

Melrose Music Society

2023
2024



A Warm Welcome from the Chair

I hope you will be as excited as I am by the brilliant music treats in store. Bach, Haydn, Schubert, Schumann, Brahms, Tchaikovsky, Ravel... alongside the lesser known but brilliant Skalkottas, Montsalvatge and Stevens, and four thrilling (but not too scary!) living composers: Caroline Shaw, Sadie Harrison, Erkki-Sven Tüür and, Scotland's own, James MacMillan. An intriguing, stimulating range, as I hope you will agree. We begin with piano quintets by Shostakovich and Dvořák, then hear the amazing Phoenix Duo, who played at Paxton last year, and I knew I must entice to Melrose. Another highlight promises to be star trumpeter Aaron Akugbo offering an exhilarating programme, including three pieces by Florence Price and an arrangement of *My Funny Valentine*. Either side of Christmas, we showcase two leading performers from Europe: the dynamic Portuguese soprano Filipa Portela, and Max Mostovetski, one of the most promising young pianists in Germany. With the approach of spring, we will hear Mozart's quartet and Beethoven's sonata, and hope that Gershwin's *Summertime* does not seem too premature. Our season will end with a sublime trio composed by an Austrian, Franz Schubert, played by a Greek pianist, an American cellist and a Malayan violinist. Isn't it wonderful how music can bring the world together? Please, come and be part of this celebration of musicality and humanity.



Martin Paterson, Chair

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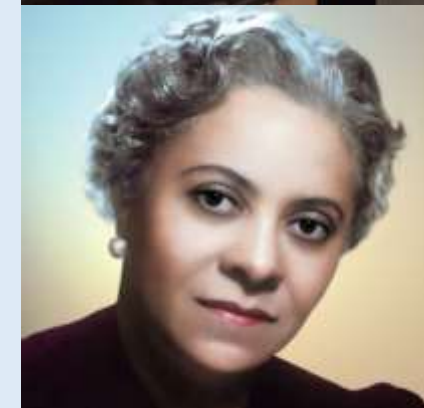
Dates for your Diary

Sun 1st Oct 3pm	Emma Abbate & the Sacconi Quartet
Sun 29th Oct 3pm	The Phoenix Duo
Sun 19th Nov 3pm	Aaron Akugbo & Zeynep Özsuca
Fri 1st Dec 7:30pm	Filipa Portela & Gregor Forbes
Sun 18th Feb 3pm	Max Mostovetski
Fri 8th Mar 7:30pm	The Kleio Quartet
Sun 14th April 3pm	Boglárka György & Amy Butler
Sun 26th May 3pm	The Chiara Trio

Prices

All 8 concerts + membership	£80
Admission:	£16
Students, and those aged 16-23:	£5
Children (must be accompanied):	Free

www.ticketebo.co.uk/melrose-music-society



**Sunday 1st Oct 3pm
Emma Abbate &
the Sacconi Quartet**



Following her wonderful performance earlier this year in a piano duo with Julian Perkins, we are absolutely delighted to welcome back Emma to play two great piano quintets with one of the finest string quartets in Britain, the Sacconi, who will begin our season with Caroline Shaw's intriguing *Entr'acte*. Shaw describes her 2011 composition, inspired by the minuet of Haydn's *Op. 77 No. 2*, as "structured like a minuet and trio, riffing on that classical form but taking it a little further." I can think of no more fitting way to start our season, which as a whole combines established classics with explorations in newer and less familiar musical territories.

Caroline Shaw: *Entr'acte*

Dmitri Shostakovich: *Piano Quintet in G minor, Op. 57*

Antonín Dvořák: *Piano Quintet No. 2, Op. 81*

Sunday 29th Oct 3pm
The Phoenix Duo

This brilliant young duo, named after cellist Josiah Duhlstine's home city in Arizona, have played to rapturous applause and critical acclaim at major venues across Scotland. Pianist Catriona Mackenzie, from the Highlands, seems destined to become one of our country's brightest musical stars. Catch them while you still can.

Beethoven: *Cello Sonata No.3, op.69*

Schumann: *Fantasiestücke, op.73*

Debussy: *Cello Sonata*

MacMillan: *Cello sonata No.1*

Duhlstine, arr.: *Jimmy Mo Mhíle Stór*



Sunday 19th Nov 3pm
Aaron Akugbo & Zeynep Özsuca



Another young duo of stunning virtuosity and passion, but further along the road to fame and recognition: Aaron has quickly established himself as one of the most charismatic figures on the British music scene. With his regular accompanist, Zeynep, he brings a thrillingly diverse programme to Melrose.

