



MUSIC  
BOX  
WEALDEN

# Scenes from The Savoy

a feast of stories, sights and song

Louise Winter mezzo soprano  
Karen Drury actress  
William Hancox pianist

**17 May 2026**

The Ballroom, Herstmonceux Castle  
BN27 1RN

MUSIC  
BOX  
WEALDEN

[musicboxwealden.co.uk](http://musicboxwealden.co.uk)  
*Classical music on your doorstep*



# Planning an event?

Host your event in one of Sussex's most distinctive settings

From weddings and private celebrations to conferences, performances, and corporate events, Herstmonceux Castle Estate offers historic spaces, beautiful grounds, and a setting your guests will remember.

Whether you already have a clear vision or are just starting to explore ideas, our team can help you plan and shape your event. We work closely with organisers to bring your event to life – from layout and logistics to full planning and creation of memorable experiences across the estate grounds.

The estate – with a 15th-century castle set within woodland, gardens, wildflower meadows, and walking routes – combines heritage and natural beauty, and offers plenty of options and flexibility for a wide range of events.

Email: [bc.events@queensu.ca](mailto:bc.events@queensu.ca) or visit: [herstmonceux-castle.com](http://herstmonceux-castle.com)



**HERSTMONCEUX  
CASTLE ESTATE**

# WELCOME

Opened in 1889 by Richard D'Oyly Carte, the impresario who promoted Gilbert and Sullivan at his Savoy Theatre, the hotel has ever since played host to a throng of legendary characters, painters, politicians, musicians, writers, film stars and society figures.

Oscar Wilde, Nellie Melba, Lily Langtry, Ernest Hemingway, James Whistler, Claude Monet, Emile Zola, Sarah Bernhardt, Arnold Bennett, Noel Coward, George Gershwin....the list of celebrities who strolled through the famous revolving doors goes on and on.

Join us as we glimpse the stories, the scandals, the tragedies, the fine dining and the music which have made up the life of this fabled hotel for more than 130 years.

An Evening of English Song



# 2026 FINAL

**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May  
at 6.30pm**

**Abbot's Hall, Battle Abbey  
School, TN33 0AD**

**Judges include  
Sir Thomas Allen CBE  
Sophie Bevan MBE**



Scan the QR code to purchase tickets from TryBooking (£18/£10 for under 18s) OR from Rother Books (cash only) OR £20/£10 on the door, which opens at 5:45pm

Registered Charity No. 1206193  
[www.ashburnhamenglishsongawards.co.uk](http://www.ashburnhamenglishsongawards.co.uk)

## LOUISE WINTER mezzo soprano



Louise Winter was born in Preston, Lancashire, and studied at the Royal Northern College of Music. She made her début in 1982 with Glyndebourne Touring Opera as Dorabella *Così fan tutte* and subsequently sang Tisbe *La Cenerentola*, Zerlina *Don Giovanni*, and Rosina *Il barbiere di Siviglia* for the company.

In recent years roles have included Marcellina (Royal Opera House/Grange Festival), Governess *Queen of Spades* (Royal Opera House), Maya in Howard Moody's *Agreed* and Gertrude in Brett Dean's *Hamlet* (Glyndebourne), Madame Larina *Eugene Onegin* and Håta *The Bartered Bride* (Garsington Opera), Anaide in Leoncavallo's *Zazà* (Opera Holland Park), Wife in Mark-Anthony Turnage's *Greek* with Music Theatre Wales at the Linbury and on tour in the UK and Korea, Kabanicha *Katya Kabanova* (Longborough), Madame de la Haltière *Cendrillon* and Ragonde *Le Comte Ory* (Blackheath Concert Halls). In July 2021, she made her role debut as Mistress Quickly (Scottish Opera), and in 2023 she returned to Scottish Opera to sing La Frugola *Il Tabarro* and Zita Gianni Schicchi in Sir David McVicar's new production of *Il Trittico*. She recently sang Mistress Quickly for Opera North.

She created the roles of Pilar in David Sawyer's *The Skating Rink* (Garsington Opera), Susan in Huw Watkins In the *Locked Room* (a co-production between Music Theatre Wales and Scottish Opera), and gave the world premiere of Charlotte Bray's *Out of the Ruins* for mezzo-soprano, youth chorus and orchestra at a Gala Concert for the Royal Opera House.

Previously she has sung title role Carmen and Marguerite *La Damnation de Faust* (English National Opera), Olga *Eugene Onegin* (ROH/Canadian Opera Company/Glyndebourne), Sesto *La clemenza di Tito*, Edwige Rodelinda, Varvara *Katya Kabanova*, Pauline *Queen of Spades* (Glyndebourne), Brangäne *Tristan und Isolde*, Venus *Tannhäuser* and Lady Macbeth in Ernst Bloch's *Macbeth* (Frankfurt), Preziosilla *La Forza del Destino* (Rouen).

