



maidstone
symphony
orchestra

2026-2027 CONCERTS

Five exciting orchestral concerts at
Mote Hall, Maidstone Leisure Centre,
Maidstone ME15 7RN

Music Director & Conductor: Brian Wright
Leader: Andrew Laing

116th Season

Ticket
Prices Held
Once More



MSO at Mote Hall

“The highlight of the second half for me was the *Blue Danube Waltz*, in which the shimmering opening and the brass tune at the start promised lots of warmth - and delivered it”


- November 2025 / Susan Elkin / susanelkin.co.uk

mso.org.uk



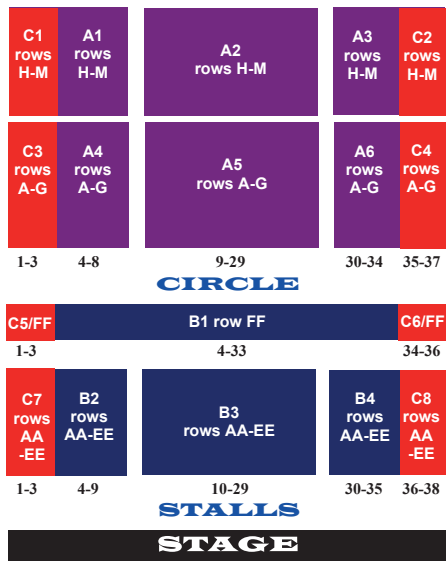
ticketsource

Buy Tickets

AREA	A 	B 	C 
SEASON	£120	£100	£60
1 CONCERT	£30	£25	£15

**2026-27 SEASON TICKET OFFER
FOR REPEAT SUBSCRIBERS
- 5 CONCERTS FOR THE PRICE OF 4 -
† FOR NEW SUBSCRIBERS ONLY
- HALF THE NORMAL SEASON TICKET PRICE -**

Seating Plan:



Season Tickets:
by post (booking form on inside back cover)
via mso.org.uk or
07817 429143

Single Concerts:
on the door or reserve
on **07817 429143**
for payment on the door
(cash, cheque & card)

Advance Concert Bookings by Card:
mso.ticketsource.co.uk
0333 666 3366
(booking fees apply)

Season Tickets are fully transferable

† A New Subscriber is anyone who has not been a season ticket holder in any of our last three seasons

Single concert tickets are available from 1st August 2026

18s & under FREE! Students (with student card) £5

Wheelchairs can be accommodated in certain areas of the hall

Refreshments are normally available at the foyer bar

Free Parking



**maidstone
orchestral
society**

*promoting
Maidstone
Symphony
Orchestra*



ticketsource

mso.org.uk

Music Director & Conductor: Brian Wright
President: John Lill CBE Chairman: Jonathan Cane
MOS is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)
Charity No. 1163384

Maidstone Orchestral Society cannot accept responsibility for alterations to the programmes caused by circumstances beyond its control

Brian Wright *conductor*



Saturday 24 October 2026, 7.30pm

Irène Duval
violin

Borodin - Overture, Prince Igor
Glinka - Kamarinskaya
Bruch - Violin Concerto No.1
Dvořák - Symphony No.9 "From the New World"



Sunday 29 November 2026, 3pm

Samrat Majumder
guitar

A Family Concert!

Bizet - Carmen Suite No.1
Rodrigo - Concierto de Aranjuez (Guitar Concerto)
Grieg - Peer Gynt Suite No.1
Tchaikovsky - Nutcracker Suite No.1

**Please note this is a Sunday afternoon
concert starting at 3pm*



Ticket
Prices Held
Once More

Free Pre-Concert Talks before each concert
from 6.40-7.10pm (afternoon from 2.10-2.40pm)

116th SEASON 2026-27



Saturday 30 January 2027, 7.30pm

Armand Dijkoloum
oboe

Wagner - Prelude, Act 3, Lohengrin
Richard Strauss - Oboe Concerto
Rachmaninov - Symphony No.2



Saturday 20 March 2027, 7.30pm

Kaspars Mikužis
piano

Mozart - Overture, The Magic Flute
Tchaikovsky - Piano Concerto No.1
Beethoven - Symphony No.3 "Eroica"



