



WEALDEN



A Picnic at Pevensey Castle

17 August 2025



musicboxwealden.co.uk
Classical music on your doorstep



MUSIC BOX

WEALDEN

MUSIC BOX WEALDEN

MUSIC BOX WEALDEN is the brainchild of local pianist William Hancox. After many years performing, recording and teaching throughout the UK and around the world, he became convinced of the importance of developing a model which makes it easier to bring together musicians and concertgoers in their own communities.

Localism and sustainability are central to the Music Box vision. We provide a varied programme of classical music to all kinds of venues across the area, with many performers drawn from the wide pool of talented professional musicians who live locally.

We're looking to make a contribution to the musical health of our community and help to make sure that this vital part of our culture is still alive and well for future generations to enjoy.

musicboxwealden.co.uk

keeping it local, keeping it live



WELCOME TO PEVENSEY CASTLE

17 AUGUST 2025

Music Box Wealden is delighted to present
this musical picnic at Pevensey Castle at the
invitation of English Heritage.


We're thrilled to announce this is Music Box
Wealden's 33rd concert since our launch in 2023!

Your incredible response has shown us there's a real
need for live, local classical music in our community,
and we're so glad to be helping to fulfil it.

North Tower
ENSEMBLE FARONEL
Medieval and Renaissance music

South Tower
GIGI AND KITTY CASEY
Duets and Arias

East Tower
RACHEL FIRMAGER
Solo Cello



Quiz

with
one
FREE
Drink

RAFFLE!

A Music Quiz with a difference...

MUSIC
BOX

WEALDEN

A friendly, informal, wide-ranging musical quiz night. You don't have to be a serious music buff – enjoy pitting your wits against questions on general musical knowledge, the shows, classical and film music.

But it's not just your average music quiz! Three local musicians will bring you live musical clues – your host **Rosie Page** (mezzo soprano), **Noa Lachman** (soprano) and **William Hancox** (piano).

20 September 2025, 6pm*

Herstmonceux Village Hall BN27 4JX

£12 entry

One FREE drink included

Bring your own picnic

*Doors and bar open at 6pm,
the Quiz starts at 7pm

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ENSEMBLE FARONEL

Medieval and Renaissance music

David Force, Ruth Force
and Michael Withers

ENSEMBLE FARONEL

Faronel have been exploring vocal and instrumental repertoire of the Medieval and Renaissance periods as an ensemble for some 17 years.

Collectively, they play over 20 different types of instruments in repertoire spanning from the 11th to the early 17th centuries.

They perform in a wide variety of venues from drawing rooms to castles, for festivals, music societies and in educational contexts, and their recording work has featured in projects ranging from radio plays to a chart-topping Indie rock album.

More information may be found on their website (www.faronel.co.uk) and YouTube channel (type 'Faronel' in the search bar). Watch out for their next CD recording, which is scheduled to be released this autumn.

PROGRAMME

All's fair in love and war
songs of battle and courtly romance

The Agincourt Carol
ENGLISH (15TH CENTURY)
Voices, Soprano Shawm, Soprano and Alto Renaissance Recorders

Ah, Robin!
WILLIAM CORNYSH (1465-1523)
Voices, Alto, Tenor and Bass Renaissance Recorders

Il sera pour vous combatu/L'homme armé
ANON. (C.1470) ATTRIB. OCKEGHEM
Voices

Wherto shuld I expresse?
HENRY VIII (1491-1547)
Voices, Renaissance Recorders, Drum

Pavane et Galliarde de la Guerre
CLAUDE GERVAISE (C.1510-C.1558)
Tenor and Bass Cornamusen, Great Bass Rackett

C'est la fin quoi que nus die, j'amerai
GUILLAUME D'AMIENS
(FL. LATE 13TH CENTURY)
Voices, Dудey, Medieval Recorders



Royal Opera House
Covent Garden, London

An Evening at the Opera at Michelham Priory

A fun-filled evening of arias, duets and ensembles from your favourite operas, performed by four well-known local singers in the stunning Elizabethan barn at Michelham Priory.

2 November 2025, 5pm

Michelham Priory, Hailsham BN27 3QS

£15 entry

FREE to Music Box Wealden members
and under 18s



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GIGI & KITTY CASEY

Duets and Arias from

PROGRAMME

The Marriage of Figaro
MOZART

Così Fan Tutte
MOZART

Hansel and Gretel
HUMPERDINCK

Der Freischütz
WEBER

Falstaff
VERDI

Lakmé
DELIBES

GIGI CASEY

Sussex soprano Gigi Casey is studying for her Master's with scholarship at the RCM with Dinah Harris.