Louise Winter has sung with many of the world's leading orchestras and conductors including the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra under Sir Simon Rattle, the BBC Symphony Orchestra under Sir Andrew Davis, the Hallé Orchestra under Mark Elder, the Philharmonia Orchestra under Sir Charles Mackerras, and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra under Carlo Rizzi. She has taken part in many BBC Proms concerts. As a recitalist, she has appeared at the Wigmore Hall, St John's, Smith Square, the Théâtre du Châtelet, the Bath, Belfast, and City of London Festivals and at the Amsterdam Concertgebouw.

Her recordings include the complete songs of Frank Bridge for Hyperion, and Haydn Masses under Richard Hickox for Chaconne. Performances on DVD include the Goddess Diana La Calisto conducted by René Jacobs.

She lives in Sussex and is the the creator and artistic director of the Ashburnham English Song Awards (President Dame Felicity Lott), which will take place on May 27th 2026.



# Tango 44

at The Secret Vineyard

Revel in the explosive dance music of Argentina, explore the vineyard and the lake and enjoy a taster glass of artisan wine.

**6 June 2026, 6pm**

The Secret Vineyard, Lime Cross Nursery, Herstmonceux BN27 4RS

**£24 entry**



# Peter and the Wolf

A musical tale for children

Children are invited to join in a performance of this timeless children's classic.

*Toby Sims narrator*

*William Hancox piano*

*Noa Lachman props and puppets*

**7 June 2026, 3pm**

The Secret Vineyard,

Lime Cross Nursery, Herstmonceux BN27 4RS

**FREE for children**

**£5 for adults**



Recital for Violin and Piano  
with Richart van Zyl

The exciting young local violinist **Richart van Zyl** is joined by pianist **William Hancox** for a recital which will include the *Violin Sonata* by Poulenc and Ravel's *Sonate Posthume*.

**19 July 2026, 5pm**

The Church of St Peter & St Paul  
Hellingly BN27 4HA

**£12**

**FREE** to MBW Members  
and under 18s



**KAREN DRURY**  
actress

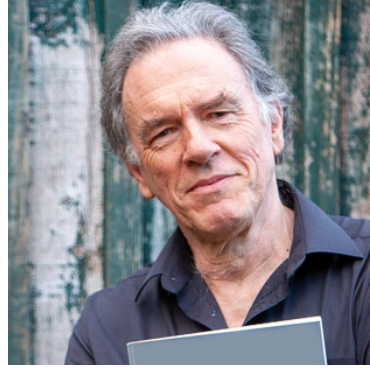
After training at RADA, Karen Drury worked extensively in the theatre in classical and comedy roles working with Nicholas Hytner and Alan Ayckbourn, favourite roles being Natalya Petrovna in Turgenev's *A Month in the Country* and Laura in *Brief Encounter*.

Television work includes David Nobbs *A Bit of A Do* and the ill fated Susannah in *Brookside* for which she was nominated for a BAFTA.

Film work includes Attenborough's *Cry Freedom* and *Still Life* with Eddie Marsan.

**RUPERT SHEPPARD**  
cello

Rupert Sheppard is an accomplished cellist at Battle Abbey School, holding Grade 8 Distinction in cello and piano. His accolades include Gold Medal and String Recital awards at the Hastings Musical Festival. Notable performances include solo roles with the Hastings Sinfonia and Whatlington Singers. Currently at the Junior Guildhall School of Music & Drama, Rupert has extensive experience with the Sussex Concert and Junior Guildhall Symphony Orchestras. He is a dedicated solo and chamber performer within the classical music scene.



**WILLIAM HANCOX**  
piano

After a degree at Cambridge, William studied with the Hungarian pianist Joseph Weingarten, himself a student of Dohnanyi, Bartok and Kodaly. He has performed in major venues as a soloist, chamber musician and accompanist throughout the UK and internationally, broadcast for Classic FM and the BBC and made a number of CD recordings. He has held staff pianist positions at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, Trinity College of Music and the BrittenPears School in Aldeburgh. William has performed throughout Europe and made several trips to China, giving masterclasses, song recitals, solo recitals and concerts in the Forbidden City Concert Hall in Beijing.

He has also worked extensively as a vocal coach with many students now pursuing successful singing careers. William lives in East Sussex and is deeply involved in live music making in his own community. For many years he was pianist and artistic director of Music at Lime, a chamber music series in Herstmonceux, and he is the accompanist for Hailsham Choral Society and Laughton Village Choir.

His most recent project is Music Box Wealden, with ambitious plans to bring more quality classical music into the heart of this largely rural community

## NEXT CONCERTS

6 June 2026, 6pm

### **Tango at The Secret Vineyard**

at The Secret Vineyard  
Lime Cross Nursery, Herstmonceux,  
Hailsham BN27 4RS

7 June 2026, 3pm

### **Peter and The Wolf**

at The Secret Vineyard  
Lime Cross Nursery, Herstmonceux,  
Hailsham BN27 4RS

19 July 2026, 5pm

### **Recital for Violin and Piano**

at The Church of St Peter and St Paul,  
Church Lane, Hellingly,  
Hailsham BN27 4HA

## 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](https://musicboxwealden.co.uk)

---