Saturday 15 May 2027, 7.30pm

Callum Smart
violin

Smetana - Overture, The Bartered Bride
Elgar - Violin Concerto
Mahler - Symphony No.1 "Titan"



Brian Wright introduces the season:

First, an announcement: After 37 seasons, I've decided that this upcoming 2026-27 season will be my last as MSO's Music Director and

Conductor. I've had a wonderful time, and I must say that back in 1990, beginning to conduct MSO saved my musical life, which had got into a rut, too much focussed on choral music. However, as I reach 80 later in 2026, I find it all much more physically demanding, together with the hassle of driving on mostly rural roads for up to 3 hours to attend each rehearsal and concert. I believe I'll leave MSO in rude health, wish the players, administrators and my successor all the best, and look forward enormously to my last season.

It's an exciting one, with five splendid young international soloists playing popular concertos. We've a French violinist, Irène Duval, with Bruch, a French oboist, Armand Djikoloum, with Richard Strauss, a Lithuanian pianist, Kasparas Mikužis, with Tchaikovsky, a Scottish-Indian guitarist, Samrat Majumder, with Rodrigo, and our own star violinist, Callum Smart, appropriately with Elgar.

MSO plays brilliant symphonies by Dvořák, Rachmaninov and Mahler, and in March we've Beethoven's "Eroica" to commemorate - almost to the day - the 200th anniversary of his death. Our "Family Concert" in November - unusually on a Sunday afternoon - features popular suites by Bizet, Grieg and Tchaikovsky. And there are great overtures and incidental pieces by Borodin, Glinka, Wagner, Mozart and Smetana.

As ever, enjoy it all and buy lots of tickets..!

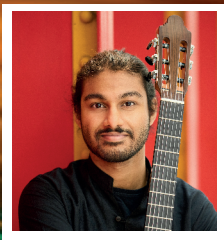
Saturday
24 October 2026
at 7.30pm
Irène Duval
violin



Borodin - Overture, Prince Igor
Glinka - Kamarinskaya
Bruch - Violin Concerto No. 1
Dvořák - Symphony No. 9
"From the New World"

We've plenty of favourites to start our season. Borodin's *Prince Igor Overture* makes a powerful introduction to the operatic story of his struggles against invading forces. Glinka's particularly interesting *Kamarinskaya* became famous as the first orchestral work based solely on Russian folk song. Tchaikovsky believed it embodied the core of the entire school of Russian symphonic music, "just as the whole oak is in the acorn," he wrote. We then welcome Irène Duval to play Bruch's brilliant *1st Violin Concerto*. And finally there's Dvořák's ever-popular *New World Symphony*.

Sunday
29 November 2026
at 3pm*
Samrat Majumder
guitar



A Family Concert!

Bizet - Carmen Suite No. 1
Rodrigo - Concierto de Aranjuez
(Guitar Concerto)
Grieg - Peer Gynt Suite No. 1
Tchaikovsky - Nutcracker Suite No. 1

**Please note this is a Sunday afternoon concert starting at 3pm*

There's plenty here for all ages to enjoy. Bizet's *Carmen Suite* ends with the famous "March of the Toreadors". Rodrigo's *Guitar Concerto* is increasingly popular, with its haunting slow movement and ebullient Spanish rhythms. We welcome a young prize-winning guitarist, Samrat Majumder, to play it. Grieg's *Peer Gynt Suite* begins with the tender sounds of "Morning", but ends with a flourish "In the hall of the mountain king". Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker Suite* has all the best-known bits of the ballet, including "Dance of the Sugar-Plum Fairy" and "Waltz of the Flowers".

Saturday
30 January 2027
at 7.30pm
Armand Dijkoloum
oboe



Wagner - Prelude, Act 3, Lohengrin
Richard Strauss - Oboe Concerto
Rachmaninov - Symphony No. 2

We've a whizz-bang start to this concert courtesy of Wagner and his effervescent *Prelude to Act 3 of Lohengrin*. There's then a big change of mood for Richard Strauss' beautiful *Oboe Concerto*, with its chamber music and pastoral feel. Written in 1945, it was one of the last works he composed, aged 81, during what is often described by biographers as his "Indian summer." Rachmaninov's *Second Symphony* has everything, with its lush, romantic tunes and big-scale orchestration. The manuscript was lost, but it finally re-emerged and was auctioned in 2014 for over £1.2 million.

