LEEDS
BAROQUE
CHOIR & ORCHESTRA



2027 SEASON

A JOURNEY OF MUSICAL DISCOVERY

SEASON SUMMARY

FEBRUARY 7 3.00pm

REMEMBERING HENRY PURCELL
Leeds Baroque Choir & Orchestra
Peter Holman, director
The Grammar School at Leeds

APRIL 3 3.00pm

J.S. BACH: VIOLIN PARTITAS
Asuka Sumi, violin solo
St Andrew's Church, Kildwick

MAY 16 3.00pm

MORE MASTERPIECES FROM BAROQUE SPAIN
Leeds Baroque Choir & Consort
Peter Holman, director
St Andrew's Church, Kildwick

JUNE 27 3.00pm

SUITES AND CONCERTOS FROM BAROQUE GERMANY
Leeds Baroque Orchestra
Peter Holman, director
The Old Woollen, Sunny Bank Mills

NOVEMBER 21 3.00pm

MASTERWORKS BY PERGOLESI AND HANDEL
Leeds Baroque Choir & Orchestra
Peter Holman, director
Clothworkers Centenary Concert Hall

www.leedsbaroque.co.uk

WELCOME

Our 27th season opens in grand style with a welcome return to The Grammar School at Leeds for our first concert, in the magnificent Cryer Auditorium on 7 February. Our programme, **Remembering Henry Purcell**, pays tribute to one of England's finest composers, featuring an extravagant orchestration with choir, trumpets, timpani, woodwind, strings and continuo.

Our out-of-town concerts feature two visits to Kildwick and the lovely church of St Andrew's. In April, we have a very special performance of **Bach's Partitas** for solo violin by the noted Baroque violinist and leader of Leeds Baroque, Asuka Sumi. Asuka has generously dedicated her performance to Leeds Baroque, and profits from this performance will help us to fund future events.

In May, we continue our explorations of the treasures of the **Spanish Baroque**. The centrepiece will be a complete performance of Francisco Valls' Missa 'Haec est Virgo sapiens', with other music by Valls and his contemporaries. Thanks to the research of Mick Swithinbank, we are very fortunate to have an edition prepared for us by him, continuing our interest in this early Spanish repertoire and our delight in making it better-known. We are also indebted to Instituto Cervantes and the Consul General of Spain for their support of this programme.

Our summer musical tour of Europe continues with a lively programme of **German orchestral music** in the relaxed atmosphere of the Old Woollen at Sunny Bank Mills in June.

We bring the season to a contemplative close with **Pergolesi's** setting of the **Stabat Mater** and **Handel's** heartfelt funeral anthem for Queen Caroline **'The Ways of Zion do mourn'** (first performed 17 December 1737).

We hope you will join us.











REMEMBERING HENRY PURCELL



We're combining one of Purcell's most enduring popular works at the time, the masque from *Dioclesian*, with tributes to him by Gottfried Finger, Henry Hall and Jeremiah Clarke. Also featuring a newly discovered recorder duet by Purcell.

LEEDS BAROQUE CHOIR & ORCHESTRA
Peter Holman, director
Philippa Hyde, soprano
Michael Craddock, baritone

7 FEBRUARY 2027
3.00 PM
THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL AT LEEDS,
HARROGATE RD, LEEDS LS17 8GS

TICKETS
FULL £22
STUDENTS £0
UNDER 16 £0

Image: Michelangelo's sculpture of Bacchus. Museo Nazionale del Bargello, Florence

J.S.BACH VIOLIN PARTITAS

Fundraiser Event

In a benefit concert for Leeds Baroque, Asuka Sumi, leader of the orchestra, performs three of the most iconic and challenging works for solo violin, a rare opportunity to hear these three works live played on a Baroque violin. To include the great Chaconne in D minor.

ASUKA SUMI, violin

3 APRIL 2027

3.00 PM

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH

KIRKGATE, KILDWICK, BD20 9BB

TICKETS

FULL £18

STUDENTS £0

UNDER 16 £0

MORE MASTERPIECES FROM BAROQUE SPAIN

Another opportunity to explore the music of the Spanish Baroque, with a rare complete performance of Valls' Missa 'Haec est Virgo sapiens', probably the first performance in Britain – and possibly Spain too. The concert will include other works by Valls and his contemporaries.

LEEDS BAROQUE CHOIR & CONSORT

Peter Holman, director

GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED BY

CONSULADO GENERAL DE ESPAÑA EN MÁNCHESTER

Instituto Cervantes Leeds

16 MAY 2027

3.00 PM

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH

KIRKGATE, KILDWICK, BD20 9BB

TICKETS

FULL £22

STUDENTS £0

UNDER 16 £0

Image: Barcelona Cathedral schematic drawing.

SUITES AND CONCERTOS FROM BAROQUE GERMANY

A delightful programme of music by J.S. Bach, Johann Pachelbel, G.P. Telemann and Georg Böhm (reconstructed by Peter Holman).

