



Temple Music

Autumn Winter



Autumn Winter
Concert Season

September – December 2026

Temple Music

offers world-class classical concerts in the awe-inspiring spaces of The Temple - the beating heart of London's historic legal quarter.

It was formed in 2003 following the world premiere of John Tavener's *The Veil of the Temple*, commissioned by Temple Church Choir, and has grown into a year-round concert series.

Our Aims

1. To bring exceptional music from world class artists into the private and exclusive venues of the Temple.

From the intimacy of the Middle Temple Library, which includes items from John Donne's personal library and the Molyneux Globes, through the opulence of the Inner Temple Drawing Room to the grandeur of Middle Temple Hall, arguably London's finest Elizabethan Hall, these are venues that positively resonate with culture.

2. To support the next generation of musical talent.

Temple Music has always featured young and emergent musicians in its programming. With the launch of a 'Young Artists Platform' in 2027, this is set to become a regular strand of the series.

The Music

The quality of concerts is of the highest level, and Temple Music hosts artists whose usual domain is the leading concert halls of the world.

Recent and forthcoming artists include singers Dame Sarah Connolly, Angelika Kirchschlager and Gerald Finley, the Belcea and Doric Quartets, pianists Dame Imogen Cooper, András Schiff and Julius Drake, ensembles The Sixteen, Gabrieli and London Mozart Players, and Jazz artists Courtney Pine and Zoe Rahman. Over the next few pages are just a few examples from our 2026 series.

Our Venues

Gathered among the hidden courtyards is a collection of atmospheric venues that feel almost designed for classical music. Historic halls, parliament chambers and the magnificent Temple Church create spaces where sound blooms naturally. Stone walls and high timbered ceilings give warmth and resonance to strings, voices, and chamber ensembles.

Audiences sit close to performers, encouraging the intimacy that classical repertoire thrives on, and supplying that adrenaline rush that proximity to great artists can create. The calm cloistered surroundings set apart from the rush of the city turn concerts in the Temple into memorable experiences.



Finzi Anniversary Gala 2026: Matinée Chamber Recital

Sunday 27 September 2026
2pm | Temple Church

Robert Plane (clarinet)
Nick Pritchard (tenor)
Iain Burnside (piano)
Ian Tindale (piano)
Performers from Sinfonia Smith Square

Join us for a special anniversary gala celebrating the life and music of Gerald Finzi, marking the 125th anniversary of his birth and the 70th anniversary of his death. Presented in association with the Finzi Trust, this day brings together some of Britain's leading musicians to explore the breadth and distinctive character of one of England's most cherished composers.

The matinée recital features a selection of Finzi's chamber music alongside songs that span the familiar and the newly discovered. Nick Pritchard and Ian Tindale perform works drawn from their new Finzi recording, released the same month, including songs receiving their first public performances. Chamber works for clarinet, piano and strings complete a programme that reflects Finzi's lyrical voice, warmth and deep affinity with English poetry and landscape.

Gerald Finzi (1901–1956)
Prelude for Strings, Op. 25
Interlude for Oboe and String Quartet, Op. 21
Five Bagatelles for Clarinet and Piano, Op. 23
Eclogue for Piano and Strings, Op. 10
Selected Songs for Tenor and Piano
£20 – £30



Iain Burnside

Robert Plane

"Plane's timbre could hardly be more alluring."

Gramophone

Ian Tindale



Finzi Anniversary Gala 2026: Orchestral and Choral Celebration

Sunday 27 September 2026
7.30pm | Temple Church

Robert Plane (clarinet)
The Temple Singers
Sinfonia Smith Square
Thomas Allery (conductor)
Dr Jonathan James BEM (conductor)

The culmination of a special anniversary gala celebrating the life and music of Gerald Finzi, this evening concert marks the 125th anniversary of the composer's birth and the 70th anniversary of his death. Presented in association with the Finzi Trust, it brings together some of Finzi's finest orchestral and choral works in the setting of Temple Church.

The programme opens with the lyrical Romance for string orchestra, followed by the Clarinet Concerto, one of Finzi's final compositions, performed by Robert Plane with Sinfonia Smith Square.

