

Kirklees Concert Season 2025/26

Unforgettable musical moments featuring the Orchestra of Opera North

Welcome to the Kirklees Concert Season, a year-round programme of concerts in the beautiful Huddersfield Town Hall and Dewsbury's little gem of a Town Hall, presented by Opera North and Kirklees Council.

The Orchestra of Opera North is unique among professional British orchestras in performing a year-round programme in opera houses and concert halls. Each and every member of the Orchestra is passionate about making music for the widest possible audience, and we're thrilled to be joined by guest soloists and conductors who are some of the brightest talents on the international scene. We believe that great music is for everyone – something which is good for the soul and good for society – and it's in that spirit that we bring world class music-making to your doorstep in Kirklees.

This year you can look forward to a selection of some of the most well-loved music that the classical world has to offer, making for a memorable evening whether it's your first or fiftieth time hearing a live

orchestra – sweeping lyricism in Rachmaninoff’s Second Symphony (25 Sep), intensity and bite in Prokofiev’s *Romeo and Juliet* (4 Dec), depth and profundity in Brahms’ Fourth Symphony (23 Apr), and much more...

Our lunchtime chamber concerts in Dewsbury offer a musical interlude in the middle of the day.

Showcasing and curated by musicians from the Orchestra of Opera North – be it a trombone trio or string quartet – you can hear how small groups of instruments interact and interweave to create moments of peace, playfulness and joy.

Back in Huddersfield, Borough Organist David Pipe has invited some of his finest fellow organists from across the country to perform on a marvellous and majestic instrument that has been delighting audiences in Huddersfield for over 100 years. Not only that, he joins the full Orchestra of Opera North for a performance of Saint-Saëns’ splendid ‘Organ’ Symphony (22 Jan).

With a great variety of concerts bringing a mix of beloved classics and fresh ingredients, we invite you to join us for inspiring, uplifting and unforgettable musical experiences. We look forward to welcoming you to a concert soon!

Orchestral concerts

Experience the thrilling spectacle of a live orchestra. A full stage and a full sound.

Rachmaninov's Second Symphony

Thursday 25 September, 7.30pm at Huddersfield Town Hall

Hear iconic pieces by composers who honed their craft to achieve perfection. Rachmaninov's Symphony No. 2 is the ultimate Romantic symphony, sumptuous, with heart-on-sleeve intensity. Bruch's Violin Concerto was the hit that brought the composer international fame, and a Gershwin overture opens the concert with slick Broadway satire.

Gershwin Strike up the Band

Bruch Violin Concerto No. 1

Rachmaninoff Symphony No. 2

Garry Walker conductor

Elena Urioste violin

Orchestra of Opera North

Prokofiev's 'Romeo and Juliet'

Thursday 4 December, 7.30pm at Huddersfield Town Hall

Melody is the key word in this concert, which brings together four composers with a supreme ear for tune. Elgar is the master of a rousing, noble anthem, and fellow Englishman Walton fuses nostalgia with influence from jazz-age New York. There's a vivid, cinematic sound-world from Finnish composer Outi Tarkiainen, and Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet* is an inexhaustible supply of earworms.

Elgar Introduction and Allegro for Strings

Walton Viola Concerto

Outi Tarkainen The Ring of Fire and Love

Prokofiev Romeo and Juliet Suites Nos.1 & 2
(selections)

Chloe Rooke conductor

Dana Zemtsov viola

Orchestra of Opera North

Opera North Christmas Gala

Thursday 11 December, 7.30pm at Dewsbury Town Hall

Get into the Christmas spirit with a selection of timeless festive favourites and carols for all to sing. Gather family and friends to celebrate the most wonderful time of the year together.

Hess Christmas Overture

Vaughan Williams Fantasia on Christmas Carols

Berlin White Christmas

Plus a selection of favourite Christmas carols

Anthony Kraus conductor

Orchestra and Chorus of Opera North

Opera North Youth Chorus

Saint-Saëns' 'Organ' Symphony

Thursday 22 January, 7.00pm at Huddersfield Town Hall

Enjoy the finest of French classical music, from creaking skeletons in Saint-Saëns' *Danse macabre* to Holmès's hypnotic *La nuit et l'amour* and Chabrier's glittering *Fête polonaise*. The climax of the evening comes in Saint-Saëns' monumental 'Organ' Symphony, when the pipes of the Father Willis organ combine and the full orchestra combine to fill Huddersfield Town Hall.

