

## The Torbay Musical Weekend

Attending TMW is a very agreeable way to spend a winter weekend away from home before the pre-Christmas rush, listening to music in comfortable surroundings amongst congenial companions who share your interests and tastes. That is the secret behind the Torbay Musical Weekend and one of the reasons for its remarkable success.

For well over 50 years music-lovers have gathered in Torquay every mid-November to meet old friends and make new ones, and to listen and talk to a wide variety of people from the world of music, such as critics, performers, composers, broadcasters, presenters and writers.

Good food, good company, good music – who could ask for anything more?

At TMW, the audio and video presentations will again be played over equipment of the highest quality including ProAc, Crimson Electronics, Sony, Denon and Soundcraft.

The Grand Hotel offers many indoor and outdoor attractions as well as superior accommodation and quality service.

Programme details are correct at the time of going to print but are subject to alteration without notice. The Friends of Torbay cannot accept responsibility for any loss or damage of any kind resulting from changes to this printed programme.

For the latest news about TMW and the Friends of Torbay go to: [www.fot.org.uk](http://www.fot.org.uk) where you will find the booking form for this event. Our website is regularly updated with the latest news about TMW and details about the Friends. Please contact us (via the website) if you have any views, news or other items of interest to the Friends – we would be delighted to hear from you.

Recorders and flash photography may not be used during presentations without the prior permission of the organisers and the presenters/recitalists.

Please ensure that all mobile phones/electronic devices are either switched off, or are on 'silent'.

## The Friends of Torbay

The annual Torbay Musical Weekend, started in 1970 by the then Torbay Gramophone Society, has for many years been run by the Friends of Torbay. This is a non-profit-making body established in 1983 which, by its Constitution, supports Help Musicians (the working name of the Musicians' Benevolent Fund). Robert 'Bob' Hardcastle was the founder, first Chairman and then first President of the Friends.

After Bob's tenure, Barry Miller took over the Chairmanship, handing over to John Isaac in 2012. The current members of the Management Committee are:

John Isaac, <i>Chairman</i>	Technical Team:
Gillian Babbs	Ken Geen
Chris Babbs	Paul Whittle
Ian Bailey	Veronica Whittle
Maureen Greenhouse	
Lesley Orson	
Kevin Valerian Ryland	

## Friends of Torbay Subscription

A non-returnable subscription of £95 per person is payable to the Friends of Torbay by all those who wish to attend the whole of the Musical Weekend. This applies to residents of the Grand Hotel and to visitors.

## Residents

The Grand Hotel offers 2 options for TMW 2024:  
A £395.00 per person Friday dinner to Monday breakfast  
B £325.00 per person Friday dinner to Sunday lunch  
These rates include VAT. Bookings are made through the Friends of Torbay, but your contract is with the Grand Hotel which requires a £50 per head deposit on booking. Please settle your bill on departure, making payment to the Grand Hotel and not to the Friends.

## Visitors

Visitors' session tickets are available from Gillian Babbs on [gillianbabbs23@gmail.com](mailto:gillianbabbs23@gmail.com) or from Kevin Valerian Ryland on 01803 406754 or [kevinryland45@gmail.com](mailto:kevinryland45@gmail.com)

Visitors requiring lunch or dinner in the Grand Hotel, call 01803 296677. The Hotel bars are open to all during normal hours.

The Friends  
of Torbay



# Torbay Musical Weekend

Friday 15 – Monday 18  
November 2024

## THE GRAND HOTEL

Sea Front, Torbay Road, Torquay TQ2 6NT

01803 296677

<https://www.grandtorquay.co.uk>

The Friends of Torbay

[www.fot.org.uk](http://www.fot.org.uk)

# Programme

## Friday

**6.00-7.00 pm** **Welcome Reception**  
We extend a very warm welcome to members old and new to our 54th Torbay Musical Weekend. TMW aims to provide a relaxing weekend with the opportunity to meet new friends and renew old acquaintances. Come to the Welcome Reception in the Devonshire Suite where wine and soft drinks will be served and start the Weekend in a most convivial way.

**7.00-8.30 pm** **Dinner**  
**8.30-10.00 pm approx.** **The Torbay Recital 1**  
Celebrated classical guitarist **John Mills** and cello soloist **Andrew Fuller** present *Latin Serenade*, a musical tour of Spain and Latin America. From flamenco to tango and classical Spanish guitar to bossa nova, the recital will feature music by de Falla, Granados, Piazzolla, Villa-Lobos, Casals and Cassadó from their recent CD release on Meridian Records.

The first half also includes their transcription of Schubert's masterpiece, the *Arpeggione Sonata*.