Following the interval, The Temple Singers and Sinfonia Smith Square present three of Finzi's most admired choral works. The programme concludes with Lo, the Full, Final Sacrifice, the expansive festival anthem composed in 1946 for the 53rd anniversary of the consecration of St Matthew's Church, Northampton, a work that stands among the composer's greatest achievements in sacred music.

Gerald Finzi (1901–1956)
Romance, Op. 11
Clarinet Concerto, Op. 31
Magnificat, Op. 36
For St Cecilia, Op. 30
Lo, the Full, Final Sacrifice, Op. 26
£10 – £45



The Temple Singers



Thomas Allery



Sinfonia Smith Square



The Finzi Trust

These concerts
are promoted in
association with
The Finzi Trust

Purcell: Dido and Aeneas

Tuesday 29 September 2026
7.30pm | Temple Church

Dido - Beth Taylor (mezzo-soprano)
Aeneas - Jonathan Brown (baritone)
Belinda - Anna Dennis (soprano)
Sorceress - Hilary Summers (contralto)
Early Opera Company
Christian Curnyn (conductor)

Experience the drama and beauty of Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* in a thrilling concert performance by the Early Opera Company under the baton of Christian Curnyn in the historic surroundings of Temple Church. This moving masterpiece tells the story of Dido, Queen of Carthage, and her love for the Trojan hero Aeneas, ending in heartbreak when he abandons her.

A dream cast is led by mezzo-soprano Beth Taylor, whose sumptuous voice captivated Temple audiences in her recent recital. Aeneas is the resolute Canadian baritone Jonathan Brown, and Belinda is the wonderful soprano Anna Dennis.

From Dido's haunting lament to the opera's vibrant choruses, this performance promises emotional intensity, vocal artistry, and brilliant period playing. Paired with Purcell's radiant ode *Welcome to all the Pleasures* and presented in one of London's most beautiful and historic settings, it offers an unforgettable evening of Baroque music.

Henry Purcell (1659-1695):
Welcome to all the Pleasures
Dido and Aeneas
£15 – £55

Sponsored by:

Blackstone Chambers
Continuo Foundation
in partnership with
the Purcell Society

Early Opera Company



Christian Curnyn

"Dido and Aeneas, performed by the Early Opera Company at Wigmore Hall, is a gem that shone brightly in this performance."

Rupert Christiansen, The Telegraph

Beth Taylor

Mostly Mozart Gala

Monday 12 October 2026
8pm | Inner Temple Hall

The London Mozart Players
Jonathan Bloxham (conductor)
Leo Popplewell (cello)

Step into the splendour of Inner Temple Hall for an exhilarating evening with the London Mozart Players, conducted by Jonathan Bloxham. The programme opens with Mozart's sparkling *Marriage of Figaro* Overture and closes with the majestic 'Prague' Symphony, framing Haydn's radiant Cello Concerto in C major. Rising star Leo Popplewell will be the cello soloist, while the orchestra's acclaimed clarity and energy promise to illuminate every note. Within one of London's most captivating and lesser-known historic spaces, this concert is given in memory of Joe Butler-Sloss, former secretary of the Bar Musical Society and Leslie Wise, former treasurer of the Society. An unforgettable celebration of the Classical era at its finest.

W.A. Mozart (1756-1791):
Overture from the Marriage of Figaro
Joseph Haydn (1732-1809):
Cello Concerto No. 1 in C major, Hob.VIIb:1
W.A. Mozart (1756-1791):
Symphony No. 38 in D major, K. 504 'Prague'
£20 – £60

Complimentary drinks
during the interval

Sponsored by:

Baroness Butler-Sloss
Inge Wise
Guy Beringer KC (Hon.) CBE
Rosamund Horwood-Smart KC
Dame Elizabeth Gloster

Autumn
Events



Leo Popplewell



A gala concert in memory of Joe Butler-Sloss, former secretary of the Bar Musical Society and Leslie Wise, former treasurer of the Society

The London Mozart Players

A Poet's Love - Schuen sings Schumann

Thursday 12 November 2026
7.30pm | Temple Church

Andrè Schuen (baritone)
Julius Drake (piano)

Experience the magnetic artistry of baritone Andrè Schuen, internationally acclaimed as one of today's finest Don Giovannis, in an intimate evening of Schumann's most captivating songs.

