

# Easter **Orchestral** Society



## Easter Orchestra Week 2026

Friday 27 March to Thursday 2 April 2026

Ellesmere College, Shropshire, UK

An intensive week playing exciting repertoire in a large symphony orchestra

For experienced adult (18+) amateur orchestral players and budding professionals with excellent sight-reading skills

Free places for string/harp players (18–25)

Full-time students half price

Reduced rates for 18-30-year-olds



[EasterOrchSoc.org](http://EasterOrchSoc.org)

Registered Charity No. 1153970



Mike  
Thorne  
Musical  
Director



Lewis  
Gaston  
Assistant  
Musical  
Director

"The conductors are absolutely wonderful: there's so much energy there."

"It's been probably one of the best weeks of my life ... genuinely ... it's been so much fun!"

*EOS Scholarship Recipients*



# Repertoire 2026

## Concert Works

Michael Daugherty	Last Dance at the Surf
Ottorino Respighi	Belkis (Queen of Sheba)
Richard Strauss	Ein Heldenleben

## Afternoon Works

Florent Schmitt	La Tragédie de Salomé - Suite
Henry Kimball Hadley	Salome
Aaron Copland	Music for a Great City
Pēteris Vasks	Lauda
Igor Stravinsky	Petrushka (Revised Version 1946)
Kalevi Aho	Symphonic Dances

## Evening Works

William Grant Still	Symphony no. 5
Andrzej Panufnik	Heroic Overture
Ethel Smyth	On the Cliffs of Cornwall
Ruth Gipps	Symphony no. 2
George Gershwin (arr. Bennett)	Porgy and Bess - A Symphonic Picture
Ástor Piazzolla	Estaciones Porteñas (The Four Seasons in Buenos Aires)
Gian Carlo Menotti	The Telephone
Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky	Piano Concerto no. 1
Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov	Suite from The Legend of the Invisible City of Kitezh
Alexander Borodin	In the Steppes of Central Asia
Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov	Capriccio Espagnol
Doreen Carwithen	Suffolk Suite
Alexander Tsfasman	Suite for Piano and Orchestra
Benjamin Britten	The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra

## Final Morning Play Through

Dmitri Shostakovich	Ballet: The Lady and the Hooligan
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# EASTER ORCHESTRA WEEK

Friday 27 March - Thursday 2 April 2026

*What's it like? Check out the video:  
EasterOrchSoc.org*

The Easter Orchestra Week is an annual orchestral residential week for adults (strictly 18+), based at Ellesmere College in Shropshire.

We aim to tackle repertoire most amateurs don't normally get to play, as well as firm favourites. We assemble a large symphony orchestra with full-sized string sections so we can tackle a very wide range of pieces, many of them rarely played. The week is intensive and challenging, but fun and friendly.

Most participants choose to stay on campus. There are single, twin and double rooms available. A small number are en suite. You can also decide to stay elsewhere as a non-resident. Facilities on campus include plenty of rooms for chamber groups, a swimming pool, gym, tennis courts, a golf course and on-site car parking. There is a bar on campus; local pubs and shops are within walking distance.

A minibus will meet players arriving by train at Shrewsbury – £16 return, which must be booked and paid for in advance.

Registration is from 2pm on Friday 27 March 2026. The week finishes after breakfast on Thursday 2 April 2026.



Each session will be led by one of our two conductors, Mike Thorne or Lewis Gaston, and two experienced players will alternate leading the orchestra.

A typical day involves rehearsing the principal works in the morning followed by lunch. There is free time in the afternoon and then we tackle a major play-through work (often a large-scale symphony) after tea. We break for dinner, and then there's more, often lighter, play-through repertoire in the evening. Most of us then head for the bar! At the end of the week there is an informal concert when we play the principal works.

**Applications open August 2025. Early application is recommended.**

Players need to be of at least Grade 8 standard with orchestral experience and excellent sight-reading skills. You are advised to apply as soon as possible because there is competition for places in all sections, particularly in the woodwind and brass sections. Priority will be given to the consideration of applications received before the end of September from players who have attended in the previous two years; however, please note that even for previous participants there is no guarantee of a place. Applicants should not make any arrangements for the Easter Week (e.g. booking travel or external accommodation) until they have received written confirmation from the EOS Secretary that their application has been successful. The Musical Director's decision on acceptance is final.

We offer a small number of Scholarships which provide places free of charge to string and harp players aged 18–25. Please apply as early as possible via the link on our website because the free places go quickly. There are a few half-price student places for all instruments. Players aged 30 or under when the Easter Orchestra Week begins pay a specially reduced rate of £450 for a single room with shared bathroom. Apply on the website: [EasterOrchSoc.org](http://EasterOrchSoc.org)

## Subscriptions per person 2026

Single Room with Shared Bathroom £600

Single Room with Shared Bathroom (aged 30 and under) £450

En Suite Single £675

En Suite Double £645



[EasterOrchSoc.org](http://EasterOrchSoc.org)

Registered Charity No. 1153970

**EOS**

# How to Apply

Please apply via our website: [EasterOrchSoc.org](http://EasterOrchSoc.org) This is the preferred application method, and the sole method for Scholarships, Bursaries and young persons' applications.

If you are unable to apply via the website, please fill out the application form below and post it to us with your payment. Please pay the deposit of £100 plus any voluntary donation when you apply and the balance of your subscription by 1 February 2026.

**Please apply via our website [EasterOrchSoc.org](http://EasterOrchSoc.org) if possible. Otherwise, please fill in the form below.**

Name

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Address.....

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Postcode.....Phone.....

Email.....

Main Instrument.....

(Optional) Other instruments you play (and will bring along)

.....

Standard/orchestral experience (if you have played with us before you can skip this question)

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Have you been on the week before? Yes/No

Accommodation requested (please circle)

- Single shared bathroom—£600
- Single en suite—£675
- Twin shared bathroom—£570
- Twin/double en suite—£645
- Non-resident—£305
- Minibus transfer—£16

All subscriptions are per person

For shared rooms, please indicate roommate

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Please add any other information here (optional):

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The Easter Orchestral Society is a registered charity (no. 1153970). Our ability to mount ambitious and unusual programmes, and to help young musicians to benefit by attending at reduced or no cost, depends on our subscriptions and voluntary donations.

Please indicate below if you wish to add a donation.

Please add a donation of £ ..... to my subscription.

A portion of the subscription, and any donations, is eligible for Gift Aid. If you are a UK tax payer and wish Gift Aid to apply, please tick the box below:

I am a UK taxpayer and I wish Gift Aid to apply to my subscription and any donations I make now or in the future to the Easter Orchestral Society.\*

I am aware that EOS will collect, hold and use some of my data for membership administration purposes in accordance with the EOS Privacy Policy (see website).

I agree (please tick)

I would like to opt in to the following (please tick):

EOS mailing list

Share my contact details with other EOS members who ask for them

Signed:

.....Date.....

\* Please note that for Gift Aid to apply, you need to pay the same amount or more of UK Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax as all charities will claim on your donations in a tax year and you are responsible for paying any difference.

## Easter Orchestral Society

The Secretary

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[EasterOrchSoc.org](http://EasterOrchSoc.org)

Registered Charity No. 1153970

The logo for the Easter Orchestral Society (EOS) consists of the letters 'EOS' in a bold, sans-serif font. The letter 'O' is red, while 'E' and 'S' are black.