

The artists

Tamsin Elliott *harp, accordion, flute* **Tarek Elazhary** *oud*
Rowan Elliott *fiddle*

“Elliott’s beguiling accordion and Elazhary’s masterful oud alluringly conjure Egyptian landscapes through a swirling conversation.” *Songlines*

Exploring the parallels and celebrating the idiosyncrasies of both Egyptian and English folk traditions, **Tamsin Elliott** and **Tarek Elazhary** aim in their music to find commonality, foster cross-cultural connection and help to heal the scars of a colonial past through meaningful and conscious collaboration. Their dialogue, born of mutual respect and friendship, enables instruments from disparate traditions, such as lever harp, accordion, whistles and Arabic oud, to speak with the same voice – one of a future-facing fresh generation wishing to build something new and authentic together.

Their friendship and the resulting duo album *So Far We Have Come* are a testament to the unifying power of music, winning them a place in *The Guardian*’s Top Ten Folk Albums of 2023, as well as a nomination for Best Group at the *Songlines* Music Awards. The album has captured the attention of critics and audiences alike, praised for its innovative blend of quartertone accordion, lever harp, and oud. *The Observer* described it as “a poised, atmospheric fusion delivered by two master players”, with their music transcending borders and inviting listeners on a mesmerising journey through landscapes both familiar and foreign.

Tonight Tamsin and Tarek will be joined by Rowan Elliott to play pieces from the album as well as new arrangements.

Folk musician, composer and film-maker, **Tamsin Elliott** is based in Bristol. Her roots are in the dance tunes of the British Isles, but her interests and playing styles extend to European and Middle Eastern musics as well as experimental and ambient sounds. Her “beautiful, filmic compositions for accordion, harp, whistle and voice” (*The Guardian*) are rooted in tradition, while at the same time pushing boundaries and exploring minimalist, neo-classical, sound art and other non-traditional formats.

She released her debut album ‘FREY’, featuring the playing of Sid Goldsmith and Rowan Rheingans, on *Penny Fiddle Records*

in 2022. It was a post-Covid work in which Tamsin explored themes of being in limbo, pain, healing and acceptance, reflecting on the microcosm of her personal experience of chronic illness alongside wider themes of societal disconnection and environmental grief.

Tamsin is a co-founder of the Mediterranean fusion project *Solana* (“Dazzling musicianship” *Songlines*), who have released several albums and toured extensively throughout Europe. She also performs with European folk quintet *Hedera*, as well as in various other traditional folk and ceilidh ensembles.

Tamsin is also a creative film director, working with the moving image under the name *Solanum Films*. Her long-form directorial debut [*FROM THE COOP*] (40 mins, 2020) is a hybrid music documentary, depicting life in lockdown through the eyes of her musical household.

“There is a rich thread of collaboration throughout [Tamsin’s work], one which both celebrates and highlights the coming together of cultures and music... The results are always refreshingly inventive and exciting” *Folk Radio UK*

tamsinelliott.co.uk

Tarek Elazhary, an Egyptian oud player and composer, graduated from the Arab Oud House in 2014 under the mentorship of the renowned Iraqi oud player, Nasser Shamma. He has participated in numerous local and international festivals with the Arab Oud Orchestra.

Currently, Tarek is focused on projects that aim both to preserve and contemporize the Middle East’s musical heritage. In 2016, he founded the band *Dokkan*, which explores instrumental music by blending Eastern Egyptian musical essence with Western influences. Additionally, Tarek teaches oud at both the Arab Oud House and Al-Darb Al-Ahmar Arts School in Cairo.

facebook.com/tarekelazhary.eg

Rowan Elliott is a composer, producer and multi-instrumentalist based in Bristol. Specialising in violin and viola, he has experience in a wide range of styles and is in demand as a session player for folk, jazz and contemporary classical recordings and gigs. He recorded, produced and mixed Tamsin and Tarek’s *So Far We Have Come* album.

Festival Patron: David Matthews

Grateful acknowledgements

We thank all those who have helped with the Festival or supported us financially and in other ways. Special thanks to the funding bodies, sponsors and supporters listed below, without whose generous help there would be no Festival.

The Hinrichsen Foundation



Vaughan Williams Foundation

Friends of the Little Missenden Festival

Little Missenden Parish Council

Rayners Penn

Little Missenden Parochial Church Council

St Peter and St Paul Church, Great Missenden

Hamptons International Estate Agents

The Michael Cox Fund

Laurette Read

Bluepepper Designs

The Festival Volunteers

Piano: **Fazioli 228** from **Jaques Samuel**

Tuner: **Jim Denton**

Flowers: **Pauline Lamb**

Next Year's Festival

The 2026 Little Missenden Festival will run from Friday 2nd to Sunday 12th October.

Festival Website little-missenden.org

- See the full **2025 Festival Programme**
- **Book Tickets** (or phone 0333 666 3366)
- Be added to our **Mailing List** for next year's brochure
- Find out about the **Friends** or **Sponsorship**

Booking Information

- Email: tickets@little-missenden.org
- Phone: 01494 958148 between 11am and 8pm

General Information

- Email: contact@little-missenden.org

Little Missenden Festival Executive Committee

Chair: Dick Ware

Committee: Angela Bishop, Polly Buston, Martin Cunningham, John Glasson, Beth Neill, Liz Wager, Dick Wells, Rachel Wilcox

Programme Notes

TAMSIN ELLIOTT, TAREK ELAZHARY and ROWAN ELLIOTT



**8pm, Thursday October 9th, 2025
Little Missenden Church**

65th Little Missenden Festival