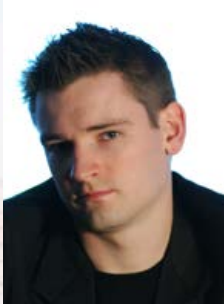


TUNBRIDGE WELLS  
INTERNATIONAL MUSIC

# festival 2017



Dame Sarah Connolly



Michael McHale



Victoria Hislop



The Schubert Ensemble



Merry Opera Company

## **THE RTWSO & DAME SARAH CONNOLLY** Assembly Hall Theatre - 1st October

The Royal Tunbridge Wells Symphony Orchestra joins with us to launch the 2017 Festival with an exciting concert featuring world-renowned Mezzo Soprano Dame Sarah Connolly

## **MICHAEL McHALE PIANO RECITAL** King Charles the Martyr - 7th October

Brilliant Irish pianist Michael McHale is making waves around the world's concert halls and will treat us to a dazzling Saturday lunchtime recital in this lovely Tunbridge Wells venue

## **PIANO MASTERCLASS FOR LOCAL STUDENTS** King Charles the Martyr - 7th October

Michael McHale will lead a masterclass for talented young local pianists before his recital

## **AN EVENING WITH VICTORIA HISLOP** Trinity Theatre - 12th October

Victoria Hislop, Sunday Times Number One best-selling author, speaks about and discusses her novel (new in paperback) *Cartes Postales* from Greece: a key Festival literary event

## **THE SCHUBERT ENSEMBLE** King Charles the Martyr - 13th October

A great opportunity to experience a magical concert by one of the world's most highly-regarded ensembles for piano and strings before their planned retirement in the New Year.

## **VERDI'S REQUIEM: MERRY OPERA COMPANY** Penshurst Church - 14th October

Merry Opera Company presents a new staged version of this popular work which has enthralled audiences since its premiere in 1874 - and now in Merry Opera Company style.

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

## FESTIVAL OPENING CONCERT ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA with DAME SARAH CONNOLLY

Sunday 1st October 3.00pm

Assembly Hall Theatre, TN1 2LU

Roderick Dunk conducts the first RTW Symphony Orchestra concert of the 2017-18 season with internationally renowned mezzo soprano Sarah Connolly singing Elgar's Sea Pictures - five songs about the sea in its different moods. The concert starts with Kodály's lively Dances of Galánta and ends with Brahms's First Symphony.

Tickets: £20, 22, 25, 28. Students £11

[www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk](http://www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk) or Box office 01892 530613

## MICHAEL McHALE PIANO RECITAL & MASTERCLASS FOR STUDENTS

Saturday 7th October

10am Masterclass 12-1pm Recital

King Charles the Martyr Church, TN1 1YX

Michael McHale is one of the most impressive pianists of his generation with his playing described as "instantly engaging" (The Times) and "beautifully proportioned" (Washington Post), Leading critic Norman Lebrecht described a McHale performance as "scintillating...fascinating from start to stop" and we are delighted that Michael will give us a one hour Saturday lunchtime piano recital after taking local grade 8 students through their paces in an earlier masterclass.

**Both events are free but donations (optional) will be welcome and will help the Festival's education projects for children and students.**

## LITERARY EVENT:

### AN EVENING WITH VICTORIA HISLOP

Thursday 12th October 7.30pm

Trinity Theatre, Church Road, TN1 1JP

Victoria Hislop, the Sunday Times Number One bestselling author of *The Island*, *The Return*, *The Thread* and *The Sunrise*, makes a welcome return to the Festival to talk about her novel (newly in paperback),

*Cartes Postales from Greece*. A powerful combination of stories and photographs, this critically-acclaimed international bestseller is a moving and sometimes dark journey around Greece. "Victoria Hislop writes so vividly about the Med, you can almost feel the scorching heat" (*Good Housekeeping*).

Tickets (£12/£10 Friends of Trinity/groups of 10) from [www.trinitytheatre.net](http://www.trinitytheatre.net) or Box office 01892 678678

## THE SCHUBERT ENSEMBLE

Friday 13th October 7.30pm

King Charles the Martyr, London Road, TN1 1YX

A highlight of this year's Festival will be one of the last-ever appearances by one of the world's finest ensembles for piano and strings. After three decades in the global spotlight, the Ensemble's musicians have decided to retire in the New Year. The Ensemble has chosen a fascinating finale programme for us: Suk's *Elegy*, Schumann's *Piano Quartet* and Dvorak's *Piano Quintet*.

Tickets £15 on door (£12.50 in advance). Students/U18s free.

Tickets online from [www.ticketsource.co.uk/date/397725](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/date/397725)

## VERDI'S REQUIEM –

### THE MERRY OPERA COMPANY

Saturday 14th October 7.30pm

Penshurst Church, High Street, Penshurst TN11 8BN

Verdi's Requiem has held audiences in its spell since its 1874 premiere, for Verdi uses his operatic skills (*La traviata*, *Aida*, *Rigoletto*) to give the Latin Requiem Mass an electrifyingly theatrical setting. This staged version by the Merry Opera Company brings the audience deep into the music: twelve powerful classical voices whispering prayers for salvation and triumphantly praising God. ("A delight" Opera Now).

Tickets: £18 Online: [www.ticketsource/merryopera](http://www.ticketsource/merryopera)  
Telephone: 0333 666 3366 (a booking fee may apply)

## ARENISKY CHAMBER ORCHESTRA – "e-IMAGINED"; SCHOOL WORKSHOPS

The Arenisky Chamber Orchestra – one of the UK's most dynamic young orchestras will be going into TWBC primary schools, exploring the world of Sibelius' magnificent 5th Symphony as a springboard for children to compose an exciting new piece. (Not open to the public)



For further information on the programme or to go on our free mailing list please contact  
[info@tunbridgewellsfestival.co.uk](mailto:info@tunbridgewellsfestival.co.uk)