At Junior RAM, she won the Ann Lampard song prize, then achieved 1st class honours at the RNCM, where she took numerous operatic roles.

She won the 2023 Dame Felicity Lott Recital Competition and the Junior Charles Wood Song Prize in 2024 and successfully auditioned for the prestigious International Summer Academy of the University for Music and Performing Arts in Vienna 2023.

She was a Belle Île Young Artist for the Lyrique En Mer Festival in 2024.

She was thrilled to join the inaugural Academy at the National Opera Studio in 2025.

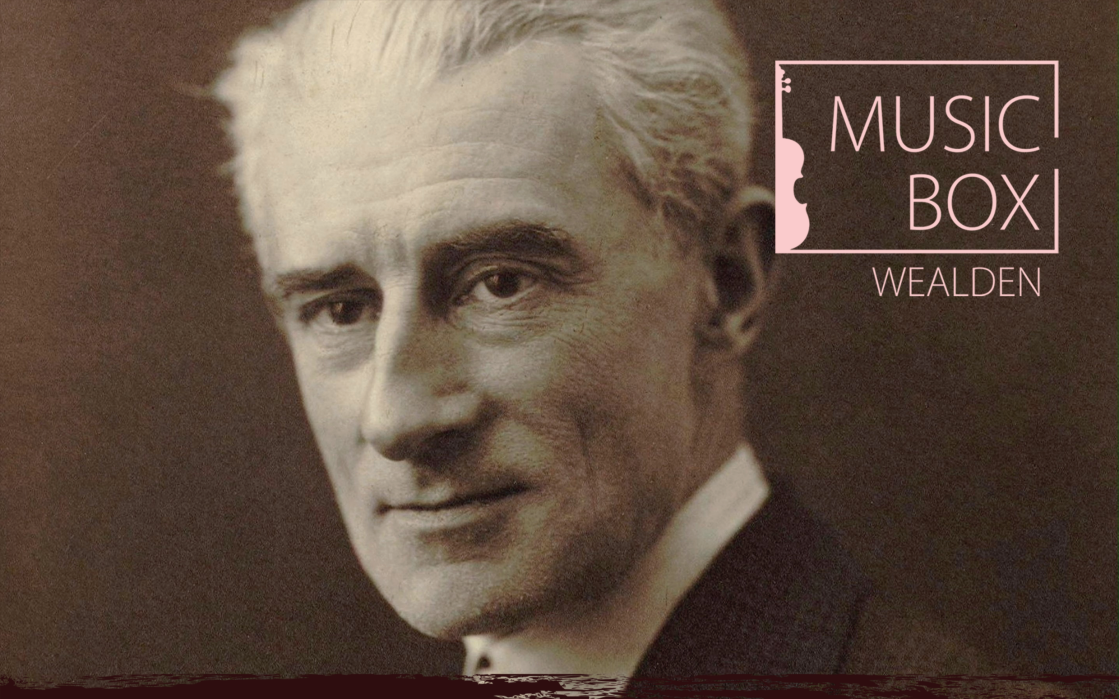
KITTY CASEY

Kitty Casey (soprano) studies with Linda Richardson at the RNCM, supported by the Countess of Munster Trust and the Sybil Tutton Opera Award.

In 2023, Kitty was a Belle Île Young Artist for the Lyrique En Mer Festival, sang the Sandman in 2024 at Hampstead Garden Opera (Hansel and Gretel) and understudied the principal role of Lola in Jonathan Dove's Uprising at Glyndebourne in 2025.

Awarded the Dame Felicity Lott scholarship for excellence in performance in 2022, she is also the 2024 winner of the Dame Felicity Lott recital prize, as part of the Springboard Festival.

This summer Kitty performed as a young artist at Buxton International Opera Festival.



WEALDEN

Maurice Ravel
Bibliothèque nationale de France

The Wealden Trio at Michelham Priory

The **Wealden Trio** returns for a concert to include the superb piano trio by **Ravel**, in the year which marks the 150th anniversary of his birth. The programme will also include **Fauré's** late Trio in D minor.