Joined by the exceptional pianist Julius Drake, Schuen brings rare insight, warmth, and dramatic intensity to Liederkreis, Op. 24 and Dichterliebe. His velvety tone and compelling stage presence, paired with a natural charisma that has captivated audiences across Europe, make this a recital not to miss. Together, these masterpieces unfold a world of poetry, passion, and longing in a performance of striking immediacy and emotional depth.

Robert Schumann (1810-1856): Liederkreis opus 24
Robert Schumann (1810-1856): Dichterliebe
£15 – £55



Julius Drake

"The freshness of youth is an essential asset in Schubert's cycle. Andrè Schuen's handsome, ductile baritone has it in spades...a superb, free-ranging voice, used with taste and invariable sensitivity to the text."

Gramophone

Sponsored by:

Sir Richard Aikens,
Penny Jonas



Andrè Schuen

We Shall Remember Them

Sunday 22 November 2026
5pm | Temple Church

Temple Youth Choir
Thomas Allery (conductor)
Charles Andrews (organ)

Join the Temple Youth Choir for their annual Remembrance concert, bringing together talented young singers from across London for an evening of powerful and moving choral music.

A distinctive feature of Temple Church under the direction of Thomas Allery has been the flourishing Temple Youth Choir: an ensemble for singers aged 14–21 from across the capital. Members take part in individual projects alongside their other commitments, gaining the opportunity to perform challenging and ambitious repertoire at the highest level — music often beyond the reach of most school music departments.

As Thomas Allery explains, "Its unique selling point is high standards and ambitious programming. It's ideal for former choristers who want to continue singing at that level, as well as talented young instrumentalists whose musical training may not yet have included choral opportunities."

The programme features works by Paul Mealor, alongside the much-loved Messe Solennelle by Jean Langlais.

A poignant early evening concert for Remembrance Sunday, not to be missed.

Rani Arbo (1968-): Crossing the Bar

Paul Mealor (1975-): from Now Sleeps the Crimson Petal
(four linked madrigals) - Now sleeps the crimson petal; A spotless rose

Organ Interlude - Edward Elgar (1857-1934):

Nimrod (from The Enigma Variations)

Jean Langlais (1907-1991): Messe Solennelle
£10



Autumn
Events



Winter Festival 1 - Mujeres ¡Presentes! - The Secret Art Songs of Women Latina Composers

Tuesday 1 December 2026
12.30pm | Temple Church

Lorena Paz Nieto (soprano)
Helen Glaisher (piano)

Mujeres ¡Presentes! celebrates the rich and often overlooked world of art song by women Latina composers, bringing to light a repertoire of remarkable beauty, passion and individuality. Performed by soprano Lorena Paz Nieto and pianist Helen Glaisher, this captivating programme explores music shaped by diverse cultures and traditions spanning two centuries from across the Latin world, including Spain, Cuba, Venezuela, Argentina, Brazil and Mexico.

Award-winning Spanish soprano Lorena Paz Nieto has performed leading operatic roles with companies including West Green House Opera, The Grange Festival and Theater Lübeck. A celebrated recitalist, she has appeared at the Royal Opera House and Oxford Lieder Festival, and recently released her debut solo CD, Cantando a dos poetas.

British-Hispanic pianist, Helen Glaisher-Hernández, has performed internationally, as well as live on BBC Radio 3 and BBC Radio 4, and across London's major venues, including sell-out appearances at Southbank Centre's Purcell Room and Queen Elizabeth Hall, Barbican's Milton Court Concert Hall, St John's Smith Square, St Martin-in-the-Fields and Fairfield Halls. Her playing has been praised by critics as 'so beautiful' (BBC Radio 4's Woman's Hour); 'a compelling mestizaje of classical refinement and Latin feel'.

