

ROMAN
RIVER
festival 16-26
SEPT
2021



Welcome



We are so happy to be back, with a packed, joyous, late-announced festival full of can-do spirit. There's a palpable excitement from every performer we've talked to, who can't wait to share the experience of music with you all.

We've got an amazing line-up of composers and inspiring performers – solo Bach played by young violinist Sijie Chen, indie singer Fiona Bevan, family activities, relaxed performances, Handel arias, a talk by author Roman Krznaric and a Sibelius symphony.

We've a mix of new and familiar venues, and we'll celebrate the core elements of the festival – great music, beautiful Essex places, world-class musicians, and you, the audience.

The theme of reconnection with nature and our planet runs through the festival, with concerts and inspiring talks from leaders and visionaries who will help us find new ways of living in harmony with our environment.

elcome

Thanks to generous sponsorship from Collins Skip Hire, Reeman Dansie, Kent Blaxill, Birkett Long and The Mistle Thorn, we are offering free tickets to all NHS workers - nurses, support staff and doctors - and those working in care homes, who have given so much to help us through the last 18 months, to the concert on the 19th September.

Some of the many festival highlights will be Orpheus Young Artist Imogen Whitehead playing Haydn's trumpet concerto, international superstar pianist Alexandra Dariescu giving a recital and concerto, and the soundscapes of the future composed by pupils from three secondary schools in the Colchester Natural History Museum.

We look forward to welcoming you. Please bring friends and enjoy a sociable evening - and thank you for making it all possible. Tickets from £5, and there are pay what you can and relaxed concerts.

NHS Thank You Concert

Fiona Bevan and Friends

St Botolph's Church, St Botolph's Street, Colchester, CO3 7EE

Our NHS staff have been working tirelessly to protect and care for us during these unprecedented and challenging times of the COVID-19 pandemic. To recognise their sacrifices and commitment, we have invited an incredibly talented singer and songwriter, Fiona Bevan, to the festival. 200 free tickets are available for NHS staff and care home staff working in East Anglia to enjoy this extraordinary concert. If you are eligible please visit our website for details on how to get your free tickets. We are grateful for the generous support of Birkett Long, Reeman Dansie, Collins Skip Hire, Kent Blaxill and The Mistle Thorn, who have made this concert possible.

Main £20, Side/Back £15, Restricted view £10 or Pay as you can

With generous support from:



6pm | Sunday 19 Sept

Book Your Ticket

Online using Paypal or debit/credit card
romanrivermusic.org.uk

Box Office 07926 623 529

Email (enquiries only)

boxoffice@romanrivermusic.org.uk

Full details of all events: romanrivermusic.org.uk

Our new Meet the Musician Ticket: includes front row seats, a glass of prosecco and canapés with the musicians at the end of the show.

Coronavirus Advice

Keeping everyone safe is our main priority. Please keep an eye on our website for up to date information regarding latest Covid guidance during our festival and subscribe to our newsletter for regular updates.

Accessibility

If you would like help finding an event please get in touch.

Parking for blue badge holders is available at some venues and our volunteers will be on hand to assist.

All of our performances can be accessed by wheelchair. The following key, shown throughout the brochure, denotes the level of accessibility.

Accessible Accessible with assistance

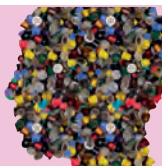
#RomanRiverInspires

10am-2pm | Sat 18 Sept

Trash to Treasure – Family Event

Culver Square, Colchester

Free admission.



2pm-3.30pm | Sun 19 Sept

Roman Krznaric: Meet the Author, talk and Q&A

Quaker Meeting House, Colchester

Ticket £5 or £14 including a copy of the book. **Limited availability.**



10am-12pm | Sat 25 Sept

Kay Michael: Letters to the Earth

Red Lion Books, Colchester

Tickets £5 or £14 including a copy of the book. **Limited availability.**



10am-2pm | Sat 25 Sept

Soundscapes: What does your future sound like?

Natural History Museum, Colchester

Free admission.



GEEDON GALLERY



20TH ANNIVERSARY EXHIBITION PART II

9th-24th October 2021

Open daily 11.00am - 5.30pm

Then by appointment until December 15th

Geedon Gallery, Jagers, Fringringhoe Colchester, CO5 7DN

01206 729 334 / 728 587 07901 918 046

www.geedongallery.co.uk

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What's on



Opening Night

Toward the Dawn

Byrd, Taverner, Monteverdi, Muhly and Allegri

Sensational vocal ensemble Stile Antico open the festival with a musical journey from sunset to sunrise, featuring music by Byrd, Tallis and Monteverdi, a piece written specially for Stile Antico by Nico Muhly, and Allegri's Miserere.

There are no finer singers of early music.

The New York Times

The singing is staggeringly beautiful.

The Sunday Times

Coggeshall Church, St Peter ad Vincula,
4 Church Green, CO6 1UD

Meet the Musicians £65, Front Row £35, Main £25,
Side/Back £12.50, Restricted view £5, Under 30s £5

8pm | Thursday 16 Sept



8pm | Friday 17 Sept

A late Beethoven Quartet

The festival's artistic director Orlando Jopling gathers four fine chamber musicians for Beethoven's Op 132, with its transcendental slow movement, in the venue where the festival started 21 years ago.

