

The events

See inside for what's in each programme. Doors open 30 mins before times stated.

FRIDAY 14 JULY, 7.30PM

Hausmusik No. 1 Greenaway Lodge, Blogishay Lane, Ashburton

SATURDAY 15 JULY, 7PM

(PICNIC FROM 4PM, MUSICAL AFTERPARTY)
Hausmusik No. 2 Bigadon Cottage, near Buckfastleigh

SUNDAY 16 JULY, 4PM

Meet The Musicians, Ashburton Arts Centre



MONDAY, 17 JULY, HOWL QUARTET, 7.30PM

Dan Smith, alto sax; Harry Brunt, tenor sax; Matt Parkinson, drums and Pete Komor, double bass.

This is a different kind of chamber music, included for some contrast. It's still a quartet, playing original music. Howl Quartet is wild and expressive baring all from the calm and reflective to the outright untamed. Following sold out shows at EFG London Jazz Festival, The Vortex and Kansas Smitty's, Howl Quartet's debut album Life As We See It was released in early 2021 and achieved over 99,000 streams on Spotify alone.



Hospitality & Accessibility

Bar available at all venues: great local beers, wines, low alcohol options and exotic sparkling cordials. All venues have good access (a few steps at Holne Church). Wheelchair users, please email in advance and we'll save you a space.

TUESDAY 18 JULY, 5PM

Family Concert, Ashburton Arts Centre

WEDNESDAY 19 JULY, 7.30PM

Concert #1 Ashburton Arts Centre

THURSDAY 20 JULY, 7.30PM

Concert #2 Bremridge

FRIDAY 21 JULY, 7.30PM

Concert #3 Church of St Mary the Virgin, Holne

SATURDAY 22 JULY, 7.30PM

Concert #4 St. Andrew's Church, Ashburton

SUNDAY 23 JULY, 5PM

Concert #5 Ashburton Arts Centre

Three prices for everything

Ashburton Arts Centre offers three prices for everything – please pay what you can. Pay less, come to more! We need all the financial support we can get, but we also want to make this music as available as possible without price being a barrier.

Tickets

Book at: wegottickets.com/ashburtonarts (10% booking fee).

Email: boxoffice@ashburtonarts.org.uk to reserve and pay on the door. No email? Please phone **01364 652781** and leave a message.

Concerts 1 – 5 and Hausmusiks:

£16 full price, £12 or £8 if you prefer Meet the Musicians, Family Concert and open rehearsal FREE or a donation – you really ARE welcome to come without paying. If you can make a donation, then it all helps to oil the wheels.

FESTIVAL PASS: £75 or £50 or £40:

Come to Everything!

Email: boxoffice@ashburtonarts.org.uk or call **01364 652781** to arrange this.



The music

Here's the repertoire for the first four concerts, with most pieces making at least 2 appearances. The two Hausmusiks will feature other quartets from a very wide selection. For the final concert we'll choose our favourites from across all of the performances in the festival. Do let us know what you'd like to hear again.

David Yang writes: "This summer is an exploration into the range and potential of the string quartet. Haydn's convivial Opus 20, No. 3, is part of the set that established the string quartet as an independent genre. Shostakovich's minimalist 13th quartet is a paean to isolation from a man tormented relentlessly by the Soviets. Ligeti's first quartet pushes the quartet to its very limits of sound in an endlessly inventive series of variations appropriately titled Metamorphoses Nocturnes. Kapustin throws himself wholeheartedly into the irrepressible influence of American jazz with a virtuosic display for saxophone and cello. Vignieri's perennial favourite Walk with Me, was written as a showcase for Andy Williamson and his sax back in 2019 and features variations on a soulful American spiritual. Legendary Estonian composer Arvo Pärt brings his distinctive modern take on medieval spiritualism to the string quartet, Summa. Finally, the world premiere Mitnor Remains by local composer, Mike Greenaway, mines the rhythms and spirit of the people of Devon (Joint Mitnor is a cave full of fossils found at Buckfastleigh)."



Franz Josef Haydn (1732–1809): String Quartet Op 20 No. 3

György Ligeti (1923–2006): String Quartet No. 1

Dmitri Shostakovich (1906–1975): String Quartet No. 13

Tom Vignieri (b. 1961): Walk with Me (tenor sax & string quartet)

Nikolai Kapustin (1937–2020): Duo (alto sax & cello)

Mike Greenaway (b. 1955): Mitnor Remains (string quartet) World Première

Arvo Pärt (b. 1935): Summa (string quartet)



Entrance to Joint Mitnor Cave

We're delighted this year to include the first performance of Mitnor Remains written for this festival by composer **Michael Greenway** who lives near Buckfastleigh. Born 1955 in Hampshire, he was brought up on a mixed musical diet of the classics plus pop, rock and soul. While studying piano and violin, he also picked up the guitar. He became a songwriter and, published by Chappell Music, played in several bands during the late 1970s. With an urge to explore twentieth century composition, in 2006 he graduated from Kingston University with a BMus (composition) 1st class. Finding an affinity with the ideals of minimalism and building on his own leanings towards melody and rhythm, he has since composed orchestral work alongside pieces for theatre. Recently returning to songwriting and completing an album Backstory under the name Strangers Of Fiction, he continues his ambition to explore and create music that is rooted in his influences but speaks to today.

