

Preston Arts News

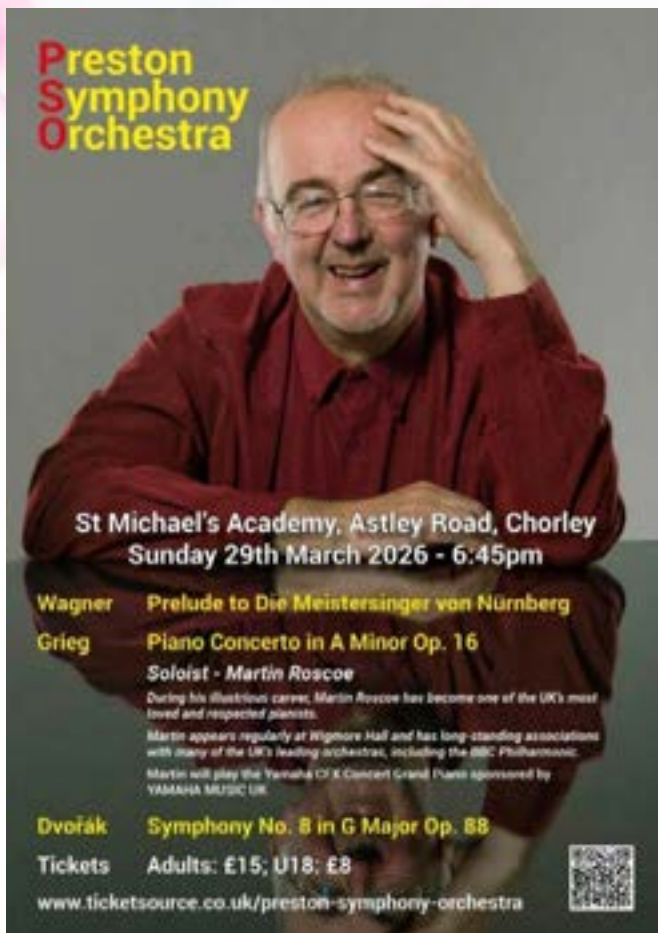
Editor: Vincent Smith, vsmith3011@outlook.com

13 Woodford Copse, Chorley PR7 2ER

Tel: 01257 272929

www.prestonarts.com

PRESTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA



Preston Symphony Orchestra

St Michael's Academy, Astley Road, Chorley
Sunday 29th March 2026 - 6:45pm


Wagner Prelude to Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg
Grieg Piano Concerto in A Minor Op. 16
Soloist - Martin Roscoe

During his illustrious career, Martin Roscoe has become one of the UK's most loved and respected pianists.
Martin appears regularly at Wigmore Hall and has long-standing associations with many of the UK's leading orchestras, including the BBC Philharmonic.
Martin will play the Yamaha CF X Concert Grand Piano sponsored by YAMAHA MUSIC UK.

Dvořák Symphony No. 8 in G Major Op. 88

Tickets Adults: £15; U18: £8

www.ticketsource.co.uk/preston-symphony-orchestra



There's a treat for classical music lovers in March. Famous local pianist Martin Roscoe will be appearing with the PSO and will perform Grieg's well-known and well-loved piano concerto. Born in Runcorn, Cheshire, he now lives in the Lake District. He has appeared under the batons of many celebrated conductors, including those of Simon Rattle and Libor Pesek and has made six appearances in the BBC Proms. He is a pleasant, approachable person who in the past has made several appearances with the Preston Recorded Music Society, presenting and discussing some of his own favourite music.

The concert also includes Wagner's Prelude to Die Meistersingers and Dvorak's Symphony Number 8. The latter had its premiere performance in 1890 in Prague, with Dvorak as conductor. Like many composers of the later 19th century, Dvorak was much attracted to the folk music of his native country (then known as Bohemia). This symphony has many such examples and is generally light-hearted and melodious.

