

# Orchestral Play Day

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2026 10 - 4.30**

## Dvorak - Symphony No. 8

**Langtree Sinfonia**

**Conductor: Kevin Withell**

**Shiplake Memorial Hall, Shiplake Cross,  
Near Henley-on-Thames, RG9 4DW**

For more details contact [langtreesinfonia@gmail.com](mailto:langtreesinfonia@gmail.com)  
[www.langtreesinfonia.co.uk](http://www.langtreesinfonia.co.uk)

**Langtree Sinfonia invites you to our friendly Orchestra Play Day when we will be tackling Dvořák's 8th Symphony.**

**Doors open at 9.30 for a 10am start and will finish with an informal play through to 4.30.**

**We would welcome any string or brass players to come and join us. Please email [langtree.sinfonia@gmail.com](mailto:langtree.sinfonia@gmail.com) as soon as possible if you are interested.**

**Our venue is at the lovely Shiplake Memorial Hall near Henley on Thames – cost is £15 to include the usual supply of tea and cake!**

**Antonín Dvořák (1841–1904)** was one of the leading Czech composers of the late Romantic era and a central figure in establishing a distinct national voice in classical music. Drawing inspiration from Bohemian folk traditions, nature, and song, his music is known for its rich melodies, rhythmic vitality, and warm, expressive character. Although internationally celebrated during his lifetime, Dvořák remained closely connected to his homeland, which strongly shaped his musical language.

His **Symphony No. 8 in G major (1889)** reflects these qualities at their most radiant. Written during a particularly happy period in his life, the symphony is notable for its optimism, pastoral atmosphere, and inventive orchestration. Rather than following strict symphonic conventions, Dvořák favours flowing melodies and unexpected contrasts, from the lyrical opening movement to the graceful waltz-like third movement and the triumphant, variation-based finale. Together, the composer and this symphony exemplify Dvořák's gift for combining classical form with the spirit of Czech folk music and the natural world.