Saint-Saëns Danse macabre
Ravel Mother Goose Suite
Holmes La nuit et l'amour
Chabrier Fete polonaise
Saint-Saëns Symphony No. 3, 'Organ'

Sora Elisabeth Leed conductor
David Pipe organ
Orchestra of Opera North

Beethoven's 'Pastoral' Symphony

Thursday 26 February, 7.00pm at Huddersfield Town Hall

Take a stroll along country byways with Beethoven's 'Pastoral' Symphony No 6, complete with bird calls and flowing water. There's elegance and grace in Mozart's rarely performed Concerto for Flute and Harp, before Stravinsky's groundbreaking *Pulcinella*, which influenced a whole generation of composers.

Stravinsky Pulcinella – Suite
Mozart Concerto for Flute and Harp
Beethoven Symphony No. 6, 'Pastoral'

Karel Deseure conductor
Celine Saout flute

Luke O'Toole harp
Orchestra of Opera North

Hansel and Gretel – Opera North Youth Orchestra
Sunday 29 March, 3.30pm at Dewsbury Town Hall

The Opera North Youth Orchestra performs excerpts from Humperdinck's fairytale opera *Hansel and Gretel*. They will be joined by special guest singers to bring this masterpiece to life. Don't miss their first concert featuring violinist Katie Stillman on 14 December 2025 at St Paul's Hall, University of Huddersfield.

Humperdinck Hansel and Gretel (selections)

Oliver Rundel conductor
Opera North Youth Orchestra

Brahms' Fourth Symphony

Thursday 23 April, 7.00pm at Huddersfield Town Hall

Experience a trio of classical 'cover versions'. In his Three Studies from Couperin, Adès pieces together fragments of music by a long-dead master.

Rachmaninoff explores, across 24 variations, music by Paganini so dazzling many suspected he had done a deal with the devil. Brahms' thrilling, storm-hued final symphony tops it all off.

Brahms Academic Festival Overture

Thomas Adés Three Studies from Couperin

Rachmaninoff Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini

Brahms Symphony No. 4

Garry Walker conductor

Alexander Gavrylyuk piano

Orchestra of Opera North

The Four Seasons

Sunday 14 June, 4.00pm at Huddersfield Town Hall

Celebrate the passing of the seasons with Vivaldi's famous collection of shimmering quartets. Under the leadership of violinist Katie Stillman, the orchestra will take us from the chill of winter through spring's freshness and summer's heat to the closing dark of autumn.

Mozart Serenade No. 6, 'Serenata notturna'

Elgar Serenade for Strings Op. 20

Ravel Le tombeau de Couperin

Vivaldi The Four Seasons

Katie Stillman violin & director

Orchestra of Opera North

Chamber concerts

Hear every detail in intimate concerts with close-knit groups of musicians.

Ensembles of Opera North

Wednesday 10 September, 12.30pm at Dewsbury Town Hall

The spotlight is on the wind and string players of the Orchestra of Opera North in this concert of music for small ensembles. Bernard's *Divertissement for wind ensemble* is deliciously light, and there's a contemporary piece for string quartet, before a String Symphony written at just 14 years old by Mendelssohn.

Bernard Divertissement for wind ensemble in F major Op. 36

Caroline Shaw Punctum for String Quartet

Mendelssohn String Symphony No. 10 in B minor

Katie Stillman director
Orchestra of Opera North

Clarinet Sextet & Trio

Wednesday 22 October, 12.30pm at Dewsbury Town Hall

Discover music written for what might be considered unusual combinations of instruments. Dohnányi's Sextet for clarinet, horn, strings and piano is full of twists, with rumbling marches and boisterous fun to tranquillity. Schumann's collection of pieces for a trio of clarinet, viola and piano is utterly charming and includes a love duet for the clarinet and viola.

