

China–UK Cultural Exchange Programme 2026

Ludlow Music Festival Concert

Young musicians from China bring an evening of orchestral music and cultural performance to Ludlow as part of the 2026 China–UK Cultural Exchange Programme.

Presented within the historic setting of St Laurence's Church, the concert features the Xi'an Railway No.1 High School Symphony Orchestra, one of China's leading youth orchestras, alongside a special opening performance by the Guangzhou Liwan Youth Arts Delegation.

From Handel, Elgar and Andrew Lloyd Webber to Chinese folk melodies and contemporary orchestral works, the programme celebrates the power of music to connect cultures, communities and future generations.

Presented as part of the Ludlow Music Festival, this special event offers audiences a unique opportunity to experience the talent and artistry of young performers from one of the world's oldest civilisations.

Xi'an Railway No.1 High School Symphony Orchestra

Xi'an, China

Founded in 1998, the Xi'an Railway No.1 High School Symphony Orchestra is one of north-west China's leading youth ensembles.

Based in Xi'an, one of China's ancient capitals and home of the world-famous Terracotta Warriors, the orchestra performs a wide-ranging repertoire spanning Western symphonic classics and Chinese orchestral works.

The orchestra has represented Shaanxi Province at the National Primary and Secondary School Arts Festival on eight consecutive occasions and has toured internationally across Europe, North America and Africa, promoting cultural exchange through music.

Guangzhou Liwan Youth Arts Delegation

Guangzhou, China

Founded in 1996, the Guangzhou Liwan Youth Arts Delegation represents the flagship performing ensembles of the Liwan District Children's Palace.

Comprising the Liwan Children's Dance Troupe and the Little Plum Blossom Children's Cantonese Opera Troupe, the delegation showcases both contemporary artistic expression and the rich cultural heritage of southern China.



ST.

LAURENCE CHURCH, LUDLOW

Tuesday 4 August 2026 | 6:00 PM

Pre-Concert Performance

Liwan Youth Delegation (Guangzhou, China)

An introduction to the rich cultural traditions of Southern China

- **Cantonese Rhythm**
- **Childhood Grace**

Approx. 8–10 minutes

Xi'an Railway No.1 High School Symphony Orchestra

Concert Programme

George Frideric Handel (1685–1759)

Water Music (Selection)

Approx. 4 minutes

Andrew Lloyd Webber (b. 1948)

The Phantom of the Opera – Symphonic Highlights

(Arranged by Calvin Custer)

Approx. 7 minutes

Traditional Chinese Folk Song

Mountain Road Ballad

Approx. 5 minutes

Northern Shaanxi Folk Song

Red Azaleas Blooming All Over the Mountain

Approx. 6 minutes

Guan Xia (b. 1957)

Symphonic Overture No. 1

Approx. 9 minutes

English Traditional

Greensleeves Fantasy

Approx. 4 minutes

Edward Elgar (1857–1934)

Pomp and Circumstance March

Approx. 6 minutes

Scottish Traditional

Auld Lang Syne

Approx. 4 minutes

Programme Duration

Approx. 55 minutes

(excluding pre-concert performance)