



PEASMARSH
CHAMBER
MUSIC
FESTIVAL

25-28 JUNE 2026

Anthony Marwood MBE violin

Richard Lester cello

CO-DIRECTORS

‘Peasmarsh, in late June, is a magical festival’

Sir David Hare **THE OBSERVER**

‘Olympian-calibre.... Marwood’s violin dug deep through double stops and soared high with angelic resonance’

BOSTON GLOBE on Anthony Marwood

‘The playing and interpretation are perfection; every note, every phrase, every balance is beyond criticism’

FANFARE MAGAZINE on Richard Lester

WELCOME TO THE 2026 PEASMARSH CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL!

We are thrilled to share with you details of the fabulous artists who will be with us in Peasmarsh this summer and the programmes our artistic directors Anthony Marwood and Richard Lester have created for us all to enjoy.

As always our guests come from near and far. Returning to Peasmarsh are the brilliant violinist Oliver Heath, cellist Kate Gould and pianist Marianna Shirinyan. And joining us for the first time are stellar violists Edgar Francis and Jennifer Stumm, pianist Valentin Magyar and BBC New Generation Artists the Astatine Trio, who will also be joining the inimitable Sam Glazer and Tara Franks to lead our workshops with six local schools.

We are, as ever, so pleased to welcome Britten Sinfonia back to the Festival. This year the orchestral programme includes concerti by Vivaldi and Vasks, framing Schubert’s sparkling fifth symphony. Surely one not to miss!

We welcome all our guest artists to Peasmarsh, as we do you, our audience, whether you are coming for the first time or have joined us many times before. See you in June!

1 FESTIVAL OPENING

Thursday 25 June, 8pm

Anthony Marwood, Richard Lester, Edgar Francis, Kate Gould, Oliver Heath, Maja Horvat, Marianna Shirinyan, Jennifer Stumm

Haydn Quartet in B flat major Op. 76 No. 4 ‘Sunrise’

Britten Cello Sonata in C major Op. 65

Brahms Sextet No. 2 in G major Op. 36

The 2026 Festival ‘dawns’ with Haydn’s radiant Sunrise Quartet, which was part of the composer’s creative outpouring during his years at the Esterházy court in the 1790s. We continue with Benjamin Britten’s Cello Sonata, the first of several pieces Britten composed for the cellist Mstislav Rostropovich following their meeting in London at the British premiere of Shostakovich’s First Cello Concerto in 1960. Our celebration of chamber music culminates in Brahms Sextet for two violins, two violas and two cellos, whose 1862 publication spearheaded a renaissance in composers writing for this rich combination of instruments.

VENUE Church of St Peter & St Paul, Peasmarsh

2 ASTATINE TRIO / YOUNG COMPOSERS

Friday 26 June, 12:30pm

Led by Sam Glazer with Tara Franks

Peasmarsh regulars will know that every summer we have the privilege of working with children at local schools. This year our work will reach six local schools where we will offer compositional workshops. Each participating class will write a new song which will receive its world premiere at this special concert, alongside performances from our guest ensemble the Astatine Trio. Space limited; please contact the box office for details.

VENUE St Mary’s Church, Rye



3 ORCHESTRAL CONCERT

Friday 26 June, 7.45pm **Please note start time**

Anthony Marwood, Richard Lester and Kate Gould (soloists)

Britten Sinfonia, directed by Zoë Beyers

Vivaldi Concerto for Two Cellos in G minor RV 53

Schubert Symphony No. 5 in B flat major, D. 485

Vasks Concerto for Violin ‘Distant Light’

At the heart of our orchestral concert programme is Schubert’s popular and much loved fifth Symphony, written at the height of the

composer's youthful creative exuberance when he was 19 years old, and already a 'veteran' having written four symphonies. From the opening of the playful Allegro to the final effervescent bars of the Finale, it's clear why this work has won a place in the repertoire of classics. Bookending the Schubert are two concertos featuring our artistic directors, with cellist Kate Gould – Vivaldi's brilliant 'double' concerto for two cello soloists, and Latvian composer Pēteris Vasks' ethereal and moving concerto for violin 'Distant Light'.

