

MUSIC IN MAY
CHAPEL OF ALL SAINTS
WARDOUR CASTLE
SATURDAY 4th MAY 2024
6 p.m.

Members of the Oculi ensemble

Charlotte Scott violin, Sascha Bota viola, Nathaniel Boyd 'cello

Beethoven Opus 9 no 3

Schubert No. 1 in B flat D471

Enescu – Aubade

TICKETS £20 (Under 18 free)

to include drinks and canapés after the performance

All proceeds be will be shared equally between the restoration of
the Dome of the Chapel and Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust



Tickets available from Ticketsource via QR code or link

www.ticketsource.co.uk/wardour-chapel-trust

or telephone Alice O'Neill 01751 417063

In memory of Bernadette and Juliette Foy

Anyone entering Wardour Chapel cannot fail to notice the exquisite shallow dome over the altar in gold and white with the Dove of the Holy Spirit at its centre. It is however a serious cause for concern as cracking in the plasterwork has been identified and was highlighted in the Quinquennial Inspection report carried out in 2022. The extent of the cracking is being monitored but the QI report made it clear that restoration should be carried out within five years. Since then, Philip Hughes Associates has been employed to develop and implement the repair and restoration of this unique and beautiful dome. Philip is a fully qualified conservation accredited surveyor; his practice focusses exclusively on repairing historic buildings, and he has run many successful repair projects at outstanding buildings in the southwest.

The cracking that has appeared stretches across the entire saucer dome in a crazed pattern, rather than in a single line or along a single angle as might be more normally expected in a historic building subject to structural movement.

The priority is to gain a proper understanding of what is causing the unusual cracking, and Philip Hughes will lead the required investigative works. The Chapel trustees are immensely grateful to the Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust for its generous 70th anniversary grant which will enable this investigative phase of the works to be undertaken.

In the next few weeks Philip Hughes Associates will tender for a team of specialists, including a structural engineer, quantity surveyor and specialist conservator. It will be their job to assess the extent and likely cause of the damage. Early 2024 an internal scaffold will be erected to gain a greater understanding of the structure and of the causes of the cracking in the dome. It is anticipated that the roof coverings will need to be opened up for inspection on the eastern side of the dome.

It is likely that we will have a summary report of the investigations and a review of cost estimates late spring. This will inform the level of funding required, and a major appeal will then be launched. Once funding is secured, we will be in a position to prepare specifications and drawings, apply for planning consent, and appoint contractors to carry out the restoration work on the Dome.

This is likely to be a highly complex restoration scheme: the great height of the dome above the altar is a challenge in terms of providing safe access to the underside of the dome and its plasterwork, therefore scaffolding will be required with beams to span above the altar, which itself will need careful protection. Unfortunately access to the roof space above the dome is extremely limited and with lightweight curved timbers (mostly approximately 20mm to 25mm in width) supporting the plasterwork it is not safe to climb into the space without there being protection erected below in the event of a structural failure or fall. It is hoped that the works will begin in November 2024, and be completed by May 2025. We will endeavour to keep you updated with developments in terms of the timing of work and costs.