St Andrew's Church, Church Road, Fingringhoe CO5 7BN

Meet the Musicians £50, Front Row £25, Main £25, Side/Back
£12.50, Restricted view £5

Trash to Treasure – Family Event

Come and join local artist Tom Armstrong for a drop-in workshop to unleash your creativity making art from recyclable waste. Your creations will be displayed in Colchester town centre.

Culver Square, Colchester

Free admission



10am-2pm | Friday 17 Sept

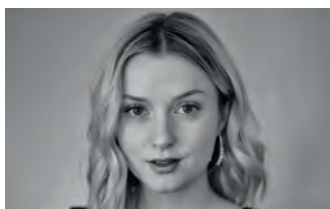
Madeline Robinson

Die Schöne Müllerin by Franz Schubert

We're delighted to present the winner of the 2021 Essex Young Musician of the Year competition, who will take us on an emotional journey of unrequited romance. Accompanied by Sharon Cheng, piano.

St. Mary's Church, High Street, Wivenhoe CO7 9BD

Pay as you can



1pm | Saturday 18 Sept



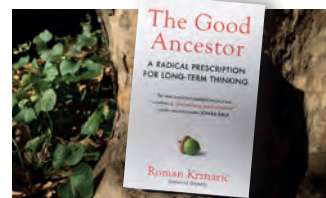
6pm | Saturday 18 Sept

When Time Stood Still

Orlando Jopling partners with eloquent pianist Clíodhna Shanahan. Film music by Glass, Pärt and Max Richter sets the scene for Frank Bridge's romantic sonata, Sibelius' magisterial and passionate Malinconia and Janáček's Pohádka – a fairy tale of love and magical powers.

St. Mary's Church, High Street, Wivenhoe CO7 9BD

Front Row £30, Main £20, Side./Back £15, Under 30s £5



2pm-3.30pm | Sunday 19 Sept

Roman Krznaric: Meet the Author, talk and Q&A

A discussion with Roman Krznaric, author of The Good Ancestor: How to Think Long Term in a Short-Term World, on sustainability, long term thinking and new ways of living.

Quaker Meeting House, 6 Church Street, Colchester, CO1 1NF

Ticket £5 or £14 including a copy of the book. Limited availability.



6pm | Sunday 19 Sept

Fiona Bevan and Friends

A singer, songwriter and multi-instrumentalist from Colchester with a sweet, fiery voice and soulful, cinematic folk sound. Fiona has toured with Ed Sheeran and Adam Ant and written hits including the no. 1 'Little Things' for One Direction. Her latest EP, 'Wild Angels Sweet Demons' went to number 3 in the iTunes UK and France charts. Unmissable.

St Botolph's Church, St Botolph's Street, Colchester CO3 7EE

Main £20, Side/Back £15, Restricted view £10. **Limited availability**



8pm | Monday 20 Sept

Sijie Chen – Solo Violin

An outstanding young violinist plays Bach's D minor and E major Partitas for solo violin, including one of the greatest movements of all time - the famous Chaconne. Timeless music in the beautiful atmosphere of Little Bentley Church.

St Marys Church, Church Road, Little Bentley CO7 8SE.

All tickets £10



8pm | Tuesday 21 Sept

Richard Dowling sings Handel

Heartbreak, spiritual strength and renewal in this recital of Handel arias, which have such emotional power that they speak to us as if they were written yesterday.

Accompanied with the harpsichord, the young tenor Richard Dowling is sensational - an intelligent musician with a meltingly beautiful voice.

Old Library, West Stockwell Street, Colchester, CO1 1HN

Main £21.50, Side/Back £17, Under 30s £7.50

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8pm | Wednesday 22 Sept

Harry Buckoke – The Viol: A Musical History

Evocative music from another world, written for a beautiful and intimate instrument. Harry’s programme takes us from 15th century Spain and follows the instrument and its repertory across Europe, including music by Marin Marais, St Colombe, Dowland and Mozart. We travel through the Elizabethan court and its fascination with melancholy, the decadent splendour of the French baroque to the elegant German style perfected by Bach’s student Carl Friedrich Abel.

Old Library, West Stockwell Street, Colchester CO1 1HN

Main £17.50, Side/Back £13.50, Under 30s £7.50



8pm | Thursday 23 Sept

Alexandra Dariescu

An international superstar pianist comes to the festival to perform a piano concerto and recital. Alexandra dazzled us five years ago with her effortless musicality and captivating stage presence, and we are completely thrilled that we have managed to persuade her to return with an enticing programme of Boulanger, Schumann, Tailleferre and Pepin. Accompanied by Orlando Jopling and friends.