VENUE St Mary's Church, Rye

4 MORNING CONCERT

Saturday 27 June, 11.30am

Astaine Trio, Valentin Magyar, Marianna Shirinyan, Jennifer Stumm

Haydn Piano Trio No. 44 in E major Hob XV:28
Schumann Märchenbilder for Piano and Viola Op. 113
Liszt Piano Sonata in B minor S178

Haydn's piano trio in E major may have been written whilst the composer was in London in the 1790s, and was published in the city, dedicated to the pianist Therese Jansen. For any audience members familiar with the Florestan Trio's 2009 recording of this work, please do come along and experience this performance by the next generation of chamber musicians. Completing the programme we have Schumann's delightful Märchenbilder (Fairy Tale Pictures) for viola and piano, and Liszt's only piano sonata - the monumental and virtuosic Sonata in B minor.

VENUE Church of St Peter & St Paul, Peasmarsh

5 EARLY EVENING CONCERT

Saturday 27 June, 6pm

Anthony Marwood, Richard Lester, Edgar Francis, Kate Gould, Riya Hamie, Oliver Heath, Maja Horvat, Valentin Magyar, Marianna Shirinyan, Jennifer Stumm

Schubert Quartettsatz in C minor D.703
Bacewicz Piano Quintet No. 1
Beethoven Piano Trio in B flat major Op. 97 'Archduke'

Beethoven's spectacular 'Archduke' trio and Schubert's Quartettsatz are rightly acclaimed as masterworks of the chamber music genre, but 20th century Polish composer Grażyna Bacewicz's Piano Quintet is a forgotten gem, but equally deserving of inclusion here. This atmospheric work contains several rhythmic themes, and may well have been inspired by Polish folk dances. Beethoven's Archduke trio was written in 1811, the same year as his monumental Seventh Symphony, and sharing much of its virtuosic vitality.

VENUE Church of St Peter & St Paul, Peasmarsh

6 NOCTURNES AND GAMES

Saturday 27 June, 9.30pm

Anthony Marwood, Richard Lester, Kate Gould, Riya Hamie, Maja Horvat, Valentin Magyar, Marianna Shirinyan, Jennifer Stumm

Puccini Crisantemi for String Quartet
Beamish Three Pieces for Solo Cello
Ravel Ondine from *Gaspard de la Nuit*
Schumann Intermezzo from Violin Concerto, for piano trio (arr Isserlis)
Schumann Geistervariationen (Ghost Variations)

Join us for an eclectic late night programme themed around nocturnes and games, and which offers intimate and atmospheric chamber works spanning two centuries. We have included Sally Beamish's three pieces for Solo Cello which will be performed by three individual cellists positioned around the church, a selection from György Kurtág's life-long project Játékok (games) in his 100th birthday year, and Robert Schumann's haunting Ghost Variations. This was Schumann's last work, written in the weeks before he was committed to an asylum and he famously believed its theme (the same as that of the slow movement of his violin concerto) was delivered to him overnight in a vision by the ghost of Mendelssohn or Schubert.

VENUE Church of St Peter & St Paul, Peasmarsh

7 COFFEE CONCERT: TWO, FOUR, SIX, EIGHT HANDS

Sunday 28 June, 11.30am

Richard Lester, Kate Gould, Berniya Hamie, Riya Hamie, Valentin Magyar, Marianna Shirinyan

Mozart Piano Sonata in C major K330
Wagenseil Suite for four bass instruments in C major, WV445
Dvořák Selection from Slavonic Dances Op. 46 for Piano Four Hands
Rachmaninov Valse and Romance for Piano Six Hands

What better way to celebrate the piano than with this series of works for one, two, and then finally three pianists playing together. Mozart's beautiful and sunny sonata in C major seems fitting for a midsummer festival, and will be followed with a flourish by Georg Wagenseil's quartet for four bass instruments, a selection of Dvořák's rousing slavonic dances and Rachmaninov's beautiful miniature Valse for Piano Six Hands.

VENUE Church of St Peter & St Paul, Peasmarsh

8 AFTERNOON CONCERT

Sunday 28 June, 4.30pm

Astatine Trio, Edgar Francis, Berniya Hamie

Rebecca Clarke Morpheus for Viola and Piano
Mendelssohn Piano Trio No.1 in D minor Op. 49

When Rebecca Clarke premiered Morpheus in New York in 1918, the work carried the name of 'Anthony Trent' as the composer. Predictably, this led to the work receiving critical acclaim, whereas Clarke's Lullaby and Grotesque for viola and cello on the same programme under her own name were received more ambivalently. Thankfully more than 100 years on, we can enjoy this work as a popular addition to the chamber music repertoire, taking its well-deserved place here alongside Mendelssohn's first piano trio which is rightly acclaimed as one of the classics of the romantic genre.