The musicians

Musical Director, David Yang started this unusual type of festival in Newburyport, near Boston in 2002 where it continues to thrive. Fate, a chain of musical connections and air miles brought him to Ashburton where this festival began in 2019, and here we are for our fourth year of glorious music.

He invites musicians who don't normally play together who he thinks will enjoy each other's company, to come and live in Ashburton for the festival. Intensive rehearsals (some open to watch) achieve an amazing musical and emotional connection between the musicians and the music they're playing, which includes some of the most complex of the string quartet repertoire.

Chamber music is intimate stuff. There's nothing to match the experience of being in the same space as these great musicians when they play, just a few metres away from you. Every time, it's a truly unique, magical experience.

These are the musicians who'll be living amongst us from 14 – 23 July 2023



DAVID YANG, VIOLA (USA)

has been called "a conduit for music" and his playing described as "lithe and expressive" in the Strad Magazine. He lives in Philadelphia

and plays internationally. When he isn't practising you might spot him whizzing across Dartmoor on his bike!



SARA TRICKEY, VIOLIN (UK)

enjoys an exciting and diverse career as a solo violinist, chamber musician and teacher. Her most recent album, of solo violin music, From An

Empty Room, received a double five star review in BBC Music Magazine. Food is a big passion and she makes her own kefir. She's also a Tai Chi and Pilates ninja.



STEFAN HERSH, VIOLIN (USA)

After many years in principal positions in top US orchestras and in the Chicago String Quartet, Stefan performs around America as a guest

artist. He's an expert appraiser of rare violins and bows, also produces digital music content and runs a Chicago specialty coffee company, Buzz Coffee Roasters.



SÉBASTIEN VAN KUIJK, CELLO (FRANCE)

Prize winner of the Prague Spring, Rostropovich and Casals competitions, Seb is co-principal cellist of London's

Aurora orchestra, who are famous for performing major works from memory, like Stravinsky's Firebird at a BBC Prom. He played here in 2021 and we're delighted to have him back.



ANDY WILLIAMSON, SAXOPHONE (UK)

has spent his life involved in music of all kinds: orchestral, choral, jazz and more, and loves to combine these where he can. In

2015 he started the campaign to turn Ashburton's old Methodist Church into an Arts Centre and is now the Arts Director.

For the latest information about open rehearsals and to hear some of the music please visit ashburtonarts.org.uk/acmf



A specially-assembled group of American and European musicians performing magical music in great venues, a free family concert, open rehearsals and informal Hausmusik events in beautiful houses and gardens, where the audience chooses the music and the musicians sight-read it!



Sublime music played in six gorgeous venues with perfect acoustics for these instruments. We have the old Methodist church, now Ashburton Arts Centre, plus the lovely parish churches in Ashburton and Holne. Bremridge is a stunning new concert hall nearby; Bigadon Cottage has a walled garden and a stone circle with amazing views down the Dart valley and Greenaway Lodge is a beautiful town house tucked away in central Ashburton's lanes.



Ashburton Chamber music festival

A unique music festival experience!

For the fourth time, David Yang, our musical director and viola player, has invited three other wonderful string players to converge in Ashburton where they'll play for the first time together. This is a magical meeting of musical minds which we'll see developing through their rehearsals and performances. We have two outstanding NEW venues, and some of the greatest music ever written. Enjoy!

Hausmusik – These are informal gatherings where David brings a wide range of music, – from Haydn and Mozart to Britten, Debussy and Bartok – chats with the audience and a consensus emerges about what the musicians will play, and then they do, sight-reading the pieces together without any rehearsals! It's fun, but they do take the music seriously, and it's extraordinary to witness. This is the sort of thing that professional musicians do all the time, but it's rare to be able to watch it happen, especially in such beautiful, intimate settings. In these first events of the festival we'll watch the musicians getting to know each other – these will be their first performances together as a quartet.

Friday 14 July, 7.30pm
HAUSMUSIK #1
Greenaway Lodge,
Blogishay Lane, Ashburton

A new venue! We're very grateful to David and Blue for inviting us into their lovely home and garden, tucked away down Blogishay Lane next to the rec. and the Royal British Legion hut. From 1876 to 1889 this was Ashburton's first hospital (see oldashburton.co.uk) and has been sympathetically converted into a stunning home.