Together Lorena and Helen will bring warmth, sensitivity and dramatic flair to this colourful repertoire. Accept an invitation on a journey through hidden musical treasures, celebrating the creativity and artistry of women composers whose work deserves far wider recognition.

£25 (students: £15)

Sponsored by:

Instituto
Cervantes
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Helen Glaisher

"Lorena Paz Nieto has more sparkle in voice and eye, making her a charmingly playful Susanna, showing which of the two has the upper hand."

Classical Source

"Full of Handelian promise... Morgana, Lorena Paz Nieto... could step into the role anywhere with honour tomorrow"

Opera Magazine



Lorena Paz Nieto

Programme:

Matilde Salvador: Rpto
Pauline Viardot: Canción de la Infanta
Yvette Souviron: Carnavalito
Lía Cimaglia: Niebla porteña
Teresa Carreño: Feuillet d'album | Barcarola
Alicia de Larrochav: Mi vida es un erial
Odaline de la Martínez: ¿Qué es poesía?
Carlota Garriga: Canço del lladre
María Rodrigo: Ayes
Irma Urteaga: Vocalise
Milena Perisic: Esta tarde mi bien
Emiliana Zubeldía: Yumurí
Gisela Hernández: Miraba la noche el alma
María Álvarez Ríos: Barcarola
Modesta Bor: Canción para dormir un negrito
Chiquinha Gonzaga: Lua branca
Meri Lao: Una donna senza uomo
Catarina Domenici: Marielle presente

"(Helen Glaisher's playing is) so beautiful...a compelling mestizaje of classical refinement and Latin feel"

BBC Radio 4

Winter Festival 2: A Terrible Beauty – English String Music from 1900 to 1939

Tuesday 1 December 2026
7.30pm | Temple Church

Dame Harriet Walter*
London Virtuosi Ensemble
George Hlawiczka (leader)
Rachael Montesino Young (conductor)

A Terrible Beauty explores the extraordinary flowering of English string music in the first decades of the twentieth century — music of radiant lyricism and haunting emotional depth, written in the shadow of a rapidly changing world. Performed by the newly formed LoVE (London Virtuosi Ensemble) under the direction of Rachael Montésino Young, who has assisted Paavo Järvi in concerts and recordings with the Frankfurt Radio Symphony Orchestra, this programme brings together some of the most evocative and beloved works in the English string repertoire.

At its heart lies a profound sense of beauty touched by fragility. Composed between the final years of the Edwardian era and the uncertain decades between two world wars, these works reflect a society poised between nostalgia and modernity, serenity and upheaval. The soaring lines of Fantasia on a Theme by Thomas Tallis seem to suspend time itself, while the aching tenderness of Elgar's Sospiri and Elegy speaks of loss, remembrance and longing. Frank Bridge's elegant Valse-Intermezzo captures the glittering surface of a vanished world, and Michael Tippett's exhilarating Concerto for Double String Orchestra bursts forth with rhythmic vitality, yet beneath its energy lies an undercurrent of tension and unease, hinting at the uncertainties and gathering shadows of a world on the brink of conflict.

From the sweeping grandeur of Elgar's Introduction & Allegro to the luminous spirituality of Vaughan Williams, this is music of extraordinary richness and emotional power - at once intimate and expansive, deeply English yet universal in its humanity.

A compelling and atmospheric evening of string music, A Terrible Beauty invites audiences into a sound world of warmth, passion and poignancy.

£15 – £45

Sponsored by:

This concert is promoted in association
with Pivot Media Venture Partners LLP



Rachael Montesino Young



Programme:

Edward Elgar (1857-1934):
Introduction & Allegro
Edward Elgar (1857-1934): Sospiri
Edward Elgar (1857-1934): Elegy
Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958):
Fantasia on a theme of Thomas Tallis
Frank Bridge (1879-1941): Valse - Intermezzo
Michael Tippett (1905-1998):
Concerto for double string orchestra



Dame Harriet Walter

"[Young's] conducting is quite similar to Paavo Järvi [...]. Just like Järvi, she is rooted to the ground on her pedestal and it seems like no storm could ever move her from her spot. [...] she is particularly economical in her gestures and reserves energetic action for just a few, extraordinary moments. Then [...] a fierce sound arises from the deepest depth of the orchestra."

