

# Gorton Philharmonic Orchestra

Established 1854

The oldest amateur orchestra in the North West



## 2023/2024 Season

Saturday 4th November 2023 | 7.30 p.m.  
Stoller Hall, Hunts Bank, Manchester

Sunday 10th December 2023 | 2 p.m.  
Gorton Monastery

Saturday 24th February 2024 | 7.30 p.m.  
Holy Innocents Church, Fallowfield

Saturday 27th April 2024 | 7.30 p.m.  
Holy Innocents Church, Fallowfield

Saturday 13th July 2024 | 7.30 p.m.  
Stoller Hall, Hunts Bank, Manchester

## 2023/2024 Season in Summary

Our latest Concert Season will be a celebration of anniversaries and all that is great in classical music. We mark the anniversaries of the premières of Schubert's *Rosamunde* 200 years ago, Butterworth's *The Banks of Green Willow* (110) and Copland's *Fanfare for the Common Man* (80). We will also shine a spotlight on composers as diverse as Verdi and Karl Jenkins, as well as popular composers Elgar, Tchaikovsky and Sibelius, in a concert season comprising an eclectic collection of much-loved and lesser-known works.

We will celebrate the contribution of composers affected by conflicts around the world, their personal struggles, as well as music connected by fate, destiny, love, joy and peace, in a series of concerts designed to entertain and captivate you.



As ever, Gorton Philharmonic will be expertly led by our popular Musical Director **Juan Ortuño**, now in his thirteenth year with the orchestra. His sunny disposition and infectious enthusiasm will guarantee you leave our concerts smiling!

After a successful collaboration in 2017, Gorton Philharmonic is proud to join up with **Bury Choral Society** again in the grand surroundings of Stoller Hall. We also welcome local alto **Claire Loftus** and multi-award-winning cellist **Josh Mountford** for their debut appearances with the orchestra.

Our **2023/2024 Season** promises to be exciting, full of popular classics and little-heard gems, so why not join us for a celebration of the best of what classical music can offer? Read on for more details...



Saturday 4th November 2023 | 7.30 p.m.



Copland - *Fanfare for the Common Man*  
Butterworth - *The Banks of Green Willow*  
Elgar - *From the Bavarian Highlands*  
Karl Jenkins - *The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace*

The opening concert of our 2023/2024 season will see Gorton Philharmonic team up once more with **Bury Choral Society** for a concert of music connected by war, joy and peace. Copland's *Fanfare for the Common Man*, composed to celebrate the U.S joining WWII, will get proceedings off to a stirring start before *The Banks of Green Willow*, composed by George Butterworth before he lost his life in WWI, will bring a sense of pastoral calmness to the evening. Elgar's joyous and life-affirming work for chorus and orchestra, *From the Bavarian Highlands*, will raise your spirits and the concert will end in glorious fashion with Karl Jenkins' monumental and hugely popular anti-war work *The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace*, dedicated to those who lost their lives during the Kosovo conflict in the 1990s.

Sunday 10th December 2023 | 2 p.m.

Join us at Gorton Monastery for a selection of seasonal and light music. The concert will also include popular audience participation carols so come and get festive with mince pies and mulled wine in the inspirational surroundings of The Monastery, Manchester. We guarantee you'll leave feeling ready for anything that Christmas throws at you!

Note: Early booking for the Christmas concert is recommended to avoid disappointment.



## Saturday 24th February 2024 | 7.30 p.m.

Schubert - Incidental music: *Rosamunde*  
Wagner - *Wesendonck Lieder*  
**Alto - Claire Loftus**  
Sibelius - Symphony No. 5



Our Winter Concert will be an evening of works connected by traditional composing styles, with the composers resisting the urge to follow the growing trend of radical new ideas. With the Romantic era fast approaching, the incidental music

Schubert wrote for Chézy's play *Rosamunde* gets things going in the prevailing Classical style before local alto **Claire Loftus**, making her debut appearance with Gorton Philharmonic, performs Wagner's melancholic yet beautiful *Wesendonck Lieder*, written in the prevailing Romantic style when others around him were embracing Modernism. The evening concludes with Sibelius's epic Fifth Symphony, composed in the Romantic style, after he'd dabbled with Modernism in his previous Symphony.

## Saturday 27th April 2024 | 7.30 p.m.

Verdi - Overture: *The Force of Destiny*  
Elgar - Cello Concerto in E minor  
**Cello: Josh Mountford**  
Tchaikovsky - Symphony No. 6 in B minor '*Pathétique*'

Our Spring Concert focuses on works connected by destiny, fate and personal struggles. After the overture to Verdi's opera *The Force of Destiny* has got proceedings off to a dramatic start, we will be joined by a multi-award-winning cellist **Josh Mountford** to perform Elgar's beautiful and enduring *Cello Concerto*. The work was popularised by Jacqueline du Pré, whose stellar performing career came to an abrupt end at the age of 28, two years after being diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis. This concert of



beautiful and emotional music will conclude with Tchaikovsky's passionate sixth and last symphony, full of contrasting moods, in which, at the conclusion, he finally faces his fate head-on, not in expected triumph, but with intimacy, personal pain and wonderful poignancy.

## Saturday 13th July 2024 | 7.30 p.m.



An evening of dramatic and popular orchestral music from the silver screen in the grand surroundings of Stoller Hall, including the theme from *Ladies in Lavender* and Addinsell's *Warsaw Concerto* with violin and piano soloists. If you love movies then this concert is a must so don't miss it!

### Concert Venues and Ticket Information

#### Holy Innocents Church

2 Wilbraham Road  
Fallowfield  
Manchester  
M14 6JZ

**Tickets: £8** (£7 concessions, accompanied children FREE).

Admission at the door, GPO members or  
[www.ticketsource.co.uk/gortonphil](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/gortonphil)

#### Gorton Monastery

89 Gorton Lane  
Gorton  
Manchester  
M12 5WF

**Tickets: £15** (accompanied children £4).

[www.ticketsource.co.uk/gortonphil](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/gortonphil) or  
Gorton Monastery: 0161 223 3211

#### Stoller Hall

Hunts Bank  
Manchester  
M3 1DA

**Tickets: £15** (U18s/full-time education £5.50)  
[boxoffice@stollerhall.com](mailto:boxoffice@stollerhall.com) or 0333 130 0967

## Come and Join Us

We like to think of ourselves as one of the most friendly, welcoming amateur orchestras in the north west and are always on the lookout for new players to come and join us. If you play to a good standard and would like improve your skills playing with a friendly orchestra then please get in touch. We'd love to hear from you, especially if you play a string instrument.

We rehearse on Sunday mornings in the Dance Studio at Lostock High School, Manchester from 10.15 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and perform five concerts each year, for which there are usually six or seven rehearsals.

For more information, please contact our Secretary at:

[secretary@gortonphil.co.uk](mailto:secretary@gortonphil.co.uk)

Please also visit:

[www.gortonphil.co.uk](http://www.gortonphil.co.uk)

[www.facebook.com/gortonphilharmonicorchestra/](https://www.facebook.com/gortonphilharmonicorchestra/)

*We look forward to hearing from you.*



Gorton Philharmonic at the RNCM