

How to book your tickets

TICKETS GO ON SALE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC FROM MONDAY 30 MARCH 2026. There are two ways to buy:

- Online via www.gowerfestival.org or www.ticketsource.co.uk/gowerfestival2026
- By telephoning **TicketSource** on 0333 666 3366 Monday to Friday 9.00am to 7.30pm, Saturday 9.00am to 5.00pm.

FESTIVAL FRIENDS HAVE PRIORITY BOOKING FROM **7.00am ON MONDAY 16 MARCH 2026**. This is an important benefit as many concerts sell out quickly.

How to become a Festival Friend

Festival Friends receive regular newsletters about the Festival. Annual membership costs £15 per household. For details contact Maggie Harries at friends@gowerfestival.org or download the membership application form from the website.

Ticket discounts – one of the following:

- 5% on purchases of eight tickets or more.
- 25% for people with disability and 25% for their one essential carer.

For those under 25 in full-time education

To encourage young interest we now offer tickets at £5.

Supporting Gower Festival As a registered charity (no. 1198053), the Festival is not-for-profit and relies on the generous support of many individuals. If you would like to become a Festival Sponsor or a Concert Sponsor, please contact billanderson191@outlook.com.

Front cover painting *Rising Moon* (detail) by kind permission of Glenys Cour

WELCOME TO THE GOWER FESTIVAL 2026



I am thrilled to present to you the 50th Anniversary of the Gower Festival. And what a line-up of artists will take part!

Many Welsh musicians will perform, all of whom have an international reputation.

Coming from La Scala, Milan to us is the renowned star, Sir Bryn Terfel. We celebrate his return appearance at the Festival, where he last performed in 1989.

The Gower Festival is a unique event in the classical musical calendar, one of the few that takes place in a different venue each night. The intimate, magical setting of the old Gower churches produces some amazing concerts.

Tickets will go on sale earlier this year, in March, to meet public demand.

We look forward to a summer full of musical offerings for everyone. Do come and enjoy!

Gordon Back
Artistic Director



Our warmest thanks go to the Gower Society for generously supporting the Gower Festival over many years.

GOWER FESTIVAL
2026
GWYL GWYR

50th ANNIVERSARY



Monday 29 June 7.30pm **Tickets £45 (reserved)**
£30 and £20 (unreserved)

THE PRESIDENT'S CONCERT
AN EVENING WITH SIR BRYN TERFEL
Capel y Crwys, Three Crosses SA4 3PU

Recognized world-wide as one of the leading singers of his time and as a brilliant actor, Sir Bryn Terfel returns to Gower to celebrate the Festival's fiftieth anniversary. People still recall Bryn's first appearance here back in 1989. We can be sure that this evening's concert will be every bit as memorable.

Wednesday 1 July 7.30pm **Tickets £20**

JESS GILLAM TRIO
Avalon Suite, King Arthur Hotel, Reynoldston SA3 1AD

With pianist Jâms Coleman and bass-player Sam Becker, star saxophonist Jess Gillam weaves a fantastic programme from jazz favourites by Gershwin and Sidney Bechet to the musical energy of the baroque. Shades of folk too. Something for everyone to enjoy.

Thursday 2 July 2.30pm **Tickets £15**

CARDUCCI STRING QUARTET

Church of St Mary the Virgin, Rhossili SA3 1PL

One of the UK's leading quartets, admired for the precision and vitality of their playing, the Carducci play quartets by Mendelssohn – the young composer's tribute to Beethoven – and Debussy. A fascinating contrast in style.

Friday 3 July 7.30pm **Tickets £20**

CARDUCCI STRING QUARTET with
THOMAS CARROLL (cello)

Church of Ss Rhidian and Illtyd, Llanrhidian SA3 1ER

Champions of Shostakovich's music, the Carducci play his Third Quartet, written in the shadow of the Second World War. They are joined by cellist Thomas Carroll for Schubert's sublime Quintet in C major.

Saturday 4 July 7.30pm **Tickets £20**

LLŶR WILLIAMS (piano)
St Peter's Church, Newton, SA3 4RB

Acclaimed Welsh pianist Llŷr Williams returns with an inspired programme. Mozart's late Sonata in F is followed by Schumann's romantic fantasy Kreisleriana and Brahms's masterful Variations and Fugue on a theme by Handel.

Tuesday 7 July 7.30pm **Tickets £20**

SIMON ZHU (violin) and GORDON BACK (piano)
St Peter's Church, Newton, SA3 4RB

First prize-winner in the Paganini and Menuhin Competitions, Simon Zhu plays Bach's famous Chaconne for solo violin and a group of Caprices by Paganini. He is joined by Gordon Back in Ravel's jazz-inspired Sonata for Violin and Piano and works by Schubert and Wieniawski.

Wednesday 8 July 8.00pm **Tickets £20**

JOE WEBB TRIO

Avalon Suite, King Arthur Hotel, Reynoldston SA3 1AD

'A leading force in the global jazz scene.' With Will Sach (bass) and Sam Jesson (drums), pianist Joe Webb takes inspiration from '90s guitar bands and his own cultural roots in Wales, creating a sound both familiar and refreshingly original. Not to be missed.

Thursday 9 July 2.30pm **Tickets £15**

MORGAN SZYMANSKI (guitar)

St Mary's Church, Pennard SA3 2AD

Mexico's leading guitarist and an ambassador for his country's culture, Morgan Szymanski is already a firm favourite with Gower audiences. He has a wide repertoire, from European music old and new to the music of Latin America, including pieces written for Morgan himself.

Thursday 9 July 7.30pm **Tickets £20**

MORGAN SZYMANSKI (guitar)

St Teilo's Church, Bishopston SA3 3JT

The venues for Morgan Szymanski's concerts, St Mary's Pennard and St Teilo's Bishopston, are two of Gower's most beautiful small churches, ideally suited to the intimate sound of the acoustic guitar. For all who love the instrument and its music, these will be magical occasions.

Friday 10 July 7.30pm **Tickets £20**

CATRIN FINCH (harp)

St Cenydd's Church, Llangennith SA3 1HU

Wales's leading harpist, Catrin Finch is also a gifted composer. Her programme this evening includes pieces from her brand-new album, *Notes to Self* – music, she says, that comes 'deep from my heart'. Perfect for a summer's evening.

Saturday 11 July 7.30pm **Tickets £20**

JI LIU (piano)

St Paul's Church, Sketty SA2 9AR

Brilliant Chinese pianist Ji Liu makes a welcome return to Gower. Besides music by Prokofiev and Scriabin, he will play Chopin's Twenty-Four Études, Opp. 10 & 25 – the first time that these wonderfully poetic pieces have been performed here.

Sunday 12 July 6.00pm **Free entry**

CYMANFA GANU

Dunvant Ebenezer Chapel, 1 Bryn Aeron, Dunvant SA2 7UX

Join with chapel, church, male-voice and community choirs for hymn-singing in Dunvant Chapel, home of the Dunvant Male Choir. Jonathan Rogers conducts, with soprano soloist Rebecca Evans and organist Huw Rees. 'A foretaste of paradise.'



The Festival is grateful to the Vera Smart Trust for its generous support of chamber music locally, in particular the two concerts by the Carducci String Quartet.

To inspire young musicians and writers, the Festival is supporting PIANO WORKSHOPS with Gordon Back and Carol Barratt (Lady Jenkins) on Tuesday 30 June, and a POETRY WORKSHOP with Nicola Davies, Children's Laureate for Wales, on Wednesday 8 July.