

THU 26 SEP



Fauré's Requiem and Ravel's Bolero by Candlelight

BRISTOL ENSEMBLE &
FITZHARDINGE CONSORT

Programme

Maurice Ravel (1875—1937)

Boléro (1928)

Boléro by Maurice Ravel is a one-movement orchestral piece that stands as one of the most recognizable works in classical music. Composed in 1928, it was originally commissioned by the Russian dancer Ida Rubinstein as a ballet. The piece is known for its hypnotic rhythm and gradual crescendo, starting softly and building to a powerful climax.

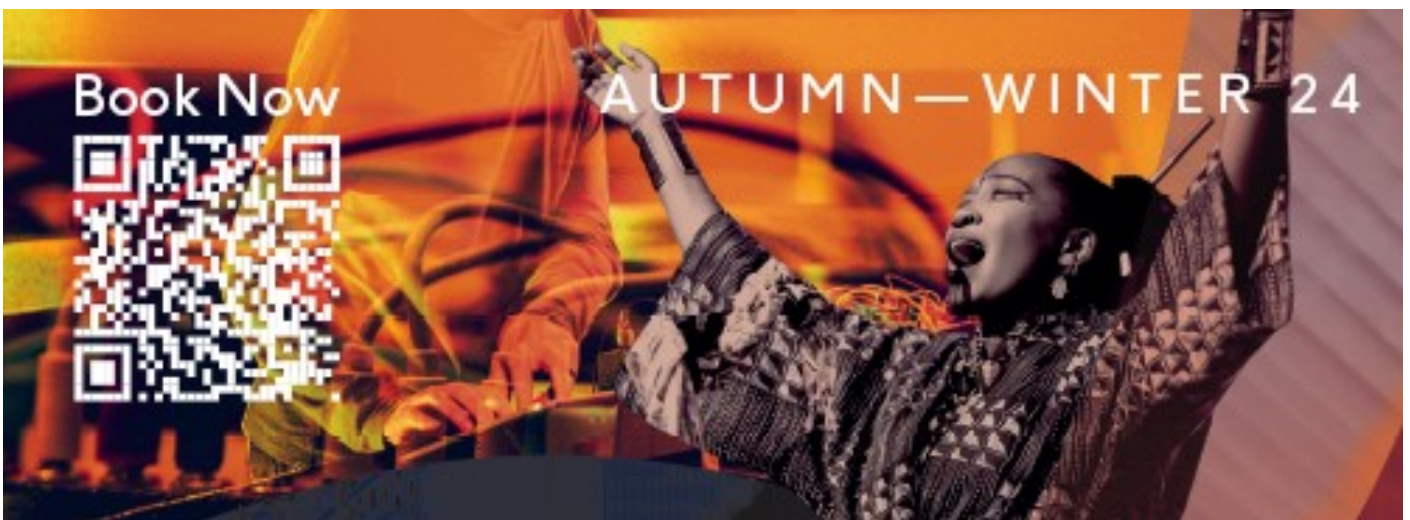
Despite its simplicity, *Boléro's* innovative orchestration and dynamic progression have made it a staple in both concert halls and popular culture. It remains a testament to Ravel's genius in creating a piece that is both straightforward and profoundly impactful.

Gabriel Fauré (1845—1924)

Requiem (1887—1890)

Unusually gentle for a requiem mass, the work is often reminiscent of the composer's best-known work, the restful and graceful *Pavane* of 1887. Fauré himself described his *Requiem* as "a lullaby of death," in part inspired by the death of his parents in the 1880s.

The *Requiem* holds some of the most beautiful and recognisable melodies the composer ever wrote. Far from the sombre tone of many requiems it evokes a serene, very human sense of wonder grounded in a vast, celestial universe.



Bristol Ensemble

Roger Huckle Chief Executive, Violin
Simon Kodurand Artistic Director, Violin

Since its foundation in 1994, by violinist and Chief Executive Roger Huckle, the Bristol Ensemble has been at the forefront of musical life in Bristol and the Southwest.

Versatility is one of Bristol Ensemble's greatest attributes. Bristol Ensemble is a collective of specialists that collaborate to provide the highest calibre of performance for a wide range of audiences.

From the music of the 17th century, performed on original instruments, through to contemporary composition and experimental music, the ensemble has a busy schedule of concerts in Bristol and the West of England, in addition to its regular concert series in Henleaze and Nailsworth. It is also the resident orchestra with If Opera in Bradford-on-Avon.

Over the past quarter of a century, Bristol Ensemble has presented countless world-class performances and has collaborated with many of the finest international performers.

Notable partnerships have included Nicola Benedetti, Dame Evelyn Glennie, Freddy Kempf, Peter Donohoe, Andrei Gavrilov, Chloë Hanslip, Matthew Barley, Alan Schiller, Willard White, Emma Kirkby, James Bowman, Andy Shephard, Wayne Marshall, Leslie Garrett, Emma Johnson, Natalia Lomeiko and Gabriel Prokofiev.

Equally at home in the recording studio as well as the concert hall, Bristol Ensemble has had a long-standing relationship with the BBC Natural History Unit, providing numerous soundtracks such as the David Attenborough series *Life in Cold Blood*, along with countless commercial engagements. Recent recordings include music for award-winning productions such as Aardman Animations *Star Wars Vision (I Am Your Mother)*, Channel 4's *Any Human Heart*, and the 2021 Aardman Animation film *Robin Robin*.

Bristol Ensemble is committed to its charitable work within Bristol and the wider community. It regularly works with local charities presenting fundraising concerts and events, and its Preludes Music team works tirelessly delivering musical opportunities to more than 3000 children each year.

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Fitzhardinge Consort

Peter Wagstaff Director

Since its first concert in April 2000, the Fitzhardinge Consort has undergone a number of transformations and served a number of purposes. Now, its primary purpose is to bring international-standard, rarely-performed choral music to the South West of England and beyond. On top of this, though, the choir has an ambitious programme of charity, education and outreach work in the pipeline, designed to bring music to those that need it most but hear it least.

The choir sings regularly across the region to great critical acclaim, and has quickly become known for its exciting and original interpretations of Renaissance and Baroque music, as well as new works of living composers.

The choir consists of professional musicians from the across the West of England and South Wales. Current members have sung with the Tallis Scholars, the choirs of St Paul's Cathedral and Westminster Abbey, and in lead roles on the stages of Covent Garden and Glyndebourne.

Fitzhardinge is committed to encouraging young musicians, and a handful of university students are mentored by the more experienced members of the group. Many of these students go on to postgraduate vocal studies at conservatoires across the country and to perform with groups including Ex Cathedra, the Monteverdi Singers and The Sixteen.

Peter Wagstaff became Director of the Fitzhardinge Consort in September 2014. In 2020 the group undertook a substantial restructuring, including the appointment of a governing board and a team of staff to handle the increasing administrative demands.

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