

&Piano Music Festival 2025 Annual Review



&Piano is an organisation based in Huddersfield, West Yorkshire that aims to promote the listening of, and participation in live classical music making, helping to support it's relevance and appeal amongst new and existing audiences across our region.

Founded in 2018, our main output is an annual music festival - a week of classical music events in May: showcasing professional musicians with a connection to the area, performance opportunities for local young musicians and amateur musicians to participate in. Following our festival, we deliver an annual School Tour Recital in secondary schools around Huddersfield & Halifax, providing students with opportunities to experience live classical vocal and instrument music, and to engage and interact with professional musicians - all with the objective of ensuring classical music is enjoyed and appreciated across the region for years to come.

Cover image, 'Ben Powell, Nick Trygstad & Anna Tulchinskaya perform Dvorak's 'Dumky' Piano Trio

Image below, Mezzo-Soprano Rebecca Anderson performs as the Princess in our 2025 Family&Piano event.



The 2025 festival in figures

12 events

23 performers

25 participants

8 venues hosting festival events

50 average miles our artists travelled to Slaithwaite

69% performers based in Yorkshire/

Greater Manchester

508 attendees at our 7 paid events

55% average of first-time attendees at 2025 events

800 people approximately reached through our
pop-up performances around Huddersfield & Halifax

9 schools visited around Huddersfield & Halifax

1200 students engaged with through our

2025 School Recital Tour



"I wasn't sure what to expect as I've not seen much live classical music before but I was blown away. It felt like a real privilege to watch such incredible singing and playing, especially in such an intimate space rather than on a huge stage. Me and my partner are still talking about it and have listened to the songs in German since."

"A really lovely evening trying something entirely new - the ticket price made this very accessible. The small and intimate event made this very memorable."

"The baritone, Marcus Farnsworth, was superb in his interpretation and quality of singing of 'Winterreise' with Chris Pulleyn's ever brilliant accompanying. We were entranced throughout the whole programme."

Feedback from our Winter Journey @ Dark Woods Event

"I absolutely loved it. One of my best gig experiences. Loved the intimacy, loved the venue, loved the programme and loved the exceptional performance."

"The space was perfect, the performers brilliant and it was really well organised. Can't wait for the next one!"

"It was excellent, the venue perfect for the Messiaen. Loved the informality, and that artists spoke about the pieces. Enjoyed seeing a mixed age group. Moving performance aided by the setting."

Feedback from our Quartet for the End of Time Event





"I attended as an audience member last year and enjoyed it. I loved this year's mix of performers even more and felt it was a really great programme of music. I also loved how incredibly supportive and appreciative Chris was of every single person there. I was so nervous and it took a lot for me to do this, and I can't think of any better place to build up my confidence."

Performer feedback from our 2025 Performance Pub





We hosted our first masterclass for our 2025 cohort of Young Musicians, offering them the chance to work on their performance and musicianship with former Leader of Opera North, David Greed, before the Young Musician Showcase. We were also able to offer two young pianists the opportunity to accompany some of the performers. This year's Young Musicians were selected from Greenhead College, Huddersfield New College, University of Huddersfield & Leeds Conservatoire.

'It was a great evening and it's always nice to perform - you spend a lot of time in the practice room, so it's good to have an actual audience to perform to - a really good opportunity! Especially because a lot of us want to go on to music college in the future, so this is really helpful...'

Feedback from Edwin Field, one of our 2025 Young Musicians





Family&Piano 2025: The Enchanted Princess - Our Family event introduced families with young children to a varied mix of music for voice and trumpet, telling the story of a princess enchanted by a spell that heightened her emotions through the music she heard, introducing children to the concept that music can express lots of different feelings and moods when being listened to.



"Lovely venue, just the perfect setting really: it being intimate and formal but also informal in the best way if that makes sense. Great variation in program and the performers were brilliant."

"Superb, confident singers and wonderful accompanists!"

Audience feedback from our Invitation to Journey Event





"Four of us in different age categories thought it was an excellent event. The acoustics in the church were great which enhanced the performances of the excellent singers. Incredible to be able to see such talented performers in a local venue."

"It was really nice to hear a piece of Musical Theatre that I didn't already know. Great choice!"

Audience feedback from our 'It's Only Life' Musical Theatre Event



2025 & Piano Festival Performers

Joe Martin, Sophie Illiafar, Marcus Farnsworth, Christopher Pulleyn, Nicholas Trygstad, Anna Tulchinskaya, Rosa Campos-Fernandez, Benjamin Powell, Jonathan Fisher, Kitty Casey, Hannah Andrusier, Ellie Forrester, Rebecca Anderson, Grace Turner, Lizzie Buckingham, Andrew Ewart, Matt Bonds, Stephen Weller, Gillian Hardie, Alex Walker, Sue Bennett, Julia Wu, Orla McRae, Peter Clements, Giovanni D'Ambrosio, Clare Helm, Yorkshire Trombone Quartet, Elly Hanson, Maria Insua Cao, Charlotte Watson, Madeleine North, Emily Jackson, Toby Kershaw, Shubhan Iyer, Henry Sawyer, Anson Liu, Jacob Hickson, Ruby Bowler, Edwin Field, Triele Tat, Neil Balfour, Issy Hayley-Porteous.

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