A further highlight for PSO is a concert in **Chorley on 28th June**, featuring another local musical celebrity, Tim Jackson. Tim has held many important positions, including with the Royal Opera, Covent Garden and the Philharmonia Orchestra and has been Principal Horn with the Liverpool Phil since 2011. He is also Professor of Horn at RNCM and coaches with the National Youth Orchestra. Tim has also performed on the soundtrack of some important films, including Star Wars and Harry Potter, and is a distinguished composer. He is the son of another well-known Preston musician, the late Graham Jackson, who amongst many other things was resident pianist and accompanist for the Preston Cecilian Choral Society for 50 years. He was also President of the Preston Recorded Music Society (that's two plugs for PRMS, but it's one of Preston's longest surviving arts societies and deserves an accolade of its own.).



PRESTON ARTS NEWS

Produced by Preston Arts Association.

Copies are available free of charge from local libraries, local arts societies, at the Guildhall, Travel Information Office in the Bus Station, Waterstones Bookshop and other arts venues in the area.

Information and any news items should be sent to Vincent Smith
13 Woodford Copse Chorley PR7 2ER
Email: vsmith3011@outlook.com

The next issue will cover the period Next issue September – November 2026
Deadline for submissions 31st July 2026

MEMBERS

Artfull
<https://artfullcomarts.org>
Broughton Club Players
<https://www.facebook.com/p/The-Club-Players-at-Broughton>
Broughton Players
<https://www.broughtonplayers.co.uk>
Company of Voyces
<https://www.facebook.com/Companyofvoyses>
Damson Poets
<https://damsonpoets.wordpress.com>
Dean Taylor
<https://deantaylortheatre.co.uk>
Fired 4 U
<https://fired4u.co.uk>
Friends of Winckley Square
<https://www.winckleysquarepreston.org/about/friends>
Gujurat Muslim Welfare Society
Hall Players
<https://www.hallplayers.org.uk>
Joyce Tindsley
<https://joycetindsley.com>
KTB Music
<https://www.ktbmusic.com>
Longton Players
<https://www.facebook.com/TheLongtonPlayers>
New Longton Artists
<https://newlongtonartists.com>
One Voice Community Choir
<https://www.onevoice.org.uk>
Preston & District U3A
<https://u3asites.org.uk/preston/welcome>
Preston Art Society
<https://prestonartsociety.weebly.com>
Preston Card Makers Club
Preston Cecilian Choral Society
<https://www.cecilians.org.uk>
Preston Circle Dance Group
<https://www.facebook.com/prestoncircledancing>
Preston Drama Club
<https://www.prestonplayhouse.co.uk/preston-drama-club>
Preston Flute Group
<https://prestonflutegroup.co.uk>
Preston Folk Dance Club
<https://www.prestonfolkdanceclub.org.uk>
Preston Gilbert & Sullivan Society
<https://prestongass.co.uk>
Preston Historical Society
<http://www.prestonhistoricalsociety.org.uk>
Preston Lacemaking Group
Preston Movie Makers
<https://www.facebook.com/p/Preston-Moviemakers>
Preston Opera Company
<http://www.prestonopera.org.uk>
Preston Orpheus Choir
<https://www.prestonorpheuschoir.org>
Preston Photographic Society
<https://www.prestonphotographicsociety.org>
Preston Poets
<https://prestonpoetsociety.wordpress.com>
Preston Recorded Music Society
Preston Symphony Orchestra
<https://prestonorchestra.co.uk>
Rawstorne Singers
<https://www.rawstornesingers.co.uk>
Royal Preston Morris Dancers
<https://royalpreston.weebly.com>
South Ribble Strings
<https://southribblestrings.weebly.com>
SATA.
<https://www.satatheatre.org>
St Leonard's G&S Society
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/Utopia1>
UCLAN Confucius Institute
<https://www.uclan.ac.uk/centres/confucius-institute>

PRESTON PLAYHOUSE

Trinity Square Car Park (directly opposite the theatre) offers free parking for holders of a Theatre Parking Pass. The pass costs £2 and is available from the Box Office upon presentation of a valid ticket for the current season or online when booking your seats. Once purchased, it allows you to park for any evening performance throughout the season at no additional cost. To book a wheelchair space with seating for a companion please telephone the Box Office (0333 666 3366)