Dohnányi Sextet in C major Op. 37
Schumann Märchenerzählungen Op. 132

Katie Stillman violin
David Aspin viola
Jessica Burroughs cello
Oliver Casanovas Nuervo clarinet
Sam Yates French horn
Oliver Rundell piano

Trombone Trio

Wednesday 19 November, 12.30pm, Dewsbury Town Hall

The trombonists of the Orchestra of Opera North show off the versatility of their instruments with original music, special arrangements and a new piece by Duncan Abrahart. From music for a cathedral to a little something from New Orleans, the programme includes:

Bruckner Two Aequali

Elgar Nimrod

Handel Lascia ch'io pianga

Mitchell Red Silk Shawl

Blair Sinclair tenor trombone

Tom Berry tenor trombone

Christian Jones bass trombone

University of Huddersfield Brass Band

Monday 1 December, at Huddersfield Town Hall (as part of the Organ Package)

Wednesday 3 December, 12.30pm at Dewsbury Town Hall

Nothing says Christmas quite like the warm tones of

a brass band playing festive favourites. Audience participation is always encouraged in this annual concert, so prepare to sing along to some favourite carols.

University of Huddersfield Brass Band

Love Songs

Wednesday 28 January, 12.30pm at Dewsbury Town Hall

A selection of songs inspired by the trials and tribulations of love, separated by geography and fate.

Beethoven An die ferne Geliebte

Schubert Suleika Songs

Songs by Mahler, Gershwin, Porter and Novello

Amy Freston soprano

Andrew Randall baritone

David Cowan piano

Clarinet Quintet

Wednesday 4 March, 12.30pm at Dewsbury Town Hall

Great clarinet playing so moved Brahms that he was inspired to compose even more music, having briefly retired. The beautiful melodies and lush textures of his Clarinet Quintet are the result and have become much loved.

Herrmann First movement from Souvenir de voyage
Brahms Clarinet Quintet in B minor Op. 115

Claire Osborne violin

Catherine Landen violin

Anne Trygstad viola

Daniel Bull cello

Andrew Mason clarinet

[Cellos of Opera North](#)

Wed 25 Mar, 12.30pm, Dewsbury Town Hall

Discover the depth, warmth and beauty of the cello with a varied selection of music performed by musicians from the Orchestra of Opera North.

J. S. Bach Chaconne from Partita No. 2 in D minor

Fauré Pavane

Purcell Dido's Lament

Debussy Clair de lune

Gardel Por una cabeza
Piazzolla Libertango

**Jessica Burroughs, Daniel Bull, Lydia Dobson,
Damion Browne** cello

Organ concerts

Marvel at one of the finest organs in the country, which has been delighting audiences since 1881.

David Pipe

Monday 8 September, 1pm at Huddersfield
Town Hall

An all-French programme spanning 400 years gives a tour of the Town Halls' mighty Father Willis organ. After the concert, there is a chance for audiences themselves to play the organ, in celebration of the Royal College of Organists' 'Play the Organ Year 2025'. The programme includes:

Guilmant Grand Choeur in D major

Raison Offerte du 5me ton, 'Le Vive le Roy des Parisiens'

Franck Prélude, Fugue and Variation

Mulet Carillon-Sortie

David Pipe organ

Claudia Grinnell

Monday 22 September, 1pm at Huddersfield
Town Hall

Claudia Grinnell, Director of Music at St Edmundsbury Cathedral, visits Huddersfield for the first time. Her programme of glittering transcriptions covers everything from operatic marches to Claudia's own arrangement of music from *The Sound of Music*. The programme includes:

Verdi Grand March from 'Aïda'

Dvořák Largo from Symphony No. 9

J. S. Bach Toccata and Fugue in D minor BWV 565

Rodgers Medley from The Sound of Music

Claudia Grinnell organ

Ben Bloor

Monday 6 October, 1.00pm at Huddersfield Town
Hall

Organist of the Brompton Oratory, Ben Bloor has gained a following through his YouTube performances and his enterprising podcast, Chiff Chat. His varied programme shows off the Town Hall organ's many colours. The programme includes:

Hollins Triumphal March

J. S. Bach Prelude & Fugue in C major BWV 547

Widor Andante cantabile from Symphony No. 4

Brahms Academic Festival Overture

Ben Bloor organ

[Imogen Morgan](#)

Monday 20 October, 1.00pm at Huddersfield Town Hall

Imogen Morgan visits Huddersfield from Edinburgh, where she is Assistant Master of the Music at St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral. Her programme focuses predominantly on 20th century organ music, ending with the grand fanfares of Jongen's virtuosic *Sonata eroïca*. The programme includes:

Mendelssohn Sonata IV

Vierne Étoile du Soir

Judith Bingham Jacquet's Ghost

Jongen Sonata eroïca

Imogen Morgan organ

[Andrew Lumsden](#)

Mon 3 November, 1.00pm at Huddersfield Town Hall

Acclaimed organist and conductor Andrew Lumsden's career has included posts at Westminster Abbey, and Lichfield and Winchester Cathedrals. His stunning programme includes Bach's exuberant Prelude & Fugue in G, and a complete performance of Widor's stirring Symphony No. 6 in G minor.

J. S. Bach Prelude and Fugue in G BWV 541

Bridge Adagio in E

Widor Symphony No. 6 in G minor

Andrew Lumsden organ

[David Hirst](#)

Monday 17 November, 1.00pm at Huddersfield Town Hall

British-born David Hirst is titular organist of the Collegiate Church of Notre-Dame in Mantes-la-Jolie

near Paris. He performs two sets of rarely heard variations before Widor's timeless Symphony No. 5, ending with its celebrated Toccata.

Reger Variations and Fugue on 'Heil, unserm König, Heil'

Hesford Variations on a Theme of Paganini

Widor Symphony No. 5 in F minor

David Hirst organ

Music for Christmas

Tuesday 16 December, 1.00pm at Huddersfield Town Hall

The Huddersfield Youth Choirs present a selection of Christmas music from around the world, with David Pipe at the organ. With the hall decorated for Christmas, carols for all to sing, and the beautiful voices of the choirs joined by the mighty organ, this concert is sure to get you into the festive spirit!

Huddersfield Youth Choirs

David Pipe organ

Organ Duets

Monday 12 January, 1.00pm at Huddersfield Town Hall

David Pipe is joined by Simon Dinsdale, Organist and Director of Music of The Royal Memorial Chapel at The Royal Military Academy in Sandhurst, whose playing career has taken him around the world. They present a programme of duets and solos, which includes:

John Rutter Variations on an Easter Theme

Elgar Allegro maestoso from Sonata in G

Mozart Molto allegro from Symphony No. 40

Souza Stars and Stripes Forever

Simon Dinsdale and David Pipe organ

James Vivian

Monday 26 January, 1.00pm at Huddersfield Town Hall

James Vivian is known to a worldwide audience through his work as Organist and Director of Music at St George's Chapel, Windsor, directing one of the country's finest choirs. A highly respected organist,

his programme features lesser-known Elgar and dramatic Dupré, and features:

Elgar Organ Sonata No. 2

Howells Psalm-Prelude, Set 2, No. 1

Dupré Poème Symphonique, 'Évocation'

James Vivian organ

Gordon Stewart

Monday 9 February, 1.00pm at Huddersfield Town Hall

Organist Emeritus Gordon Stewart makes his annual visit back to Huddersfield. His programme includes music from local composer Robert Cockroft's – the beautiful *Celtic Melody*, plus:

Susato Mohrentanz

Mendelssohn Prelude and Fugue in C minor

Guilmant Scherzo from Sonata No. 5

Rawsthorne Fantasie on Ein feste Burg

Gordan Stewart organ

Organ and Brass

Monday 23 February, 1.00pm at Huddersfield Town Hall

In an exciting meeting of brass and organ, Opera North musicians join David Pipe for a feast of majestic music. There's a French flavour to some of the music, a world premiere by Huw Morgan, and early music by Giovanni Gabrieli and Campra. The programme includes:

Gigout Grand chœur dialogue

Guilmant March on a theme of Handel

Campra Les Fêtes Vénitiennes Suite

Boëllmann Suite gothique

David Pipe organ

Opera North Brass

Charles Francis

Monday 9 March, 1.00pm at Huddersfield Town Hall

Charles Francis visits Huddersfield from the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York. His dazzling programme includes Thalben-Ball's showpiece *Variations on a Theme by Paganini*, an

amazing work-out for the pedals!

