

Silly Old Bear

100 Years of Winnie the Pooh

14 November 2026

The Long Room, Michael Hall School, Kidbrooke Park, Forest Row

MUSIC BOX WEALDEN

musicboxwealden.co.uk

Classical music on your doorstep

CHIARA VINCI soprano

French-Italian soprano Chiara Vinci is an interdisciplinary artist working across opera, dance and theatre, alongside educational and collaborative projects internationally. Recent collaborations include Welsh National Opera, Scottish Opera, Royal Ballet and Opera, Seaglass Arts and Barefoot Opera.

Highlights include the UK premiere of Osvaldo Golijov's ***Ainadamar*** and performing Lyra in Seaglass Arts' interactive baby opera ***Catch a Sea Star*** at Hamburg's Elbphilharmonie and the Royal Opera House. Chiara recently directed and co-created ***Fly with the Valkyries***, an immersive family opera with composer Lucy Mulgan. Forthcoming projects include ***Songs for Survivors of the 21st Century*** and ***Dream Forest***.

BEN WATSON actor

Ben trained at The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama and the National Youth Theatre. His theatre credits include ***Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em*** (UK Tour), ***I Capture the Castle***, ***The Jungle Book***, ***Who's Harry?*** (Fringe First Winner), ***Mrs Warren's Profession*** and ***Oedipus***, alongside numerous pantomimes. Film and television work includes ***The Mystery of Marilyn Monroe*** (Netflix), ***Ten Minutes*** (Cannes) and CBBC presenting.

Ben created ***The History of (Almost) Everything*** and ***Mind the Monsters*** for Oxford Playhouse. He has performed as comic in White Rock Theatre's Hastings pantomimes since 2012. Directing credits include ***Matilda***, ***Annie***, ***Oliver!*** and ***Grease***.

WILLIAM HANCOX piano

Following a degree at Cambridge, William studied with Joseph Weingarten, a pupil of Dohnányi, Bartók and Kodály. He has performed extensively as a soloist and chamber musician in the UK and internationally, broadcasting on Classic FM and the BBC.

He has held staff pianist positions at the Guildhall School, Trinity College of Music and the Britten-Pears School, Aldeburgh, and performed and given masterclasses across Europe and China, including at Beijing's Forbidden City Concert Hall. An experienced vocal coach, recent projects include recording Nicholas Smith's Love, Friendship and Longing, recitals with mezzo-soprano Louise Winter, and English song recordings with soprano Lorna Windsor.

SILLY OLD BEAR
100 YEARS OF WINNIE THE POOH

All three of us have loved the Winnie-the-Pooh stories since childhood, and we expect that you, our audience, will have loved them too - so today we'd like to share some readings, some laughter and a little nostalgia perhaps - and some music which we've chosen in the light of some of the themes which emerged as we immersed ourselves once again in the world of Christopher Robin and his bear.

THE MUSIC

FRASER-SIMSON *Halfway Down*

CHAUSSON *Dans la forêt du charme et de l'enchantement*

FRASER-SIMSON *Missing*

FRASER-SIMSON *The Christening*

RICHARD STRAUSS *Meinem Kinde*

FRASER-SIMSON *Lines and Squares*

SAINT-SAËNS *The Swan (Carnival of the Animals)*
arr. ALEXANDER SILOTI

FRASER-SIMSON *Politeness*

RICHARD STRAUSS *Schlechtes Wetter*

WOLF *Lied vom Winde*

FRASER-SIMSON *Happiness*

DEBUSSY *Il pleure dans mon coeur*
from *Preludes Book 1*

DEBUSSY *Jardins sous la pluie*

DEBUSSY *Des pas sur la neige*

FAURÉ *Au bord de l'eau*

FRASER-SIMSON *Vespers*

THE WORDS

From ***Now We Are Six*** A.A. MILNE

- *The Charcoal Burner*
- *Furry Bear*
- *The Good Little Girl*
- *In The Dark*

Plus excerpts from:
How To Be An Alien GEORGE MIKES
Winnie-the-Pooh A.A. MILNE
The House at Pooh Corner A.A. MILNE

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A GLASS OF WINE AFTER THE CONCERT.

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.

NEXT CONCERTS

6 December 2026, 3pm
Christmas Voices by Candlelight
St. Andrew's
Alfriston BN26 5TL

21 February 2027, 3pm
The Circle and the Serpent
A Harpsichord Recital
St Michael & All Angels Church
Berwick, Polegate BN26 6SR

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keeping it local, keeping it live