It's October 1893 and The Harris Museum, Art Gallery and Library, is about to be re-opened in a grand ceremony attended by Royalty and civic dignitaries. But not without controversy, for one of the museum's first acquisitions is a full sized replica statue of Michelangelo's 'David'. Written and directed by **Richard Catmore**, it is a fast paced, sharply comedic account of how it got there and where it went. It's also a warm-hearted story about a girl who can draw and a man who wants to help. **15-18 April 19:30**

HOBSON'S CHOICE



Written by **Harold Brighouse** and directed by **Christine Odum**. To celebrate Broughton Players' 80th anniversary, we are proud to present this timeless classic Lancashire comedy. In 1880's Salford, bombastic boot-shop owner Henry Hobson's attempts to rule over his independent minded daughters don't quite go to plan – especially when his 'plain' but very astute eldest daughter, Maggie asserts herself. **13 - 16 May 19:30 - 22:00**

WAITING FOR GOD



Written by **Michael Aitkens** and directed by **Susan Spencer**. All the favourite characters from the original series are reimagined for 2017, facing the challenges that come with growing old disgracefully in the era of the silver surfer. At Bayview Retirement Village, battle-axe extraordinaire Diana Trent conspires with new resident Tom Ballard to give the sly manager his comeuppance through a hilarious conspiracy, with unexpectedly heart-warming results. **27 - 30 May 19:30**

ALSO SHOWING

ABBA SENSATION Tribute Band : 28th March 7:30

DIRTY DUSTING (Hall Players) 29th April – 2nd May

9 to 5 THE MUSICAL 17th- 20th June

PRESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Programme of talks for 2025-26

All talks are held on the second Monday of the month in the Central Methodist Church, Lune Street, Preston, PR1 2NL. The season is from September to May (excluding January)

The seasonal membership subscription is £20.00 and visitor admission to a single talk or guided walk is £5.00.

Talks start at 7.15pm but doors open at 6.30pm for registration and refreshments.

NEW MEMBERS AND VISITORS ARE VERY WELCOME

Monday 9 March 2026

Beatrice Blackhurst's Scrapbook: leisure, voluntary action and social change in Preston in the early 20th Century.

Speaker: Helen Howell

Monday 13 April 2026

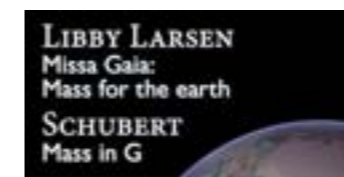
That's Entertainment! The rise and fall of Preston's Guild Hall

Speaker: Michael Akers

Monday 11 May 2026

Preston and its Region in Domesday Book and beyond
Speaker: Prof. Fiona Edmunds

PRESTON CECILIAN CHORAL SOCIETY



19:30, Sat, 14 Mar 2026

Tickets 14

St Mary's parish church

Church Avenue, Preston PR1 0AH

PRESTON POETS' SOCIETY Programme 2026 (March to August)

Mar 16th Members' Poems

Apr 20th Adjudication of Pomfret Cup plus members' poems

May 18th Poets' Project 1: Ephemera (transient things – could be ideas, memories, souvenirs etc)

June 15th Poets to bring recordings of established poets reading their own work. Comment on why this work was chosen, followed by general discussion (c. 10 minutes per participant in total). We will organize CD playing equipment.

July 20th Members' Poems

Aug ? Summer outing. Brantwood. Details TBA

Aug 17th President's Day: Afternoon meeting at President's house, Chorley.

