

THE PHOENIX SOCIETY HOME?



**Tonnau y Teifi (Waves of
the teifi)**

Catrin Edwards

A glow in the distance

Jamie Brown

At Least

Richard Wolfson

Readingensian Rhapsody

Alexander Ball

What does home mean to you?



JUNE 15TH - TRINITY CHAPEL - 8PM

NEW TONAL MUSIC BY NEW COMPOSERS

What does home mean to you?

New Chamber Music Concert

Tonnau y Teifi (Waves of the Teifi)

by Catrin Edwards

A Glow in the Distance

by Jamie Brown

At Least

by Richard Wolfson

Redingensian Rhapsody

by Alexander Ball

The Phoenix Chamber Ensemble

Katie Styles – Violin

Danny Andrews – Cello

Jamie Brown – Piano

Alix Hamilton – Piano

Catrin Edwards – Clarinet

Eric Stohr – Clarinet



The Phoenix Society

Trinity College Chapel, Cambridge

Monday 15th June 2026, 8.00pm

THE PHOENIX MUSIC SOCIETY

Senior Musical Associate: Will Todd

Senior Treasurer: Dr Alan Howard

Artistic Director: Dr Oliver Rudland

President: Alexander Ball

Secretary: Catrin Edwards

Junior Treasurer: Jamie Brown

Publicity Officer: Richard Wolfson

The Phoenix Music Society was founded in 2017 at the University of Cambridge. We are a group dedicated to the discussion, creation and performance of new tonal music who aim to create an open and viable environment for the creation of music, which is rooted in the past, whilst looking to the future. The society takes its lead from thinkers such as the American composer Steve Reich, who has written, 'the reality of cadence to a key or modal centre is basic in all the music of the world – Western and non-Western'.

Since its inception, *The Phoenix Music Society* has produced a series of chamber, choral and orchestral concerts showcasing student composers and performers from most Cambridge Colleges, including present Instrumental Award Scheme holders and Choral Scholars, as well as collaborations with musicians from the Royal College of Music and Guildhall School of Music and Drama. Professional guest appearances have included the Ligeti String Quartet, Mark Biggins (conductor for English National Opera) and composer Jonathan Dove, CBE.

We also host an occasional dinner for members who compose and/or perform for our concerts, which is always a fun and social occasion, filled with interesting debate! We encourage freshers to get in touch and share their music with us if they would like to join the society.

If you are a student composer or performer interested to get involved, please email our Artistic Director, Dr Oliver Rudland at: **owr20@cam.ac.uk**. For more information and to listen to past concerts, please visit: **www.thephoenixmusicsociety.com**, or visit our Facebook page: **www.facebook.com/thephoenixmusicsociety**, or follow Instagram **@cambridgephoenixsoc**.



The Phoenix Society

DERIVATIONES MELIUS QUAM UTOPIA

Tonnau y Teifi (Waves of the Teifi) by Catrin Edwards

Tonnau y Teifi (Waves of the Teifi) follows the journey of the river Teifi, in West Wales. The piece is inspired by the post-Romantic style of composers such as Lili Boulanger and Mel Bonis, and the French Impressionist style of Claude Debussy and Maurice Ravel, particularly in the second movement through the pentatonicism and parallel extended chords. The piece reflects upon the source of the river and develops particularly in the second movement to present its journey into the sea, as well as using the contrasting timbre of the clarinet to hint at the sounds of the birds heard along the riverbank.

Catrin Edwards is a first-year undergraduate studying Music at Fitzwilliam College. Her compositions are usually inspired by her surroundings and nature. Following a composing workshop in Wales, her composition was performed by some members of the BBC National Orchestra of Wales. Catrin won a composition competition at the National Eisteddfod in 2025, where her composition was performed by members of Sinfonia Cymru, and she also won at the Urdd National Eisteddfod in 2025. Catrin sings with Fitzwilliam College Chapel Choir and also plays the piano, as well as the clarinet.



A Glow in the Distance by Jamie Brown

A Glow in the Distance was written during the Covid pandemic, commissioned by Jamie's grandfather from his mother's side (who is Chinese). It was written in a time when both his immediate family at home and extended family abroad were bearing the brunt of the lockdowns to provide a glimmer of hope, connecting his two "homes" through music.

Jamie Brown is a first-year undergraduate studying Music at Trinity College and has been composing since age 11. Before coming to Cambridge, he was a student at Chetham's School of Music, Manchester, studying composition with Ian Stephens. He flourished as a composer during his time at Chetham's, writing pieces for solo piano, chamber groups and orchestra, many of which were performed in the termly composers' concerts. Jamie is also an accomplished pianist, currently studying with Dina Parakhina, and has done recitals in the Stoller Hall, Leeds Conservatoire and the Bridgewater Hall.



At Least by Richard Wolfson

At Least was inspired by a day when I was feeling particularly miserable, so much so that I was almost falling off my chair from how badly I was slouching. My friend Will then said to me ‘Oh come on, at least give yourself a chance to have a good day, sit up’, and although I laughed, it really affected how I felt. Giving yourself a chance to feel better, even if you currently feel bad, will let you eventually move on. In relation to ‘home’, the longer I have spent in Cambridge, the more I regard it as a second home; not the place, but the people, and especially the people who encourage me to keep going and to have a nice time of it. So, thank you, Will, for teaching me that home is where you at least give yourself a chance to have a good day.

Richard Wolfson is a first-year Music student at Selwyn and is based in South-East London. Learning piano, jazz trumpet, singing, and fingerstyle guitar from a young age, he enjoys experimenting with diverse musical styles, drawing on Jazz, Impressionism, Spectralism, and Folk Music. Having studied composition on weekends at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in his Sixth Form studies, Richard is an enthusiastic composer who enjoys writing pieces with clear narrative and poetic concepts behind them and is keen to continue improving his compositional skills as his degree progresses. He has written chamber music which has been performed at termly Guildhall concerts, placed in the top three of the 2024 Release competition in two categories, and written, recorded and mastered music for a short film his friends made on YouTube, titled *Someone's Favourite Person*.



Redingensian Rhapsody by Alexander Ball

Redingensian Rhapsody captures Alexander's deep affection for the historic Berkshire town. The piece unfolds in three distinct movements: the first offers a lively musical interpretation of the River Thames and Reading Abbey; the second evokes the lyrical tones of Oscar Wilde's *The Ballad of Reading Gaol*; and the final section shifts focus to the town's bustling railway station and its industrial heritage.

Alexander Ball is a first-year undergraduate studying Music at King's College. While he is particularly drawn to the sacred choral tradition, Alexander frequently writes for instrumental ensembles and musical theatre; he recently scored the ADC Production of *The House at Pooh Corner* and is currently working on the upcoming CUADC/Footlights Pantomime. Beyond composition, Alexander is an active bass singer, arranger, and conductor. His notable credits include performing as a soloist at St George's Chapel, Windsor, and conducting the King's College Music Society (KCMS) Orchestra.





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