



# Melrose Music Society

Scottish Charity No. SC005891

Patron: The Duke of Buccleuch KT, KBE

President: Ross Thomson

Chair: Martin Paterson

**Concert Season**  
**2022-2023**

## *A Warm Welcome from the Chair*

After three years of pandemic, we are thrilled to offer such a full and varied season. As well as seven classical recitals, we have irresistible swing from David Newton, sixteen times winner of the British Jazz Award for best pianist. Some familiar faces make welcome returns: John Bryden includes music by neglected Edinburgh-born composer David Johnson, while Gina McCormack and Nigel Clayton celebrate César Franck's 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a performance of his violin sonata. We also mark Vaughan Williams' 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary with his beautiful settings of William Blake for tenor and oboe. Three concerts feature works by Scotland's most distinguished living composer, Thea Musgrave. Music by three other pioneering women, Germany's Clara Schumann, America's Amy Beach and England's Ruth Gipps, also enrich our programme. As well as music by Musgrave and Johnson, we will also hear works by two other great Scots, Oliver Knussen and James MacMillan.

When spring approaches, we will get a flavour of Spain with Moszkowski's flamboyant pastiches, and then the real deal: Fernando Sor played on an authentic C19th guitar. Finally, one of the most exciting young musicians in the world, Mishka Momen, will provide a spellbinding climax to our season. We invite you to savour this musical feast.



*Martin Paterson, Chair*

## Dates for your Diary

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 20:00 John Bryden

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 15:00 David Newton

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> November 19:30 Gina McCormack & Nigel Clayton

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 19:30 Rory Carver, Katherine Bryer & Irena Radić

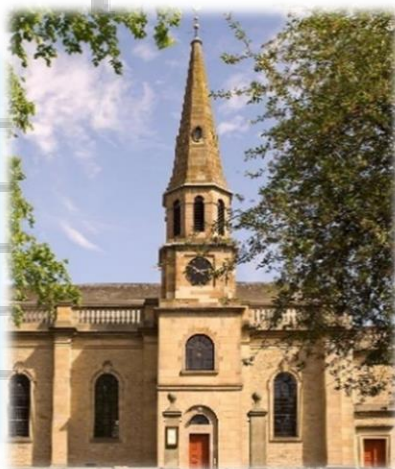
Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 19:30 Ensemble Renard

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February 19:30 Emma Abate & Julian Perkins

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> March 15:00 Stephen Morrison

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May 15:00 Mishka Momen

Our concerts are held in Melrose Parish Church Hall, which is blessed with excellent acoustics. We are very grateful to all at the Church for their friendly and helpful co-operation in making this delightful venue available.



## Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 20:00: John Bryden - Piano



There could be no better way to begin our season than to welcome back internationally acclaimed pianist John Bryden for his first recital in his “home town” since 2018. Born in Edinburgh, John lived in Melrose and served on our committee for many years. He will play a prelude and fugue by his contemporary from Edinburgh, David Johnson, whose “tonal, concise and quirky” (*The Guardian*) compositions deserve to be much better known. As

do the works of Clara Schumann, who is only now beginning to emerge from the shadow of her husband, Robert. Much more familiar, of course, are Bach, Chopin and Franz Schubert, whose melodic and expressive masterpieces for the piano will feature in two further recitals this season.

J.S. Bach:	<i>Sarabande &amp; Rondeaux from Partita no.2 in C minor</i>
Franz Schubert:	<i>Six Moments Musicaux, D. 780</i>
David Johnson:	<i>Prelude and Fugue in F</i>
Clara Schumann:	<i>Variations Op. 20</i>
Frédéric Chopin:	<i>Impromptu in F Sharp Op.36;</i> <i>Mazurka in C sharp minor Op. 50 no 3;</i> <i>Scherzo in C sharp minor Op.39</i>

# Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 15:00: David Newton - Piano

As members have been requesting that we programme a little more jazz, we have gone straight to the top: the sixteen times winner of the British Jazz Award for best pianist. David broke onto the scene in the 1980s, recording his first CD with the great American clarinetist Buddy de Franco. He has since worked with a galaxy of mainstream jazz stars from Bud Shank to Stacy Kent. In this solo recital he will be exploring songs associated with Frank Sinatra, and playing compositions by Duke Ellington and his long-time musical partner Billy Strayhorn, who wrote such standards as *Take the A Train* and *Lush Life* for the band. Remember, “it don’t mean a thing if it ain’t got that swing”.



