

Cornerstone concerts: Important information

GETTING TO CORNERSTONE AND PARKING

Please note that Cornerstone has no direct road access, and the car parking, disabled drop-off point, and service yard for large instruments are all accessed from different roads.

By car

SATNAV: OX11 7ND. Follow the A4130 from Milton Interchange into Didcot. (Note there is no vehicular access to Cornerstone from Broadway.) Continue past Didcot Parkway station and at the second set of lights, turn right into Central Drive and bear further right past Sainsbury's petrol station, then turn left into the Orchard Centre car park. Parking on Sundays is free and plentiful. If parking in the part of the car park to the front of Sainsburys, look for the curved steps and at the top, turn right up the pedestrianised shopping street. Cornerstone is then a two-minute walk. However you may prefer to park in the newer part of the car park which is behind Sainsburys' service yard. At the far end are 9 steps which take you out onto the top end of Station Road – Cornerstone is just a few yards away.

Access and parking for large instruments in the service yard

SATNAV: OX11 8RG. Parking in Cornerstone's service yard for large instruments (harp, double basses, timps/percussion only) is subject to availability and even just unloading there may be difficult if Cornerstone has other shows on at the same time. Please therefore assume this is not available unless we have let you know individually. Access to the service yard is from the south (Broadway). Follow the A4130 from Milton Interchange into Didcot. At the second roundabout, turn right into Foxhall Road (B4493). At the next roundabout, turn left onto Broadway. At the traffic lights just before Broadways Pub (on your left) turn left onto a pedestrianised area. Enter via the large silver coloured gates on your left, or if they are closed, park temporarily nearby, taking care not to block the bus lane, and call the Duty Manager on 07801 203544 to open the gates (it may take a few minutes). A small door to backstage should be propped open, which leads either to the stage (turn left) or backstage (straight on).

Disabled drop-off

SATNAV: OX11 7NE. Follow the A4130 from Milton Interchange into Didcot. Continue past Didcot Parkway station and at the first set of lights, turn right into what is the continuation of Station Road (no-through-road). Proceed past Enterprise Rent-A-Car up Station Road to the top end, where rising bollards operable only by service buses block your way. Drop passengers off here. Cornerstone will be in sight ahead and its entrance is 80 paces away. (Unfortunately it has no disabled parking).

By bus

Buses stop in the pedestrianised section of Station Road a few steps from Cornerstone.

Walking from Didcot Parkway Station

SATNAV: OX11 7NE. Cornerstone is a seven-minute walk. Turn left out of the main entrance of the station and follow the road until you reach a set of traffic lights (opposite Enterprise Rent-A-Car). Cross the road and go up Station Road past Enterprise until you come to some bollards at the top end. You will see Cornerstone in front of you.

ON ARRIVAL AT CORNERSTONE

Enter via Cornerstone's main entrance on the lower level, opposite Cineworld. (Entry via the service yard is only available for those large instrument players that we have notified individually). The main doors open at 1100. If arriving before 1100, the Duty Manager will let you in but you may have to wait a minute or so for him/her to become available. There is no need to sign in at Reception, but ask them for the backstage door code, then go up the stairs or use the lift to the first floor, and turn left for the backstage door. Turn left again for the dressing rooms. Please leave instrument cases and covers in your dressing room.

DRESSING ROOMS AND GREEN ROOM

The first door on the right is the ladies dressing room and the second door on the right is the gents dressing room (access codes available on the day). The green room is at the end (not locked). Please would string players leave instrument cases in the green room as the dressing rooms are not large enough for everyone with all the bigger instrument cases as well.

CONCERT DRESS

Ladies: all black. Gents: black trousers and black shirt (no tie or jacket). Usually it is warm-to-hot on stage especially at the back under the lights. However, players in the first violins have been known to complain of a draught, so wearing layers may be advisable.

STANDS, LIGHTS AND STAGE FLOOR

Please bring a stand, and also a stand light if you have one (not usually needed unless you are at the very back of the violins or cellos). Please ensure the stage floor is kept tidy, i.e. only necessary items such as water bottles.

USED PARTS AND PLASTIC BAGS

Parts not needed for the second half can be put on the table in the green room. Please return all music here at the end of the concert, including the plastic bags.

BREAKS AND FOOD & DRINK

The break is 1345-1600. There is a café downstairs next to Cornerstone's reception. Packed lunches can be eaten in the green room upstairs (a large room with fridge, microwave and kettle). Prezzo, Boswells and Wildwood restaurants are almost on the doorstep. Sainsbury's (closes 16.00) is a two-minute walk down the main shopping street going towards the car park. M&S Foodhall and café (closes 16.00), Costa, Starbucks, Nando's, Berro Lounge, Kaspas Desserts and other shops are in the lower part of the shopping centre (down past Next).

CONCERT WALK-ON ARRANGEMENTS

Cornerstone asks that everyone be clear of the stage half an hour before the concert (with the exception of the harpist who may still be tuning), so that the stage is empty as the audience is admitted. At 1555, we should line up in the corridor outside the dressing rooms in order of seating (heavy brass, percussion, bassoons, basses and cellos may like to enter via the far backstage door) and Cornerstone staff will give us the signal to walk on. As Geoff walks on in the first half, he will gesture for the orchestra to stand – strings please turn to face the audience.

HOW TO CONTACT US ON CONCERT DAY

Please get last minute messages after 0930 to us via Cornerstone Reception on 01235 515144.