

# **ForestPhilharmonic**

**Artistic Director Mark Shanahan**

**Leader Sophie Cameron**

**SEASON 2025/26**

## About Forest Philharmonic

Originally based in Walthamstow, Forest Philharmonic has been an important part of London's music scene since 1964. Under the direction of Artistic Director Mark Shanahan we have gained an impressive reputation for the high quality and vitality of our performances. Come and join us on Sunday evenings to escape the frantic bustle of London life and enjoy some live classical music.

### Our venues:

**St Gabriel's Church** 12 Aldersbrook Road, Aldersbrook, London E12 5HH

**Sir James Hawkey Hall** Broomhill Road, Woodford, London IG8 OBG

Free parking available at both venues.

### Sunday 19 October 2025 6.30pm St Gabriel's Aldersbrook

#### **BRAHMS**

Concerto for Violin and Orchestra in D Major Op 77

#### **DVORAK**

Symphony No 7 in D minor Op 70

We are delighted to welcome back Esther Park, the winner of the 2024 North and East London Young Musician of the Year, to perform Brahms's glorious Violin Concerto from 1878. This alongside Dvorak's most 'serious' and intense symphony, which received its first performance (in London) just seven years later in 1885.

### Sunday 7 December 2025 6.30pm Hawkey Hall, Woodford

#### **SULLIVAN**

Iolanthe Overture

#### **HAYDN**

Symphony No 104 in D Major ('London')

#### **ELGAR**

Symphony No 1 in A Flat Major Op 55

Three different takes on 'English' music: firstly, Sullivan's overture to the wickedly satirical opera Iolanthe, in which Gilbert and Sullivan critique late 19th Century British society. Then, Haydn's last symphony, written while he lived as a hugely successful celebrity in London in the 1790s; and finally, Elgar's First Symphony, written in 1908 and confirming his emerging status as the most successful English composer of the era.

### Sunday 1 February 2026 5pm St Gabriel's Aldersbrook

North and East London Young Musician of the Year Competition Final including works featuring solo cello, harp and voice.

In partnership with the North London Festival; sponsored by Ingles and Hayday.

## Sunday 22 March 2026 6.30pm St Gabriel's Aldersbrook

**DVORAK**

In Nature's Realm Op 91

**WAGNER**

Prelude and 'Liebestod' from Tristan and Isolde

**GOLDMARK**

Rustic Wedding Symphony Op 26

Three works from the second half of the 19th Century: Dvorak's evocative concert overture, full of Bohemian folk tunes, is from 1891; Wagner's Tristan and Isolde, with its hugely influential musical style, capturing the complexities of love and desire, dates from 1857; Goldmark's charming and jovial – but unjustly neglected – symphony, first performed in 1875. Brahms described his friend's work as 'the best thing you have done – clear-cut and faultless'.

## Sunday 21 June 2026 6.30pm St Gabriel's Aldersbrook

**WAGNER** Prelude and Suite from Act III of The Mastersingers of Nuremberg

**LIADOV**

Eight Russian Folk Songs Op 58

**RACHMANINOV**

Symphonic Dances Op 45

We end the season with three works composed forty years apart. Wagner's opera The Mastersingers of Nuremberg dates from 1862; Liadov's evocative settings of Russian folksongs from 1906; and Rachmaninov's last great orchestral work from 1940, with gorgeous melodies and brilliant orchestral textures, composed when he was living in New York.



Esther Park

### Ticket prices and How to Book

Full price	£18
Concessions	£15
Age 25	£6.50
Family ticket (1 adult & 1 child under 16)	£18

### Season Passes

Buy a season pass for all four concerts and save money (excludes the North and East London Young Musician of the Year Competition Final):

Full price	£60 (saving £12)
Concessions	£50 (saving £10)

Email for more info and an application form

**Online** [www.ticketsource.co.uk](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk)

[www.forestphilharmonic.org.uk](http://www.forestphilharmonic.org.uk)

**Email** [tickets@forestphilharmonic.org.uk](mailto:tickets@forestphilharmonic.org.uk)

**In person** On the night at the venue (cash and cards accepted)

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Want to offer your support for the orchestra? Joining Friends of Forest Philharmonic is a great way to give regular financial help and sustain live music-making in your local area. Contact us at friends@forestphilharmonic.org.uk

“What a talented orchestra!”

“... the concert was absolutely fantastic. The energy and passion was electrifying.”

Audience comments on social media

Sponsors of the North and East London Young Musician of the Year Competition:

**INGLES & HAYDAY**  
FINE INSTRUMENTS



Forest Philharmonic is affiliated to Making Music

Forest Philharmonic Society  
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