



# Forest Philharmonic

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## Newsletter February 2026

### Concert refreshments

After many years of consistently brilliant support work for the orchestra, liaising with Waltham Forest councillors, offering ideas on the committee and running refreshments in rehearsals and in concerts, the wonderful Sylvia has decided that it is pretty much time to acknowledge what her body is telling her and to hand over running concert refreshments. She has said she is happy to continue buying stock for the time being.

Are there any members of the orchestra (or their family or friends) able to take on overseeing this role? There is of course a free ticket (plus one for a helper) for concerts for whoever runs refreshments on the night. If you could help on a regular basis or think you know someone who might, the committee would love to hear from you.

### June 21 2026 concert

Due to the unavailability of Mark Shanahan on the concert night in June, this concert and its rehearsals will be conducted by Jess Hoskins, who many of you have met at the last Competition final. To accommodate Jess's availability, we are making a minor change to the schedule for June rehearsals, swapping full strings and string sectional, so the schedule will be as follows:

11 May tutti (St Andrew's); 18 May full strings (St Andrew's); 25 May no rehearsal (bank holiday); 1 June string sectionals (venues tbc); 8 June strings wind & horns (St Andrew's); 15 June strings wind horns and brass (St Andrew's); Friday 19 June strings wind and horns (St Gabriel's)

### 2026-27 concert dates

We are just finalising dates for 26-27 season and checking with venues for availability. Full dates will be circulated shortly.

The first concert of the season is already fixed, so please put this in your diary:

Sunday 18 October 2026 at St Gabriel's (first rehearsal 14 September)

### 2026-27 Repertoire

We are currently starting to draw up ideas for the repertoire for the 2026-27 concerts. Please offer any suggestions for 26-27 season to Matt on [kellymatt99@gmail.com](mailto:kellymatt99@gmail.com) or to Matt via your section fixers, and Matt will liaise with Mark. We will have sheets for suggestions at the next few rehearsals. We are going to email season ticket holders and Friends of the orchestra inviting their suggestions too.

### Players needed

As always, we can consider strong players who want to join the strings – especially at the moment in Basses, Violas and 1<sup>st</sup> Violins. Do put anyone you know who might be interested in touch with the section fixers (details on the members page on the website) or ask them to email [orchestra@forestphilharmonic.org.uk](mailto:orchestra@forestphilharmonic.org.uk)

### Subs 25-26

Subs rates are currently £55 per main concert, or a slight discount of £210 a year/£17.50 a month if you pay by standing order. We will have card machines at rehearsals for anyone who wants to pay directly. If you're on standing order, could you check you are paying the current rate? Remember, with standing orders, you have to arrange to change the amount yourself by contacting your bank – it doesn't change automatically! If you are an income tax payer and you can sign a gift aid form, go to the link on the orchestra website and fill in the form – it will save the orchestra money!

### **Publicity for concerts**

Please use fliers and posters to give to friends, family and colleagues – personal contact/word of mouth is very important to build our audience. We also distribute leaflets to houses in the streets around concert venues in the run up to each concert. It would be great if more people could offer an hour or two to help with this. Jane will have fliers and a list of streets/map at rehearsals.

### **Congrats to Sophie**

Sophie Cameron is not around to lead the March concert, because she and her partner are adopting two children. I'm sure you'd like to join us in wishing her all the best for this exciting development! She will be back for the War Requiem, and we will negotiate over the June concert. Standing in for the March concert is the very lovely, very able - and very local - Jan Regulski.

For any ideas about the running of the orchestra, do get in touch with any of the committee members:

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