Honegger:	<i>Intrada</i>
Poulenc:	<i>Métamorphoses</i>
Maxwell Davies:	<i>Farewell to Stromness</i>
Stevens:	<i>Sonata for Trumpet and Piano</i>
Bitsch:	<i>Scarlatti variations</i>
Rogers:	<i>My Funny Valentine</i>
Enescu:	<i>Legende</i>
Price:	<i>Sympathy, Morning, Adoration</i>
Pilss:	<i>Sonata for Trumpet and Piano</i>

Friday 1st Dec 7:30pm
Filipa Portela & Gregor Forbes

Following her sensational performance of Poulenc's *La Voix Humaine* at the Edinburgh Festival in 2019, the Portuguese soprano Filipa Portela has been in great demand in opera houses and recital halls across Europe. Accompanied by Scottish pianist, Gregor Forbes, who will also play some of Debussy's evocative piano miniatures, her "outstanding and effortless virtuosity" (*Leipzig Glocal*) will, on a cold winter's night in Melrose, conjure up the heat, light and passions of the Mediterranean.

Delibes: *Filles de Cadiz*

Debussy: *Fêtes galantes, Livre 1*

La sérénade interrompue

La Terrasse des audiences du clair de lune

La Puerta del Vino

Toldrà: *Seis Canciones*

Mendoza: *Nana*

Ravel: *Vocalize en forme de Habanera*

de Falla: *Siete canciones populares españolas*

Montsalvatge: *Canción de cuna para dormir un negrito*





Sunday 18th Feb 3pm
Max Mostovetski
“From Leipzig to Scotland”

Born in 2001 in Leipzig, Max is one of the most promising young pianists in Germany. He will be visiting Melrose as he retraces the steps of Mendelssohn across Scotland. As well as the “Scottish” sonata, Max will be playing compositions associated with his native city: by Bach, of course, and Schumann, but also three gentlemen who shared a Christmas dinner in 1887 at the Leipzig home of violinist Adolph Brodsky: Brahms, Tchaikovsky and Grieg.

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| Bach: | <i>Toccata in E Minor BWV 914</i> |
| Brahms: | <i>4 Ballades Op.10</i> |
| Tchaikovsky: | <i>Carnival & Song of the Lark Op. 37; Dumka, Op.59</i> |
| Mendelssohn: | <i>Fantasia in F sharp minor “Sonate ecossaise”, Op 28</i> |
| Grieg: | <i>Lyric Pieces: Op.43 - To Spring, Butterfly, Little Bird;
Op.12 - Spring Dance</i> |
| Schumann: | <i>Piano Sonata No. 2 in G minor, Op. 22</i> |



Friday 8th March 7-30pm

Kleio Quartet



First Prize winners at the Carl Nielsen International Chamber Music Competition 2023, the Kleio Quartet are quickly gaining a reputation for excellence on the international music scene, performing in major venues including the Wigmore Hall and Royal Festival Hall in London and the DR Koncerthuset in Copenhagen. We thank the Tunnell Trust for making their concert in Melrose possible.

Mendelssohn: *String Quartet No.4 in E minor, Op.44 No.2*

Bartók: *String Quartet No. 4*

Mozart: *String Quartet No.14 in G Major K387, "Spring"*

THE
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FOR YOUNG MUSICIANS



Sunday 14th April 3pm

Boglárka György & Amy Butler

The Hungarian violinist and English pianist invite us to welcome spring with some exhilarating vernal virtuosity. Kreisler's *Syncopation* sets the mood for the "jazzy, teasing syncopations" (Chicago Tribune) of Erkki-Sven Tüür's *Conversio*, which since its composition in 1994 has established itself as one of the most engaging recent works for violin and piano. Sadie Harrison's *Aurea Luce* (2015) is based on a plainsong chant - "the beauteous light of Eternity hath flooded with blissful fires this golden day" - sung in St Peter's, Rome each February 22nd, as spring is about to begin. The sense of returning light infuses Grieg's second sonata, which moves from melancholy to a joyous spring dance. The most famous musical celebration of spring, Beethoven's *Op. 24*, prepares for Gershwin's languorous *Summertime*.

Kreisler: *Syncopation*

Tüür: *Conversio*

Harrison: *Aurea Luce*

Grieg: *Violin Sonata No.2 in G Major, Op.13*

Beethoven: *Violin Sonata No.5, Op. 24, "Spring"*

Frolov: *Concert Fantasy on "Porgy and Bess"*

Sunday 26th May 3pm

The Chiara Trio



Angeliki Giannakopoulo, piano, Yik Liang Soo, violin, and Khalil Johnson, cello, will bring our season to an inspiring close with an irresistible programme: two famous masterpieces by Haydn and Schubert, either side of Greek composer Nikos Skalkottas' entrancing but rarely heard trio of 1936.

Haydn:	<i>Piano Trio in G minor, No.33</i>
Skalkottas:	<i>Piano Trio</i>
Schubert:	<i>Piano Trio No. 2 in E-flat major, D. 929</i>

Our concerts are held in Melrose Parish Church Hall, which is blessed with excellent acoustics and provides an ideal, intimate environment for chamber music. We thank the Church for its always friendly co-operation in making this delightful venue available.

We gratefully acknowledge support from Creative Scotland through Chamber Music Scotland, without which the Society could not continue.

Chamber Music Scotland



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