J. S. Bach Sinfonia to Cantata 29

Thalben-Ball Variations on a Theme by Paganini

Whitlock Organ Sonata in C minor

Charles Francis organ

David Pipe – Organ Finale

Monday 23 March, 1.00pm at Huddersfield Town Hall

In the season finale, David Pipe explores music written in the passacaglia musical form that originated in 17th-century Spain and is still used today, from Franck's brooding Choral No. 2 to Healey Willan's monumental *Introduction, Passacaglia & Fugue*, and Laurin's Aria from her evocative Symphony No. 1. The programme includes:

Franck Choral No. 2 in B minor

Philip Glass Satyagraha, Act III – Conclusio

Willan Introduction, Passacaglia and Fugue

David Pipe organ

How to book?

Book tickets via Opera North or Kirklees Town Halls

Opera North

Online at operanorth.co.uk

By phone on 0113 223 3600 (Monday to Friday, 12pm to 6pm)

In person at Opera North Box Office, 32 New Briggate, Leeds, LS1 6NU (Monday to Friday, 12pm to 2pm)

Kirklees Town Halls

Online at kirkleestwonhalls.co.uk

By phone on 01484 225 755 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm)

In person at Huddersfield Town Hall, Ramsden Street, Huddersfield, HD1 2TA or Dewsbury Town Hall, Wakefield Old Road, Dewsbury, WF12 8DG (Monday to Friday, 9am to 1pm and 1.30pm to 4.30pm)

Tickets are also available from Huddersfield Library.

Your visit

Huddersfield Town Hall

Access to the Box Office, Stalls and Old Court Room is via the Corporation Street entrance. For the Balcony and Gallery, use the entrance on Princess Street.

Dewsbury Town Hall

Enter via the entrance at the front of the Town Hall for ground floor access to the Box Office and stairs/lift access to the Concert Hall.

Refreshments

Bar facilities are available at both venues with the possibility of pre-ordering interval drinks at evening events. On lunchtime concert dates, food is served in the Town Halls from 11.30am.

Travel and parking

Both Town Halls are within walking distance of public transport. For information about parking, visit **kirklees.gov.uk/transport/parking**.

Access

Wheelchair users

Both Town Halls have lift access and there are a limited number of wheelchair spaces in the Stalls with free accompanying carer seats. Please book

wheelchair spaces in advance for lunchtime and evening concerts.

Induction loops

Induction loops are available at both venues.

Print formats

To request a large print, braille or audio brochure, please contact Opera North on 0113 223 3600.

Prices

Orchestral concerts

Full price:

- £29 for band A seats
- £23 for band B seats
- £18 for band C seats
- £14 for band D seats

Concessions (retired over 65, income support or Kirklees passport holders):

- £26 for band A seats
- £21 for band B seats
- £16 for band C seats
- £13 for band D seats

Under 30

- £5 for band B to C

16 and under

- Free

Christmas Gala (11 December at Dewsbury Town Hall)

- Full price: £15
- 16 and under: free

Opera North Youth Orchestra (29 March at Dewsbury Town Hall)

- Full price: £14
- Under 30: £8

Lunchtime chamber and organ concerts

- All tickets: £5.90

To find out more about packages and see more concerts for less, please speak to our Box Office.

Booking fees apply: Kirklees Town Halls single tickets: 10% of face value, capped at £2. Chamber and organ concerts: 60p per ticket. Packages: 5% per package. Postal delivery is £1.50.

Opera North orchestral tickets and packages: £1.50 per ticket when booked online or over the phone. £1.75 postal delivery.

Income generated from booking fees helps Kirklees Town Halls and Opera North continue staging high-quality concerts and shows.