LEEDS BAROQUE ORCHESTRA
Peter Holman, director
Asuka Sumi, violin

27 JUNE 2027
3.00 PM
THE OLD WOOLLEN, SUNNY BANK MILLS
FARSLEY, PUDSEY LS28 5UJ

TICKETS
FULL £22
STUDENTS £0
UNDER 16 £0

MASTERWORKS BY PERGOLESI AND HANDEL

A performance of Pergolesi's famous setting of the Stabat Mater and Handel's heartfelt funeral anthem for Queen Caroline, 'The Ways of Zion do mourn'.

LEEDS BAROQUE CHOIR & ORCHESTRA
Peter Holman, director

21 NOVEMBER 2027
3.00 PM

CLOTHWORKERS CENTENARY CONCERT HALL
UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS, LS2 3AR

TICKETS
FULL £22
STUDENTS £0
UNDER 16 £0

IMAGE: CAROLINE OF BRANDENBURG-ANSBACH, WARWICK SHIRE HALLL

PETER HOLMAN MBE
Musical director



Peter Holman studied at King's College, London with Thurston Dart, and founded the pioneering early music group Ars Nova while a student. He directed The Parley of Instruments and the choir Psalmody, the Suffolk Villages Festival and founded Leeds Baroque in 2000. He has taught at many conservatoires, universities, and summer schools in Britain, Europe, New Zealand and the USA, and was Reader and then Professor of Historical Musicology at Leeds University from 2000, retiring as Emeritus Professor in 2010. He was awarded an MBE in 2015.

Peter is a regular broadcaster on BBC Radio 3 and 4 and is much in demand as a speaker at learned conferences.

He spends much of his time in writing and research, with special interests in the early history of the violin family, in instrumental ensemble music up to about 1700, and in English music from about 1550 to 1850. He is the author of five books: the prize-winning *Four and Twenty Fiddlers: The Violin at the English Court 1540-1690* (Oxford, 1993), *Henry Purcell* (Oxford, 1994), *Dowland: Lachrimae* (Cambridge, 1999), *Life after Death: The Viola da Gamba in Britain from Purcell to Dolmetsch* (Woodbridge, 2010), and *Before the Baton: Musical Direction and Conducting in Stuart and Georgian Britain* (Woodbridge, 2020). In 2025, he published *The Purcell Compendium* with Bryan White.

BRYAN WHITE
Chorus master



Bryan White is Professor of Musicology in the School of Music at the University of Leeds where he directs the Clothworkers Consort of Leeds. He is a member of the editorial board of the Purcell Society and of the Web Library for Seventeenth-Century Music. Bryan researches music and culture in Britain from the seventeenth to the nineteenth centuries. He is the author of *Music for St Cecilia's Day from Purcell to Handel* (Boydell, 2019), co-editor of *Musical Exchange Between Britain and Europe 1500-1800* (Boydell, 2020), and editor of Louis Grabu's opera *Albion and Albanius* (Stainer & Bell, 2007) and G. B. Draghi's St Cecilia's Day ode '*From harmony, from heav'nly harmony*' (Stainer & Bell, 2010) for the Purcell Society Companion Series. His most recent book is *The Purcell Compendium*, co-written with Peter Holman and published by Boydell in 2025.

He is a longstanding soloist and choral singer with Leeds Baroque and also serves as Chairperson.

ASUKA SUMI
Orchestra leader



Asuka Sumi is a violinist based in Leeds, specialising in historical performance practice. She holds degrees from the Tokyo National University of Arts and the Conservatorium van Amsterdam, where she studied with Lucy van Dael and Sophie Gent. In 2013, Asuka was awarded the Romanus Weichlein Prize at the Biber Competition in Austria, which led to her solo debut concert at the Vienna Konzerthaus.

Asuka is a founding member of Seconda Pratica (CD Nova Europa), Fons Harmonicus (winner of the Utrecht Fringe Public Prize 2014) and Amsterdam Corelli Collective. With these groups she has been invited to perform in prestigious venues and festivals including the Göttingen Handel Festival and the Sablé and Ambronay festivals in France.

Since moving to Leeds in 2015, she has been immersed in developing the early music scene in northern England. She now organises a concert series, Otley Baroque, which brings period instrument performers from across the UK to Yorkshire. Asuka maintains a strong interest in the historical development of violin technique in the seventeenth century and is engaged in continual investigation of the late seicento violin music in Bologna and Modena. As a teacher, Asuka traces her roots to the well-known Sumi family of violin teachers in Tokyo.

In 2021, she was appointed leader of Leeds Baroque Orchestra.

LEEDS
BAROQUE
CHOIR & ORCHESTRA

Leeds Baroque is the city's only period instrument choir and orchestra, specialising in performances of music of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

Founded in 2000, and following J.S. Bach's own model, it is made up of professional, student and talented amateur performers and is directed by Professor Peter Holman MBE, an international authority on the performance of Baroque music. Since its foundation, it has earned an enviable reputation for performances covering works from Monteverdi to Mozart and bold explorations of unfamiliar Baroque music, including the commissioning of new performing editions.

Most of the members and management are unpaid, believing that this specialist but accessible repertoire should be available to all and more widely appreciated. In addition to the core membership, Leeds Baroque provides paid performance opportunities to up-and-coming young artists at the start of their careers and welcomes a range of professional singers and instrumentalists for special projects.

SEASON SPONSORS

LEEDS BAROQUE CONTINUITY FUND

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