**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> November 19:30**  
**Gina McCormack, violin & Nigel Clayton, piano**



Gina and Nigel, who last played for us in 2018, return with a melodic, emotionally intense programme featuring three magnificent sonatas. Written in 1886 as a wedding present for violinist Eugène Ysaÿe, César Franck's was an instant success and remains one of the most frequently performed violin sonatas. In contrast, Mendelssohn's *Sonata in F*, composed in 1838, was not published until 1953, the composer having unaccountably dismissed it as "wretched". Howard Ferguson's *Second Sonata*, from 1947, reflects the turbulent aftermath of WWII, imitating desolate tolling bells before the optimism of its finale.

Felix Mendelssohn:	<i>Violin Sonata in F</i>
Gerald Finzi:	<i>Elegy</i>
Howard Ferguson:	<i>Violin Sonata no. 2</i>
Amy Beach:	<i>Romance</i>
César Franck:	<i>Violin Sonata in A</i>

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 19:30**  
**Rory Carver, Katherine Bryer, Irena Radić**  
**British Music for Tenor, Oboe and Piano**



This recital by three rising stars features two magnificent but rarely performed song-cycles. Vaughan Williams' beautiful *10 Blake Songs* are for the unusual, perhaps unique, combination of tenor and oboe. Britten's settings for tenor and piano of eight poems by Thomas Hardy range greatly in mood: sinister uncertainty in *Midnight on the Great Western*, charming whimsy in *The Little Old Table*, transcendent melancholy in *Before life and after*. Britten's works for solo oboe and piano, and two contrasting duets, Ruth Gipps' playful *Sea-Shore Suite* and Thea Musgrave's searingly plaintive *Night Windows*, complete this hauntingly atmospheric programme.

Benjamin Britten:	<i>I wonder as I wander; Notturmo; Six Metamorphoses; Winter Words</i>
Ruth Gipps:	<i>Sea-Shore Suite</i>
Ralph Vaughan Williams:	<i>Ten Blake Songs; Linden Lea</i>
Thea Musgrave:	<i>Night Windows</i>

## Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 19:30 - Ensemble Renard



We are very grateful to the Tunnell Trust for sponsoring this exciting young ensemble, whose recital will open with their arrangement of Mendelssohn's *Songs Without Words*. Their virtuosity and expressiveness will be showcased in C20th French masterpieces by Poulenc and Ravel, and intensely emotional works by two of Scotland's leading composers, MacMillan and Musgrave. Robert Simpson judged Carl Nielsen's extraordinary *Wind Quintet* of 1922, which concludes the concert, "the subtlest and finest ever written": the composer described the mood shifts in its extended set of variations as "now merry and quirky, now elegiac and serious", which could also sum up the ensemble's entire enthralling programme.

Felix Mendelssohn:	<i>Five Songs Without Words</i>
Francis Poulenc:	<i>Sonate pour clarinette et basson FP 32a</i>
Maurice Ravel:	<i>Le Tombeau de Couperin</i>
James Macmillan:	<i>Untold</i>
Thea Musgrave:	<i>Wind Quintet</i>
Carl Nielsen:	<i>Wind Quintet Op.43</i>



