

Christchurch Priory - Concerts

If you wish to consider putting on a concert in Christchurch Priory please read the following document carefully and complete the application form at the end.

You can email the Priory's Director of Music, Hugh Morris via music@christchurchpriory.org if you have any queries.

Please note that the Priory receives a large number of concert requests, and we regret that we cannot fulfil them all.

The concerts committee convenes three times per year (in the early part of each term) to discuss applications for (evening) concerts. The decision of the concerts committee is final.

Context:

The Priory allows public concerts to take place in the church, on the basis that:

- It allows groups to make use of the space, musical resources and facilities of this beautiful church.
- It acts as a form of outreach to the local and wider community, helping to “put the Priory on the map”.
- Offering concerts performed to a high standard in line with the Priory's pursuit of musical excellence.
- It provides a performance opportunity for musicians from the local community, and further afield.
- It provides musical pleasure to performers and audiences alike.
- It raises funds to support the ongoing running costs of the church – as building and community.

Saturday evening concerts

The Priory promotes 12 Saturday evening concerts per year. As such, they appear as part of our own publicity.

These concerts cannot be booked more than 2 years in advance. Although of course the Priory wishes to establish and maintain positive relationships with user groups, we cannot promise a “right” to perform in the Priory,.

The concerts are liable to a facility fee for use of the building (see scale of charges). The exception for this is the concert in May, which is a Charity Concert.

Applications for such concerts now need to include proposed programmes, to avoid the excessive duplication that we have encountered over recent seasons. You may be asked to reconsider one or more pieces for that reason.

It *may* be possible to allow other Saturday evening concerts, especially if they do not require the use of extensive staging, or extended rehearsal time; both are significant factors when the church is heavily booked for weddings on Saturdays.

The concerts committee will consider each application on a case by case basis.

Such concerts will not appear on our main list of Saturday evening concerts, but we will be able to list them on our website, and in our weekly pew bulletin.

By tradition, the Priory also hosts an annual performance of the Messiah, in December. The Priory invites the performing group for this.

Other possibilities

Other evening concerts

At the discretion of the Concerts Committee, and subject to the diary, the Priory can also be booked for an evening concert on other days, at a reduced rate (see scale of charges). This would usually also be reflected in a reduced need for rehearsal time.

As with “extra” Saturday evening concerts, the concerts committee will consider each application on a case by case basis. Such concerts will not appear on our main list of evening concerts, but we will be able to list them on our website, and in our weekly pew bulletin.

Lunchtime organ concerts

The Priory promotes 10 Thursday lunchtime organ concerts each term. Organists wishing to be considered for performing one of these very popular recitals should contact the Priory Organist, Geoffrey Morgan via music@christchurchpriory.org.

Potential recitalists should note that the standard of these recitals is very high, and as such are only suitable for qualified organists of a fully professional standard, with a proven pedigree of successful recitals.

Evening organ concerts

The Priory promotes 4 evening organ concerts during the summer. These are given by three organists of significant standing, plus one of the home team. The Director of Music (to whom any communication should be directed) considers this series together with the Priory Organist

Lunchtime chamber concerts

On Thursdays during August, smaller scale concerts take place in the Lady Chapel. These are well supported though the collections tend to be small. Since they need to be self-sustaining, this means that the fees payable to performers are somewhat modest. Interested performers should contact the Director of Music

Other occasional concerts

It may, on rare occasions, be possible to hold an informal lunchtime or Sunday afternoon concert in the Priory. These are considered on a case by case basis by the Director of Music and the concerts committee. No charge is made for the use of the building, but it remains open to the public. The Priory will take a retiring collection, and keep 50%.

Hugh Morris
Director of Music
Christchurch Priory
music@christchurchpriory.org
February 2014

Concert Booking Enquiry Form – Christchurch Priory

Name of group/organization wishing to put on a concert	
Proposed specific date/date period (e.g. Summer 2015)	
Lunchtime recital/ Evening concert (please delete as appropriate)	
Name of contact	
Position within organization	
Contact details Address	
Phone	
Email	
Proposed title/content of concert	
Approximate number of performers	
Would you require staging*?	
Would you require use of the piano?	
Would you require use of the harpsichord?	
Would you require use of the main organ?	
Would you require use of the chamber organ?	
Would you require use of “green rooms” in Priory House? Please specify	
Do you have any other specific requirements?	
Signed	
Date	

Please return this form by post to:

Hugh Morris, Director of Music, Christchurch Priory, Quay Road, Dorset, BH23 1BU

or by email to: music@christchurchpriory.org

*see details on scale of charges