Competitions: Pomfret Cup: 12-24 lines Theme: Journeys. Deadline March 16th

PRESTON RECORDED MUSIC SOCIETY



Here are the spring and summer programmes

13 March: FAR HORIZONS, UNKNOWN LANDS, DREAM JOURNEYS
Presenter: Sue Parker

10 April: A CLASSICAL WORLD TOUR
Presenter: Chris Harman

8 May: A PERSONAL MISCELLANY
Presenter: Raymond Watton

12 June: LADIES NIGHT
Presenter: Vincent Smith

10 July: A SELECTION OF MUSICAL S's
Presenter: Chris Rodwell

14 August: YORK CONNECTIONS
Presenter: Gavin Mist

PRESTON OPERA

In May, Preston Opera will be staging a production of Massenet's Opera, **Manon**. Based on the story by the Abbé Prevost, it tells of a love affair between Manon Lescaut and the Chevalier des Grieux. Manon is a complex character, a mix between an ingenue and a worldly woman who is drawn to a life of luxury. She is being transported to a convent by her cousin (Lescaut), who is plotting to help her elope with Guillot, Finance Minister of France. During a comfort break, she is spotted by des Grieux, who falls instantly in love with her. They run off together in Guillot's coach and plan to get married. Enter des Grieux' father, who disapproves of his son's lifestyle and opposes the marriage. He arranges to have his son abducted. Manon is aware of the plot but cannot bring herself to give up the life of luxury she was getting used to and does not warn him. The story unfolds over five acts and culminates in a reunion between the lovers. But Manon has gone through too much, physically and emotionally, and in the best operatic tradition, she dies in her lover's arms.



At the time of going to press, there is little information except that the performances will take place at Fulwood Academy on May 28th and 30th at 7.00pm and on 31st at 2.00pm. As there are no photos yet, here is one from a 2023 performance at the Gran Teatre del Liceu, Barcelona, with Nadine Sierra as Manon.

PRESTON GILBERT & SULLIVAN SOCIETY: THE MIKADO

Preston Gilbert and Sullivan Society present a brand-new concept production of one of the most loved of Gilbert and Sullivan operas, The Mikado. Commuters and workers alike are surprised when the company of 26 singers and a 14 piece orchestra descend upon their local Railway Station in the form of a flash mob. Nanki-Poo, (the son of the Mikado, in disguise as a musician), wants to marry the lovely Yum-Yum, who is betrothed to Ko-Ko, the newly appointed Lord High Executioner. To avoid the death penalty, Ko-Ko is trapped by a law that prevents him from beheading anyone else until he beheads himself. Nanki-Poo and Ko-Ko strike a deal: Nanki-Poo will marry Yum-Yum for a month, after which Ko-Ko will behead him to satisfy the Mikado's demand for an execution. The plan is complicated by the arrival of Katisha, an older woman who is set on marrying Nanki-Poo. It unravels with amusing effects when the Mikado arrives, believing his son has been killed.



THE RAWSTORNE SINGERS: A very special choir

Why are the Rawstorne Singers a very special choir? We are one of very few choirs in the area which specialise in a largely sacred repertoire and offer exceptional chances to sing in many of the UK's premier Cathedrals all over England for weekends and during short 'singing holidays'. This has given us a unique repertoire of the wonderful sacred choruses, anthems, settings and responses beloved of all those who thrill to hear the 'Nine Lessons and Carols' broadcast annually from King's College, Cambridge. If this is the kind of music you enjoy and you have sufficient choral experience to join us, we would love to hear from you. Our Cathedral engagements this year include a Sunday singing the services at Liverpool's Anglican Cathedral and Blackburn Cathedral, a weekend at Beverley Minster, the 'Lights of Love' service at Blackburn and four lovely days at Durham Cathedral. This is both a holiday for us and gives our very friendly group of singers the chance to worship in this glorious Cathedral.

In addition to our special Cathedral engagements, we also enjoy performing a variety of local concerts and our next 'Come and Sing' will be at St Leonard's Church in Penwortham for John Rutter's 'Requiem' on Saturday June 20th. This is a full day choral experience inclusive of musical tuition by our expert choral director Marc Murray, hire of the score, and delicious lunchtime refreshments. Please visit our website: <https://rawstornesingers.co.uk/> for details.

If you're interested in becoming a Rawstorne Singer, we rehearse most Wednesdays at 7:30pm at St Leonard's Church, Penwortham. We would particularly welcome one or two extra tenors and basses but other voice parts are also welcome. To find out more about us, see our website, explore our social media links or email us on rawstornesingers@gmail.com. Or you can talk to us directly on 01772 462202.