**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February 19:30**  
**Emma Abate & Julian Perkins, piano duo**



Praised for their “impressive playing” by *BBC Music Magazine*, Emma and Julian have given recitals at many prestigious venues, including the Royal Opera House, and recorded acclaimed CDs of duets by Mozart and Weber. For us, they perform Beethoven’s early, light-hearted *Sonata Op.6*, followed by the profound meditation that is Schubert’s great *Fantasia in F minor, D.940*. Exuberance returns with Moszkowski’s flamboyant *Five Spanish Dances*. For the second half we cross the Atlantic for glittering American gems by Gershwin, Amy Beach and Samuel Barber, who said of his charming dance suite, *Souvenirs*, “One might imagine a divertissement in a setting of the Palm Court of the Hotel Plaza in New York, the year about 1914, epoch of the first tangos; *Souvenirs*, remembered with affection, not in irony or with tongue in cheek, but in amused tenderness.”

Ludwig van Beethoven:	<i>Sonata in D Major Op. 6</i>
Franz Schubert:	<i>Fantasia in F minor D.940</i>
Moritz Moszkowski:	<i>Five Spanish Dances Op. 12</i>
George Gershwin:	<i>Cuban Overture</i>
Amy Beach:	<i>Summer Dreams Op. 47</i>
Samuel Barber:	<i>Souvenirs Op.28</i>

## Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> March 15:00 - Stephen Morrison, guitar

### From Scotland to Europe and Bach

The renowned Edinburgh-based guitarist will play dazzling pieces by three C19th virtuosi, Mauro Giuliani, Antoine de Lhoyer, and Fernando Sor, on a beautifully restored guitar from the period. All three composers, from Italy, France and Spain respectively, were fascinated by Scottish folk melodies: Giuliani's beautiful meditation on *The Bluebells of Scotland* will be followed by de Lhoyer's ingenious variations on the ballad *Robin Adair*. Sor's rightly named *Grand Sonata*, though, is pure Spain: this revolutionary work has been described by Richard Long as "a sort of classical symphony for solo guitar". After the interval, a Scottish composer returns the compliment, as Richard switches to a modern instrument for Musgrave's evocative *Postcards from Spain*, and for the infectious courtly dances of Bach's *Lute Suite*, including its instantly recognisable Bourrée.



- Mauro Giuliani: *The Bluebells of Scotland Op. 6 no.5*  
Antoine de Lhoyer: *Introduction and variation on a Scottish Air Op.43*  
Fernando Sor: *Grand Sonata Op. 22*  
Thea Musgrave: *Postcards from Spain*  
J.S. Bach: *Lute Suite BWV 996*

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May 15:00 - Mishka Momen, piano**

## Sonatas and Homages



Among the most gifted and charismatic pianists of her generation, Mishka Momen has appeared on ITV's *The South Bank Show*, and at major concert halls across the world, including the Wigmore Hall, Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall. We are extraordinarily fortunate to be able to hear this exceptional talent in Melrose. Her programme is particularly intriguing: two towering masterpieces of the classical canon, Beethoven's *Sonata Quasi una fantasia, Op. 27, No. 2*, better known as the "Moonlight", and Schubert's *Sonata in D major D850*, bookending three contrasting homages: Brett Dean's tribute to Bach, Oliver Knussen's to Takemitsu, and Ravel's to Couperin, which it will be fascinating to compare to the wind quintet arrangement by Hans Abrahamsen that we heard in February. This unmissable recital promises to be a thrilling climax to a memorable season.

Ludwig van Beethoven: *Sonata Quasi una fantasia Op. 27, No. 2*

Brett Dean: *Prelude and Chorale*

Oliver Knussen: *Prayer Bell Sketch*

Maurice Ravel: *Le Tombeau de Couperin*

Franz Schubert: *Sonata in D major D850*

<b>Membership</b> including admission to all concerts:	<b>£75</b>
<b>Admission</b> to individual concerts for non-members:	<b>£16</b>
<b>Students</b> , and those aged 18-23:	<b>£5</b>
<b>Children</b> (must be accompanied by an adult):	<b>free</b>

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We greatly appreciate support from **Chamber Music Scotland** and **Making Music**, without which the Society could not continue.

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