

Celebrating 20 Years of Classical Music at Acton Hill

Jane Schopf, Music director

The Iris Axon Concert Series was started by Music Director Jane Schopf in 2004 to provide a venue for young musicians starting out on their professional careers, many of whom have subsequently enjoyed international success in competitions and on the concert platform. Originally called the Acton Classical Music Concert Series, it was re-named in 2009 in memory of one of its most loyal supporters, Iris Axon, who generously made possible the purchase of a magnificent handmade concert grand piano, a beautiful instrument with an excellent touch and tone. Acton Hill church is ideal for concerts as it has the largest unsupported wooden barrel-vault ceiling in London, which brings out the middle harmonics, creating a luxuriously warm sound.

Now in its twentieth year, the concert series continues to impress audiences on the first Sunday of every month. There is something extremely exciting about listening to these young performers as they are armed not only with astounding technical abilities and musical understanding, but also the fearlessness of youth, a heady mix which makes for thrilling performances. Many of our recitalists have gone on to stellar international careers and are frequently heard at the Wigmore Hall and on Radio 3, such as the critically acclaimed Rautio Piano Trio, James Akers (theorbo, guitar), pianists Jill Crossland, Joanna Kacperek and Daniel Ciobanu, and guest artist Richard Boothby who is an internationally recognised master of the viola gamba.

Currently, most of our performers are Masters' graduates from the London Colleges, but for our 2026-7 season we are excited to welcome a significant number from Europe, continuing the international mix the concerts have enjoyed since their inception. A huge thank you must go to everyone who has supported the concerts since 2004, and we look forward to another 20 years of thrilling performances from world-class musicians!

The annual concert series runs from September to July on the first Sunday of every month, starting at 4pm for an hour.

Programmes are sold at the door and can be paid for by card or cash:

Adults £6, Concessions £5, and £2 for children.

Prices are kept low to remain accessible, and we share door takings with the artists. We are seeking sponsors to enable us to offer better fees.

<https://www.classicalconcerts-acton.com/>