requiem.

**DO NOT BOOK ANY FLIGHTS** until you have contacted Marek to let him know you want to go on the trip. You need to check whether he still has places available. Please do this by Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February as there is already a lot of interest, and only 12 sets of concert tickets! Please note that a non refundable deposit of £200 will be required at the time of booking. Marek's contact details Email: [newmso@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:newmso@hotmail.co.uk)



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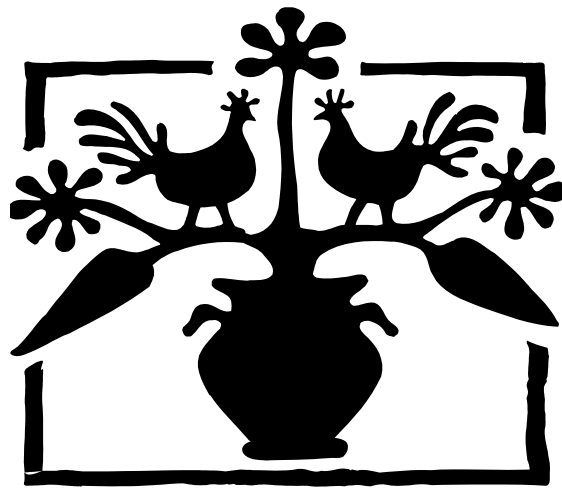
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**The Officers and Committee  
of the Chopin Society UK  
would like  
to wish you a  
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**and look forward to  
welcoming you  
at our concerts in 2025**

# **THE CHOPIN SOCIETY WEBSITE**

**www.chopin-society.org.uk**

**has everything  
you want to know  
about us, including:**

***the history of the Society***

***a fully searchable Concert Archive***

***photos of the 2010  
Chopin bicentenary  
Lancaster House Gala***

***details of forthcoming concerts  
for the next few months***

***maps and full travel information for our venues***

***Information on how to join the Society,  
any special offers  
and a downloadable membership form***

***Plus fascinating articles on:  
Chopin's last recital  
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***and of course .... a copy of the latest Newsletter***

**Have you seen it yet?**

***During the membership year 2023-24 (the last for which complete figures are available) THE CHOPIN SOCIETY of the UK had 265 Members. It offers monthly piano recitals, plus occasional talks, Galas and other special events in venues across London, and in 2025-26 is presenting another superb series of concerts with excellent artists.***

*Our piano - a 2015 Steinway Model B Grand, was chosen for us in Hamburg by Steinway's Head of Concert & Artists' Services, Ulrich Gerhartz, and President Rose Cholmondeley, assisted by Craig Terry, Managing Director of Steinway's in London. It is maintained by Steinway & Sons, who tune it before each recital and service it regularly. The piano is housed at Westminster Cathedral Hall.*

*Programmes always include works by Chopin, with some consisting entirely of Chopin. We engage established international pianists and a selection of the best of the new generation of professionals, as well as—from time to time—respected lecturers and Chopin specialists.*

*In addition to our regular concert series we also give amateur, professional and student pianists the opportunity to play several times a year at Members' Matinées, held in private houses in Greater London. These extremely popular events are not open to the general public. Only Members and their guests may attend if they have bought tickets, but pianists come free. You must be a paid-up Member of the Society to perform in Members' Matinées. No fees are paid to performers on these occasions and they do not count as professional engagements.*

*Most of our concerts are followed by an informal Reception and buffet tea consisting of freshly-made sandwiches, savouries, chocolate biscuits and cakes, accompanied by quality wine, coffee, tea, juice or mineral water, plus the chance to meet the artist and also make new friends. An extra charge is made for this if you wish to stay for it (see page 14). We can cater for up to 70.*

*For information on joining The Chopin Society go to our website [www.chopin-society.org.uk](http://www.chopin-society.org.uk) Click on the "Join the Society" link on the homepage, and download an application form, or ask at any recital.*

## **YOU DO NOT NEED TO BE A MEMBER TO ATTEND RECITALS**

**Non-Members are welcome at all our regular concerts. Ticket prices are on page 3. You are recommended to book in advance.**

**Book online via [WeGotTickets.com](http://WeGotTickets.com) (search for Chopin Society). Tickets may also be available on the door on the day unless stated.**

**For enquiries give Secretary Gillian Newman a ring on 0203 144 0033 or email her: [info@chopin-society.org.uk](mailto:info@chopin-society.org.uk)**

**Please note: no concerts take place at Onslow Square.**

# The Chopin Society

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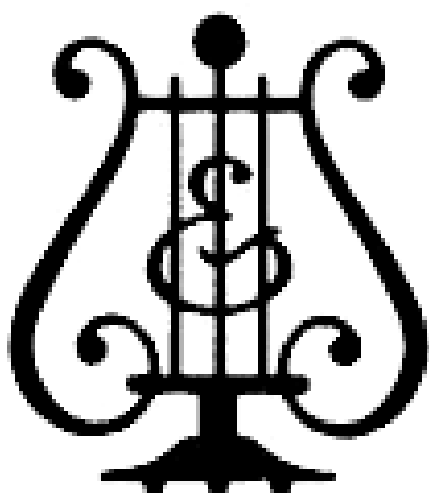
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