1 November 2025, 7.30pm

Michelham Priory, Hailsham BN27 3QS

£14 entry

FREE to Music Box Wealden members
and under 18s



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RACHEL FIRMAGER PROGRAMME

Solo Cello

JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH
(1685–1750)Suite No. 1 in G major, BWV 1007
from The six Cello Suites for solo celloPrelude
Allemande
Courante
Sarabande
Minuet I / II
Gigue

RACHEL FIRMAGER

Rachel Firmager grew up in Sussex and learnt the cello with Ian Gill before furthering her studies at Durham University and the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. Love of chamber music led her to postgraduate study with Jane Salmon and the Schubert Ensemble, and later with Adrian Shepherd.

Projects over the years have included work with One Voice, New Music Brighton, Bergersen Quartet and Hyperion Ensemble. She gave recitals in venues such as Fairfield Halls, Croydon, the Brighton Pavilion and Chapel Royal. Her work with the Hilser Trio took her over much of Europe, even as far north as Svalbard!

She currently plays in the Wealden Trio with William Hancox and Jonathan Truscott, with the Sussex String Quartet and she freelances as an orchestral musician.

In 2016 she graduated as an Alexander Technique teacher and she runs a private studio in Hastings alongside her cello teaching practice at Brighton College.



WEALDEN

SUPPORT US

Music Box Wealden is a community-focused social enterprise bringing high-quality classical music to the heart of rural East Sussex.

We create meaningful partnerships between local music lovers and musicians, offering a stage for performers to share their talents with audiences in their own communities.

Our mission is to enrich the cultural life of the Wealden area by making classical music more accessible, more local, and more personal — all while supporting and celebrating the artists who live and work here.

ONE-OFF DONATIONS

Every contribution, large or small, makes a difference.

Make a quick card payment today
or visit our website to donate online.



DONATIONS

BECOME A MEMBER

Join the Music Box community
and enjoy all our concerts for free.

Solo Membership – £8 per month
Joint Membership – £14 per month



MEMBERSHIP

Your regular support gives us a foundation
to plan confidently and grow sustainably.

SUPPORT LIVE MUSIC

We've been overwhelmed by the enthusiasm for our concerts and encouraged by the many people asking how they can support Music Box.

If you'd like to help us continue presenting inspiring performances in intimate and welcoming settings, here are some simple and meaningful ways to get involved.

Music Box is a not-for-profit organisation. Every contribution helps us cover the real costs of live music – from the cups of teas to the performer fees – and ensures we can continue to welcome audiences of all ages and backgrounds.

SPONSOR A CONCERT

Looking for a more personal way to support us? Choose something meaningful to you:

- Sponsor the Refreshments – £50
- Sponsor Programme Printing – £100
- Sponsor the Venue – £250
- Sponsor an Artist – £350
- Sponsor the Grand Piano – £800

We'll thank you in our printed programme and online – or keep your support anonymous if you prefer.

GIFT-IN-KIND SUPPORT

Do you have time, skills or resources you could offer? We welcome practical help or professional expertise in any form - from setting up venues and greeting guests to offering lifts, baking cakes, or providing items like flowers or tableware. If you have time or resources to share, we'd love to hear from you.

HOST A MUSIC BOX CONCERT

Do you live in a home or venue that could host a concert? We're always looking for atmospheric, friendly spaces to present live performances. Let's talk.

SPREAD THE WORD

Invite a friend. Share our events online. Leave a review. Your voice helps us reach new audiences and grow our community.

THANK YOU

With your help, we can keep the music playing in Wealden for both audiences and performers – intimate, inspiring, and open to all.

musicboxwealden.co.uk | support@musicboxwealden.co.uk

YOU ARE IN GROUP:

A

B

C

17.20

FIRST CONCERT

Group A: North Tower

Group B: South Tower

Group C: East Tower

PICNIC

18.30

SECOND CONCERT

Group B: North Tower

Group C: South Tower

Group A: East Tower

INTERVAL

19.20

THIRD CONCERT

Group C: North Tower

Group A: South Tower

Group B: East Tower

FINISH



JOIN US

Join a vibrant, friendly and sustainable community of music lovers. Become a Member and gain free access to all our concerts in exchange for one monthly subscription.



View details of
all our events at

musicboxwealden.co.uk

NEXT EVENTS

20 September 2025, 6pm
A Music Quiz with a Difference...
at Herstmonceux Village Hall
BN27 4JX

5 October 2025, 3pm
Paul Gregory – Guitar Recital
at Michelham Priory BN27 3QS

1 November 2025, 7.30pm
The Wealden Trio
at Michelham Priory BN27 3QS