

SUFFOLK COUNTY MUSIC SERVICE

‘Classics for Summer’

Programme

West Suffolk Youth Junior Orchestra, West Suffolk Youth Jazz and West Suffolk Youth Orchestra

Friday 27 June 2025 at 6.00pm

Abbeygate Sixth Form College, Bury St Edmunds

Staff: Charlotte Blyth, Lewis Blythe, Jack Culpin, Martin Kershaw, Nicholas Morley, Michael Waters

West Suffolk Youth Junior Orchestra

Old MacDonald Had A Band

This classic children’s song showcases different sections of the Orchestra and features some improvisation in the middle. Audience participation required (order of animal noises – Moo, Quack, Oink, Neigh, Baa)

Wallace and Gromit

J Knott; arr J Culpin

Julian Nott’s iconic score for Wallace and Gromit brings warmth, wit, and a distinctly British charm to the beloved animations. With its jaunty brass theme and playful orchestration, the music perfectly captures the inventiveness of Wallace and the quiet cleverness of Gromit. Nott’s compositions are a vital part of the films’ humour and heart, making them instantly recognisable and deeply memorable.

Over There

Sarah Watts

Sarah Watts studied the bassoon and piano at the Royal College of Music London and plays the flute and saxophone. She has become well-known all over the world as a prolific composer, particularly of colourful and inspiring music for education.

Gospel Rock

Jock McKenzie

West Suffolk Youth Jazz

Switch in Time

Sammy Nestico

A classic of the big band repertoire, A Switch in Time showcases Sammy Nestico’s trademark blend of swing, sophistication, and precision. Written during his time with the Count Basie Orchestra, the piece is a vibrant example of Nestico’s skilful arranging—featuring tight ensemble writing, punchy brass lines, and sleek, swinging grooves. It’s both a technical showcase for the band and an irresistible ride for the audience, capturing the energy and elegance of the golden age of jazz.

Mercy, Mercy, Mercy

Josef Zawinul; arr F Mantooth

Originally composed by Josef Zawinul and made famous by Cannonball Adderley in 1966, Mercy, Mercy, Mercy is a soulful, gospel-infused jazz classic. Frank Mantooth's arrangement brings fresh harmonic colour and rhythmic vitality while preserving the tune's laid-back groove and emotional warmth. With its bluesy melody and infectious feel, the piece remains a favourite for both performers and audiences, bridging jazz, soul, and funk with style and heart.

Lullaby of Birdland

George Shearing

Composed in 1952 by British jazz pianist George Shearing, Lullaby of Birdland quickly became a jazz standard. Named after the famous New York jazz club, the tune blends a catchy melody with rich harmonies and a swinging rhythm. Its elegant, sophisticated style reflects Shearing's signature sound—cool, lyrical, and effortlessly stylish. Over the decades, it has been embraced by countless jazz greats and remains a timeless favourite in the repertoire.

The Preacher

Horace Silver; arr. F Mantooth

Composed by hard bop pioneer Horace Silver in 1955, The Preacher is a soulful, gospel-influenced jazz tune known for its catchy melody and infectious swing. Reflecting Silver's roots in blues and church music, the piece blends joyful energy with a laid-back groove. Frank Mantooth's arrangement brings new depth and colour to this jazz classic, making it a vibrant and accessible favourite for jazz ensembles and audiences alike.

Blue Rondo A La Turk

Dave Brubeck; arr. C Custer

Originally composed by Dave Brubeck in 1959, Blue Rondo à la Turk is a groundbreaking fusion of jazz and Turkish rhythmic influences. Opening in an unusual 9/8-time signature—grouped asymmetrically as 2+2+2+3—the piece blends complex rhythms with bluesy swing. Paul C. Custer's arrangement captures the energy and innovation of Brubeck's original, making it accessible for larger ensembles while retaining its rhythmic drive and distinctive character. A bold and brilliant jazz classic.