Venue: Greenaway Lodge
Blogishay Lane, Ashburton, TQ13 7DE
Next to the RBL Hut. On foot, take the path next to the Vet on West St, or from the Silent Whistle on St Lawrence Lane. Very close is the free Greymatter car park (only after 6pm) on Chuley Road. Drop off outside the gate via Prigg Meadow, plenty of parking in Greymatter nearby.

Saturday 15 July, 7pm
(picnic from 4pm) HAUSMUSIK #2
Bigadon Cottage,
near Buckfastleigh

This lovely old house with its gorgeous views along the Dart valley has become a firm favourite festival venue. Thanks again to Mike and Barbara for allowing us to share it with them. There's a huge garden with lawns, woods and a stone circle, which makes it the perfect place to come early and bring a picnic. The music will happen, weather permitting, in the walled garden, which is like a room without a roof. It's unusually perfect for string quartets – enough walls to give a great acoustic, but still enjoy being outside on a balmy summer evening.

Venue: Bigadon Cottage, near Buckfastleigh
Don't use SatNavs. Take the A38 towards Plymouth from Ashburton, then the exit signed Lower Dean. Follow signs to Pennywell Farm, past Dean Court Farm Shop. After about half a mile turn left onto Bigadon Lane – follow our signs.



Sunday, 16 July, 4pm MEET THE MUSICIANS **Ashburton Arts Centre**

Host: **Richard Gonski**, conductor of Torbay Symphony Orchestra

We'll meet all of the musicians involved in this year's festival, plus composer Mike Greenway, whose piece is being premiered. They'll talk about their own approaches to music, and how they got to where they are now, answering questions from Richard and the audience. We'll also discuss this year's programme and hear extracts from some of the pieces. Drinks and snacks available.

Tuesday 18 July
Family Concert, 5pm
Ashburton Arts Centre

Everyone is welcome to this FREE, relaxed, concert of highlights of the festival especially chosen for being family-friendly. You can book free tickets in advance, or just turn up on the day.

See overleaf for more about all the music and ashburtonarts.org.uk to hear it.

Wednesday 19 July
CONCERT No.1, 7:30pm
Ashburton Arts Centre

Kapustin
Duo for alto sax and cello
Haydn
String Quartet Opus 20, No. 3 in G Minor

Vignieri
Walk with Me for tenor sax and string quartet

Shostakovich
String Quartet No. 13



Thursday 20 July
CONCERT No.2, 7:30pm
Bremridge

Kapustin
Duo for alto sax and cello

Haydn
String Quartet Opus 20, No. 3 in G Minor

Arvo Part
Summa (string quartet plus saxophone)

Shostakovich
String Quartet No. 13

Friday 21 July
CONCERT No.3, 7:30pm
Holne Church

Haydn
String Quartet Opus 20, No. 3 in G Minor

Michael Greenway
"Mitnor Remains" for string quartet
World Premiere

Ligeti
String Quartet #1

Saturday 22 July
CONCERT No.4, 7:30pm
St Andrew's Church, Ashburton

Ligeti
String Quartet #1

Michael Greenway
"Mitnor Remains" for string quartet

Kapustin
Duo for alto sax and cello

Haydn
String Quartet Opus 20, No. 3 in G Minor

Sunday 23 July
CONCERT No.5, 5pm
Ashburton Arts Centre

The Highlights of the Festival

Favourite movements and pieces from all of the festival. Let us know yours and they'll all go into the mix.

Email boxoffice@ashburtonarts.org.uk with your requests.



Venue: Ashburton Arts Centre
15 West St, Ashburton TQ13 7DT

The Arts Centre is in the town centre, just along West St on the left heading towards Plymouth, set back from the road, four large pillars at the front. After 6pm, there's free parking in the main car park behind the Town Hall, or in the Greymatter compound on Chuley Road, via St Lawrence Lane.

Seating is unreserved – there's a mix of pews (with cushions) and comfortable chairs.



Venue: Bremridge
TQ13 7JX

As you go up from the A38 towards Denbury, this is on the right before you get to The Rising Sun pub. Look out for signs. Very easy access by car, with disabled parking spaces close to the hall. Coming from Ashburton, you can take Pitley Road from Dolbeare, turn right at Combe Cross and you're there – look for our sign.

Venue: Church of St Mary the Virgin
Holne, TQ13 7SJ

Holne is a lovely village, 4 miles from Ashburton. The church is next to the Church House Inn (serving good food before and after our concert. Book on 01364 631160). There is plenty of parking in a field nearby, and disabled parking next to the church. There's a flat path from the street; a few steps at the church door where help with wheelchairs might be needed.



Venue: St. Andrew's Church
Ashburton, West Street, TQ13 7DT

This is the large Anglican church just up the hill from the Arts Centre. Parking in the town car park, or Greymatter on Chuley Road (by car, via St Lawrence Lane, then by foot along the path that comes out next to the vet on West St.

Venue: Ashburton Arts Centre
15 West St, Ashburton TQ13 7DT

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