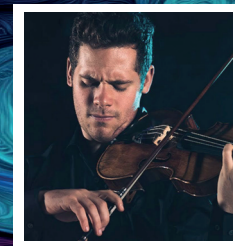
Saturday
20 March 2027
at 7.30pm
Kasparas Mikužis
piano



Mozart - Overture, The Magic Flute
Tchaikovsky - Piano Concerto No.1
Beethoven - Symphony No.3 “Eroica”

Mozart is the key here. He was Tchaikovsky’s favourite composer and a great influence on Beethoven. The *Magic Flute* overture is one of Mozart’s finest, and we then welcome an outstanding young Lithuanian pianist to play Tchaikovsky’s much-loved *First Piano Concerto*. Beethoven died on 26 March 1827, so our concert is within days of the 200th anniversary. His *Eroica Symphony* is one of his greatest with its magnificent slow movement *Funeral March* and exciting scherzo and finale.

Saturday
15 May 2027
at 7.30pm
Callum Smart
violin



Smetana - Overture, The Bartered Bride
Elgar - Violin Concerto
Mahler - Symphony No.1 “Titan”

We’ve two masterworks to end our season, but we start with one of the most vivacious of romantic overtures, Smetana’s *The Bartered Bride*. It’s a joy to welcome Callum Smart back to MSO. It’s almost a musical family, as his first ever violin teacher is now our renowned Leader, Andy Laing. Elgar wrote of his *Violin Concerto*: “It’s good! Too emotional, but I love it.” Mahler conducted more performances of his *First Symphony* than any of his later works, and he used a very large orchestra, capable of great panache and fire.

2026-27 Season Ticket (MOS Membership) Booking Form

1. CURRENT SEASON TICKET HOLDERS

a) I wish to renew my membership and have the same seats, if possible, (numbers _____) as for the 2025-26 season. Please note the seating plan on page 2.

_____ seats @ £ _____ = £ _____

b) I wish to renew my membership, but change my seats to area _____ on the seating plan

_____ seats @ £ _____ = £ _____

2. NEW SEASON TICKETS: "HALF PRICE" OFFER

I wish to become a member and book the best available seats in area _____ on the seating plan

_____ seats @ £ _____ **LESS 50%** = £ _____

3. 18s & under FREE! (Number) _____

4. GIFT AID DONATIONS

I am a UK taxpayer and confirm that I pay Income Tax or Capital Gains Tax at least equal to the amount that Maidstone Orchestral Society may retain. I wish to make the following donation and agree to Gift Aid being claimed.

£ _____

Sign here _____

5. PAYMENT

Total payment £ _____

Please return this completed form and your cheque, payable to Maidstone Orchestral Society, together with a stamped, addressed envelope to:

MOS Membership Secretary
Nicci Whitaker
Sunbeams
Bayview Road
Whitstable
Kent CT5 4NP

For BACS payment details email tickets@mso.org.uk

TITLE _____ SURNAME _____ INITIALS _____

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Important / Data Protection Act: MOS would like to send you information about our future events. If you would like to receive this information, **please tick here** () to give us permission to use your subscription contact details for this purpose. To withdraw your consent at anytime, please email tickets@mso.org.uk



The Orchestra:

Under the direction of its acclaimed and popular conductor, Brian Wright, Maidstone Symphony Orchestra is regarded as one of the UK's finest "community" orchestras. It was formed in 1910 as Maidstone Orchestral Society, still the title of the concert promoting organisation. Today MSO is a superbly well-balanced mix of local professionals and ex-professionals, music teachers and excellent amateur players who come together regularly on a voluntary basis to perform concerts of a professional standard. This entails great commitment by the players, many of whom travel from all over Kent, and beyond, to attend MSO's weekly Thursday evening rehearsals.

The Audience:

Join the Club! Season Ticket holders become Members of Maidstone Orchestral Society, with full voting rights at the AGM. The MOS organising committee includes both player and audience members.

The Friends:

The Friends of Maidstone Orchestral Society are the orchestra's financial lifeline. Please join them for a modest annual subscription and pledge your extra support to MSO. For further information email secretary@mso.org.uk

*If you would like to know more about MSO
visit mso.org.uk or email secretary@mso.org.uk*