VENUE Church of St Peter & St Paul, Peasmarsh

9 FINALE

Sunday 28 June, 7pm

Anthony Marwood, Richard Lester, Edgar Francis, Kate Gould, Oliver Heath, Valentin Magyar, Marianna Shirinyan, Jennifer Stumm

Bach Partita No. 2 in C minor for Solo Keyboard
Shostakovich Sonata for Violin and Piano in G major Op. 134
Tchaikovsky Souvenir de Florence Op. 70

Bringing the 2026 Festival to a close, our programme travels from Bach to Shostakovich, showcasing the genius of these composers across 250 years of musical development. The second half of the programme is dedicated to Tchaikovsky's string sextet 'Souvenir de Florence' which the composer began whilst he was visiting the Italian city. The Russian folk music themes of the final two movements of this work promise to send us away cheered and rejuvenated.

VENUE Church of St Peter & St Paul, Peasmarsh

BOOKING PERIOD*

Monday 9 March - Friday 20 March 2026: Patrons' priority booking
Monday 23 March - Thursday 2 April 2026: Friends' priority booking
Tuesday 7 April 2026: Booking opens to the general public

* Please note tickets will be sent out in May; online booking will remain open throughout the Festival.

BOX OFFICE ENQUIRIES

EMAIL: PEASMARSHBOXOFFICE@GMAIL.COM

TELEPHONE: 01797 253 178 / 07940 555 433

photo: Weller van Dyck



photo: KT Bruce



Anthony Marwood

photo: Weller van Dyck



Richard Lester

photo: Weller van Dyck



BOX OFFICE

Tickets can be purchased via our website www.peasmarshfestival.co.uk or by completing a paper form. Bookings will be fulfilled in the order received. In addition, the box office is open 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday and can be contacted regarding ticket availability or any enquiry about access for people with disabilities. The Festival is supported by a great team of volunteers, including our Box Office Manager so, if there is no answer, please leave a message on the answerphone and we will reply as soon as we can.

Parking near Peasmarsh church is along narrow country lanes; a small number of parking spaces will be available for those needing disabled access. Please indicate when booking if you require this.

ONLINE BOOKING

Online booking will open on Monday 9 March. Patrons and Friends will receive a code to access booking when their priority booking period opens. No such code will be required once general booking opens. Ticket buyers will be able to select a number of seats at a particular price, but not specific seats. Seats will continue to be allocated by our Box Office Manager in order to distribute allocations in the churches fairly across the Festival. Alternatively a paper form may be completed and returned to the box office either by post, or by scanning the form and returning it to peasmarshboxoffice@gmail.com. **All tickets will be sent out in May.**

BOOKING NOTES

- When booking either online or by paper form, please indicate the number of tickets you would like for each concert, including the total cost for each concert.
- One ticket for concert 2 will be offered to each participating child through their schools. A handful of tickets for concert 2 for festival supporters will be available from the box office.
- A Festival Pass offers the top price ticket available for all concerts, giving an overall saving of £20 on the top prices shown. An adjustment will be made if top price tickets are sold out. Second price Festival Passes will be available only once top price tickets have sold out.
- If you would like to purchase a Festival Pass for the whole festival, please complete that row of the booking form only. If you are buying Festival Passes and individual tickets, please indicate the number of Festival Passes and individual tickets in the relevant boxes, as well as the total cost for each row.
- All seats are reserved.
- Peasmarsh Chamber Music Festival regrets that in the event of alterations no refund can be made. The right is reserved to vary artists and programmes if necessary.
- If you find that you are unable to use your tickets, we would be grateful if you could inform the box office as we often have waiting lists for popular concerts. Refunds will only be made in the event that returned tickets are resold at full price. An administration charge of £2.00 will apply for any refund processed. We are very grateful for any tickets returned as donations for resale.
- In the event that concerts are unable to take place due to any Government mandated restrictions, a full refund will be offered.
- A limited allocation of reduced price tickets is available for recipients of Universal Credit, full-time students and ages 25 and under. Tickets are sold on a first-come-first-served basis. Please enquire at the box office for details.
- Please do not bring children under the age of 8 to any of the concerts, aside from Concert 2. We regret that dogs are not permitted inside the churches and we are unable to look after patrons' pets.