Trombone Quartet

Scarborough Fair

Trad

"Scarborough Fair" is a traditional English ballad that tells of lost love through a series of poetic, impossible tasks. Set in the town of Scarborough, its memorable refrain—"parsley, sage, rosemary, and thyme"—adds a layer of symbolic meaning. This haunting melody has endured for centuries, capturing the timeless themes of longing and heartbreak.

The Elephant from Carnival of the Animals

Saint Saens

In this humorous miniature, Saint-Saëns imagines a stately elephant lumbering about to the deep tones of the double bass. With playful irony, he quotes melodies originally written for light, graceful instruments—like a delicate ballet—now humorously reimagined in a slow, heavy-footed style. It's a charming example of the wit and character that define The Carnival of the Animals.

Micah Richards – Piano Student with Mrs Hill

Le Festin (The Feast) From Ratatouille

Michael Giacchino

From the beloved Pixar film Ratatouille (2007), Le Festin is a charming and uplifting piece that captures the spirit of dreams, friendship, and the joy of cooking. Michael Giacchino's melodic and heartfelt music, combined with French chanson style, beautifully reflects the film's Parisian setting and the hopeful journey of its main character.

West Suffolk Youth Orchestra

Fanfare for the Common Man

Copland; arr. R Longfield

Composed in 1942, Aaron Copland's Fanfare for the Common Man is a powerful tribute to the everyday American hero during World War II. Known for its bold brass and percussion, the piece combines grandeur with a sense of dignity and hope. Robert Longfield's arrangement adapts this iconic fanfare for concert bands, preserving its majestic spirit and inspiring energy.

Three Pieces from Op.17

Grieg; arr. D Stone

These three charming piano miniatures from Grieg's Opus 17 showcase the Norwegian composer's gift for lyricism and folk-inspired melodies. Arranged by David Stone for concert band, the pieces bring out rich harmonies and vivid colours, capturing the warmth and intimacy of Grieg's original works while offering a fresh orchestral perspective.

How to Train Your Dragon

J Powell; arr. S O'Loughlin

John Powell's epic score for How to Train Your Dragon (2010) is widely praised for its sweeping melodies, Celtic influences, and emotional depth. In this arrangement by Sean O'Loughlin, the music captures the film's adventurous spirit and the touching bond between a young Viking and his dragon. With bold themes, lyrical interludes, and cinematic flair, this medley brings the magic and excitement of the beloved animated film to the concert stage.

Arrival of the Queen of Sheba

F Handel

From Handel's oratorio Solomon (1749), Arrival of the Queen of Sheba is a lively and majestic piece that celebrates the entrance of the Queen of Sheba to King Solomon's court. Known for its bright, energetic melodies and festive spirit, this Baroque masterpiece features intricate orchestration and a joyful, regal character that continues to captivate audiences today.

Symphony No 7, 2nd Movement Abridged

Beethoven; arr. C Kelly

Beethoven's Symphony No. 7 is renowned for its rhythmic energy and emotional depth. The second movement, marked Allegretto, offers a hauntingly beautiful contrast with its steady, somber pulse and lyrical melodies. Christopher Kelly's abridged arrangement distills the movement's essence, highlighting its dramatic tension and timeless elegance in a compact, accessible format.

Selections from Wicked

Stephen Schwartz; arr. Ofontaine

Based on Gregory Maguire's novel and featuring music by Stephen Schwartz, Wicked has become one of Broadway's most beloved musicals since its debut in 2003. This arrangement brings together several standout numbers, including "Defying Gravity" and "For Good," showcasing the show's soaring melodies, rich harmonies, and emotional depth. Michael Sweeney's version captures the dramatic flair and magical atmosphere of the original, offering an exciting concert experience for performers and audiences alike.

Ode To Joy

Beethoven

The famous melody from the final movement of Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 is known worldwide as Ode to Joy. Celebrating universal brotherhood and hope, this uplifting theme has become a symbol of unity and celebration. Beethoven's powerful music combines grandeur with heartfelt emotion, inspiring listeners across generations.