Berliner Zeitung

*Owing to the nature of actors' professional commitments, Dame Harriet's appearance may be subject to alteration should unforeseen filming or theatre commitments arise.



George Hlawiczka

Winter Festival 3: An Advent Organ Recital

Wednesday 2 December 2026
1.15pm | Temple Church

Charles Andrews (organ)

The Temple Church's Liturgical Organist explores the full tonal range of the famous four-manual Harrison & Harrison organ in a programme including Advent works and compositions by Olivier Messiaen. This magnificent instrument was originally built in 1924 as a ballroom organ for Glen Tanar Castle in Scotland and installed in the church in 1954.

Charles Andrews is Organist of Temple Church and Professor of Organ at the Royal College of Music, continuing a long-standing link between the two institutions. He studied at the RCM with teachers including David Graham and Sophie-Véronique Cauchefer-Choplin, winning the Harold Darke Memorial Prize.

From 2011–16, he was Associate Director of Music at All Saints, Margaret Street. With Temple Church Choir, his performances have been broadcast on BBC Radio 3, including the premiere of a work by Kenneth Hesketh.

Recent highlights include a 2025 solo recording and a 2026 recital at St Bavo, Haarlem. He continues the distinguished Temple Church tradition of George Thalben-Ball and John Birch.

Programme TBC
Free Event



Charles Andrews

*"Charles Andrews plays with
unshakeable technique and control."*
Choir & Organ Magazine



Winter Festival 4: The Dawning of the Light

Wednesday 2 December 2026
6pm | Temple Church

Temple Church Choir Thomas Allery (conductor)

The world-renowned Temple Church Choir presents a moving Advent Procession in the beautiful surroundings of Temple Church. Through a carefully woven sequence of music, readings and prayers, the service reflects the themes of hope, waiting and prophecy at the heart of Advent.

Beginning in stillness and shadow, the procession gradually unfolds towards the promise of Christmas light, with candlelit ceremony and glorious choral music creating an atmosphere of reflection and anticipation. A cherished part of the Temple Church season, this meditative and uplifting service offers a moment of calm and beauty amid the bustle of December.

A programme of carols, readings and prayers
Free Event



Temple Church Choir

Winter Festival 5: Messiah

Thursday 3 December 2026
7pm | Temple Church

Temple Church Choir
Temple Players
Thomas Allery director
Fflur Wyn (soprano)
Lea Shaw (mezzo-soprano)
Nicholas Mulroy (tenor)
Henry Waddington (bass)

A highlight of the festive season in the Temple, our performance of Messiah this year features four lustrous soloists and the world-famous Temple Church Choir, directed by Thomas Allery. Handel's oratorio tells the story of the Nativity, Passion, Resurrection and Ascension through some of the most glorious arias and choruses ever written. Temple Players is a hand-picked collective of leading period instrumentalists whose annual performances in the church have become a cherished feature of our Christmas celebrations.

G F Handel (1685-1759): Messiah
£15 – £50



A Ceremony of Carols

Thursday 17 December 2026
7pm | Temple Church

Temple Church Choristers
Keziah Thomas (harp)
Thomas Allery (conductor)

The choristers of the world-famous Temple Church Choir perform Benjamin Britten's evocative masterpiece, A Ceremony of Carols, for three-part children's choir and harp. This magical sequence of carols is one of the composer's best-loved works. Don't miss the chance to hear it this Christmas in the awe-inspiring surroundings of the Temple Church.

Benjamin Britten (1913-1976):
A Ceremony of Carols
£12



*"The BBC Singers were joined for this
by the boys in red, from the Temple
Church Choir, all with angel voices"*
The Arts Desk



*"One of London's
most rewarding
concert series"*

The Guardian

*"[William Barton] conjured
a sense of vastness that spoke
to the feeling of space under
the Temple church's arches.
Throughout, the building's
warm acoustic seemed to
render everything beautiful"*

The Guardian

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Temple Music

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