## Saturday

**7.30-9.00 am** **Breakfast**  
**9.30-11.00 am** **100 years on the concert platform**  
**John Mills** and **Andrew Fuller** discuss their musical life over the last half-century. From Segovia and Julian Bream to Yehudi Menuhin and Previn, they relate the highs and lows, triumphs and disasters of their lives as touring musicians, including introductions to, and demonstrations of, their instruments.

**11.00-11.30 am** **Coffee**  
**11.30-1.00 pm** **Guitars - Made and Played**  
Guitar-maker and composer **Laurie Burn** will give an illustrated talk with humorous anecdotes, based on his experiences of learning first to play then to build guitars. Laurie will show photos of guitars in construction as well as playing examples of his favourite folk, ragtime and blues music.

**1.15-2.30 pm** **Lunch**  
**2.30-4.00 pm** **Free Session**  
This year we have again set aside a free session to give a more relaxed feel to the Weekend. Spend it as the mood takes you – Christmas shopping in Torquay, chatting and drinking in the Hotel's lounges and bar or, maybe, an afternoon nap?!

**4.00-4.30 pm** **Tea**  
**4.30-6.00 pm** **'The Sorcerer of Bayreuth'**  
Richard Wagner was without question one of the most influential artists who ever lived, and his influence was enormous and divisive from the late 19th century and into the 20th. **David Bednall** will show that this influence is still felt today and extends from music through to the presentation of film in the cinema. Whilst few would doubt Wagner's musical genius, the works still have a reputation for being impenetrable and difficult, and his personal life was controversial.

David will explore one of the most important cultural figures of all time for beginners and true Wagnerians alike - an opportunity to be converted or extend your knowledge and understanding of the methods and language of this most deified, demonized, and divisive genius.

**7.00-8.30 pm** **Dinner**  
**8.30-10.00 pm approx.** **'Baroque on a Roll!'**

**Tony Rawlins** will describe how classical music has enhanced the drama/tension/romance of feature films; how it has made some TV commercials really memorable and how a work by an obscure 17th century German composer has become our chosen Number 1 music for weddings and funerals. Also, how the internet has assembled and recorded a choir of over 8,000 singers from 120 countries – without any of them ever having to leave their homes, and, how classical music's melodies and chord sequences have been borrowed for a huge number of popular hits. Tony will demonstrate by singing and playing the guitar.

## Sunday

**7.30-9.00 am** **Breakfast**  
**10.00-10.30 am** **The Friends of Torbay AGM**  
Come to the Annual General Meeting in the Devonshire Suite for a critical discussion about the future of the TMW.

**11.00-11.30 am** **Coffee**  
**11.30-1.00 pm** **Alan Hovhaness - American Symphonist**  
Alan Hovhaness was an American-born Armenian composer of prodigious output. **Dr Stephen Wright** will explain how no single presentation could ever do justice to the enormous range and variety of the composer's 653 catalogued works. Nor, indeed to his 67 symphonies. Stephen will play movements from his early symphonies and from his later such works.

**1.15-2.30 pm** **Lunch**  
**2.30-4.00 pm** **Schubert's Unfinished Business**  
Schubert's prolific output contains a considerable number of unfinished works, ranging from symphonies to quartets and sonatas. In his presentation **David Threasher** hopes to uncover some forgotten fragmentary gems and look at the myriad ways in which performers have attempted to make them available to the listening public.

**4.00-4.30 pm** **Tea**  
**4.30-6.00 pm** **Tales from Vienna**  
Mozart, Haydn, Gluck, Beethoven, Schubert, Brahms, Strauss, Mahler, Bruckner, Schoenberg – it reads like a list of the great and good in classical music – but the amazing thing is that every one of these musical geniuses lived and worked in Vienna. So just what was it about Vienna? What were the special qualities that enabled one city to foster such a golden age for music? **Emma Johnson** reveals that this explosion of talent applied to visual art, architecture, science and politics too, all of which blossomed and developed in 19th century Vienna, sowing the seeds of modernism in each of those fields. As we'll hear during this talk, Vienna's proximity to nature, its politics and burgeoning middle classes were all factors in its cultural blossoming, but most important was Vienna's geographical location at the heart of the Habsburg Empire. With slides showing Viennese art and architecture as well as music by Mozart, Beethoven, Brahms, Schubert and Johann Strauss, this talk brings to life Vienna in its heyday.

**7.00-8.30 pm** **Dinner**  
**8.30-10.00 pm approx.** **The Torbay Recital 2**  
Making a very welcome return visit after closing last year's Torbay Musical Weekend, harpist **Fiona Hosford** will again entertain us with a varied programme. Fiona's recital will feature a wide range of music - a sublime and exciting mix of Classical, Harp and Jazz pieces... all with accompanying anecdotes and all delivered in her own inimitable way.

**10.00 pm approx.** **John Isaac - Closing words**

## Monday

**7.30-10.00 am** **Breakfast**