St Mary’s Church, School Street, Stoke by Nayland CO6 4QY

Meet the Musicians £65, Front Row £35, Main £25, Side/Back £15



8pm | Friday 24 Sept

I Love and I Must

Helen Charlston stars in this programme exploring the highs and lows of love, in music by Henry Purcell and his contemporaries. Starting in a world of restless, exciting passion, we move through the intense commitment of parenthood and faith, to love’s sickness and fate’s inescapable grasp. Finally, music returns victorious as the ultimate language for all things amorous.

St Mary’s Church, School Street, Stoke by Nayland CO6 4QY

Meet the Musicians £65, Front Row £35, Main £25, Side/Back £15



10am-12pm | Saturday 25 Sept

Kay Michael: Letters to the Earth

Meet Kay Michael, co-founder and co-editor of Letters to the Earth. Kay shares her ideas for a creative response to the environmental emergency. Be inspired to write your own letter to the Earth.

Red Lion Books, 125 High Street, Colchester CO1 1SZ

Tickets £5 or £14 including a copy of the book. **Limited availability.**



10am - 2pm | Saturday 25 Sept

Soundscapes: What does your future sound like?

An immersive installation of compositions made by young musicians across Colchester exploring what they imagine their future sounds like. Situated in the Natural History Museum, discover artefacts of the past with a soundtrack of the future. Produced in partnership with CLIP Sound and Music CIC.

Natural History Museum, 66 High Street, Colchester CO1 1DN

Free admission



6pm | Saturday 25 Sept

Haydn and Sibelius Orchestral Concert with the Festival Orchestra

We are thrilled to present an exciting young talent, our Orpheus Young Artist 2021 Imogen Whitehead, who will beguile us with her sweet sound, virtuosity and eloquent phrasing in Haydn’s Trumpet Concerto. Orlando Jopling and the Festival Orchestra takes us through the powerful emotional landscapes of Sibelius’s 2nd symphony.

St Mary’s Church, School Street, Stoke by Nayland CO6 4QY

Meet the Musicians £65, Front £35, Main £25, Side/Back £15



4pm | Sunday 26 Sept

Festival Family Concert

Come and meet the instruments of the orchestra and hear some all-time favourites bits of music. Comedian and children’s writer James Campbell joins the brilliant Festival Orchestra. There’ll be a chance to meet the musicians, and for one lucky audience member, the chance to conduct!

St Mary’s Church, School Street, Stoke by Nayland CO6 4QY

Tickets £5, under-5s free

This concert has been sponsored in memory of Sophie Spooner, a young doctor who died in 2017. She will always be remembered for her kindness, her joyful creativity and her love of adventure.

New to the Roman River Festival – Relaxed Performances

Keep an eye on our website for Relaxed Performance dates which are designed to allow audience members of all ages to enjoy our music in a more relaxed atmosphere. These performances invite anyone and everyone, from young children to older adults, to experience the festival. The environment is specifically adapted for concert goers with autistic spectrum conditions, those with sensory, communication or learning difficulties and anyone else who would benefit from a less formal environment.

Thank you

We are hugely grateful to all of the following organisations and individuals for their generous support of our festival. Support from individuals and businesses enables us to bring international quality performers and actively involve many children and young people, boosting self-confidence, bringing communities together and celebrating the wealth of creativity in our corner of the world.



The 2021 Festival at a glance...

8pm | Thurs 16 Sept
Toward the Dawn

8pm | Fri 17 Sept
A late Beethoven Quartet

10am-2pm | Sat 18 Sept
Trash to Treasure

1pm | Sat 18 Sept
Madeline Robinson

6pm | Sat 18 Sept
When Time Stood Still

2-3.30pm | Sun 19 Sept
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Fiona Bevan and Friends

8pm | Mon 20 Sept
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Richard Dowling sings Handel

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Harry Buckoke – The Viol: A Musical History

8pm | Thurs 23 Sept
Alexandra Dariescu

8pm | Fri 24 Sept
I Love and I Must

10am -12pm | Sat 25 Sept
Kay Michael: Letters to the Earth

10am-2pm | Sat 25 Sept
Soundscapes: What does your future sound like?

6pm | Sat 25 Sept
Haydn and Sibelius Orchestral Concert

4pm | Sun 26 Sept
Festival Family Concert

Please join our sociable band of supporters

You will receive priority booking and invitations to special events.

Without the wonderful support we receive from our Friends, we could not produce such a diverse and truly international quality festival for everyone, nor involve over 1,000 children and young people every year, offering opportunities to many who would not otherwise have the chance to experience such top-quality performances.

You will help us realise our dream to give every child in our area the opportunity to sing, perform and compose and give young creative talent the chance to develop.

Our phenomenal team of volunteers and people who give up their time for the love of music, enables us to spend very little on administration and are able to devote the majority of our budget to bringing truly world-class music to our region.

Your support is absolutely vital in winning regional and national funding. You'll be part of a real local success story.

Every penny of your support makes a difference.

Sign up online or email:

friends@romanrivermusic.org.uk

*Front cover: Joseph Toonga's Just Us Dance Company performing at Colchester Castle Park as part of the Roman River mini-festival, June 2021.
Photo: David Ward*

Roman River Music

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info@romanrivermusic.org.uk

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Registered charity number 1158366



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