VENUES

We are privileged to use wonderful historic churches as our main festival venues. Built for worship rather than as concert venues, please be aware that some seats may have a restricted view of the stage due to the pillars or quirks of the buildings. Also, pews and chairs can be hard; you are welcome to bring a cushion.

EDUCATION WORK

The Peasmarsh Chamber Music Festival is committed to providing music composition workshops and performance opportunities for an expanding network of local primary schools. We are delighted that expert workshop leaders and composers, Sam Glazer and Tara Franks, will continue to work with children from Peasmarsh, Beckley, Rye, Playden, Icklesham and Winchelsea primary schools during 2026, and look forward to welcoming audience members to see and hear the fruits of their amazing journeys from workshop to performance of a new composition.

FOOD AND DRINK

As in past years, we plan to provide professionally prepared and homemade food, before Concert 1, between Concerts 5 and 6 and before Concert 9. Coffee and pastries will be available before Concert 4 and Concert 7. Further information about booking food will be sent with tickets for the appropriate concerts. We also hope to operate a licensed bar at all concerts (other than Concerts 2, 4 and 7). All catered food must be booked and paid for before the Festival through the Friends of Peasmarsh Parish Church, Concerts 1, 3, 5 and 9 will include an interval during which a bar will be available. All audience members are warmly invited to join us for a drinks reception in Peasmarsh Churchyard following Concert 7 on Sunday morning.

BECOME A FRIEND OR PATRON

In Peasmarsh there exists a rare but perfect combination of people and place, essential to creating a successful festival. The support of our Friends and Patrons ensures that a vibrant, stimulating and world-class event will continue in Peasmarsh, and enables us to develop our education work with local schools, giving children a profound and engaging experience with live classical music. In return for their commitment, Friends and Patrons enjoy Priority Booking for all concerts, Friends' receptions and, depending on the level of support, opportunities to meet the artists during the Festival. If you would like more information about our Friends and Patrons schemes, and how to get involved, please contact:

Eleanor Cranmer
Friends and Patrons Administrator

127 Dora Road, London SW19 7JT
email: eleanor@peasmarshfestival.co.uk or visit our website: www.peasmarshfestival.co.uk

ABOUT US

Peasmarsh Chamber Music Festival is promoted by the Peasmarsh Chamber Music Festival Trust, a charitable company limited by guarantee. The Festival is grateful to the PCCs of Peasmarsh and Rye, and the Friends of Peasmarsh Parish Church for their enormous support.

Reg company no. 4625088
Reg charity no. 1095978

BOOKING FORM

BOOKING FORM						No.	Total	
Concerts	Festival Pass 8 concerts £220							
	Festival Programme £6							
	Price 1	No.	Price 2	No.	Price 3	No.		
1	£32		£26		-	-		
3	£36		£26		£20			
4	£32		£26		-	-		
5	£32		£26		-	-		
6	£22		-	-	-	-		
7	£32		£26	-	-	-		
8	£22		-	-	-	-		
9	£32		£26	-	-			
Ticket Sub Total £								
Postage							£2.00	
Additional contribution to support the festival £								
Grand Total £								

Name

Address

Postcode

Daytime Tel No

Email

Please return your form to: **Peasmarsh Chamber Music Festival, Strawberry Hole Oast, Ewhurst Lane, Northiam, East Sussex, TN31 6HJ.**

We would encourage payment by bank transfer (Lloyds Bank, Hammersmith Branch; Sort code: **30-93-79**; account number **17063760**; Ref: Your surname), alternatively you can include a cheque with your booking form. In order to avoid refunds or requests for additional payments, cheques should be left blank with a maximum amount entered between the crossed lines, i.e. "A sum not exceeding £x.xx". The box office manager will enter the correct amount. In the unlikely event that tickets are not available, you will be allocated the best available seats and will be reimbursed any difference in price. No tickets will be issued prior to payment being made. Please tick as applicable:

- I/we have paid via bank transfer made on (please insert date)
- I/we enclose a cheque payable to **The Peasmarsh Chamber Music Festival**