

Melrose Music Society

SCOTTISH CHARITY NO. SC005891

Sunday 27th September 2026, 3pm

duo b!z'art, piano four-hands



The Chef's Surprise

John Corigliano – *Gazebo Dances*

John Hearne – *Strange and Solemn Music*

Leonard Bernstein (arr. Karol Close) – *West Side Story*

Interval

Gustav Mahler (arr. Bruno Walter) – *Symphony no. 1, 'Titan'*

John Corigliano (b.1938) – *Gazebo Dances* (1972)

Overture - Waltz - Adagio - Tarantella

In the words of the composer: ‘Gazebo Dances was originally written as a set of four-hand pieces dedicated to certain of my pianist friends. I later arranged the suite for orchestra and for concert band, and it is from the latter version that the title is drawn. The title Gazebo Dances was suggested by the pavilions often seen on village greens in towns throughout the countryside, where public band concerts were given on summer evenings. The delights of that sort of entertainment are portrayed in this set of dances, which begins with a Rossini-like Overture, followed by a rather peg-legged Waltz, a long-lined Adagio and a bouncy Tarantella.’

Each movement was given a dedication:

I — for Rose Corigliano and Etta Feinberg

II — for John Ardoin

III — for Heida Hermanns

IV — for Jack Romann and Christian Steiner

It was premiered by Frances Veri and Michael Jamanis, pianos in the Alice Tully Hall, New York on February 24, 1985.

John Corigliano is an American composer of contemporary classical music. with accolades including a Pulitzer Prize, five Grammy Awards, the Grawemeyer Award for Music Composition, and an Academy Award. A former distinguished professor of music at Lehman College and the Graduate Center of the City University of New York and part of the composition faculty at the Juilliard School, Corigliano is best known for his Symphony No. 1, a response to the AIDS epidemic, and his film score for François Girard's *The Red Violin* (1997), which he adapted as his 2003 Concerto for Violin and Orchestra ("The Red Violin") for Joshua Bell.

John Hearne (b. 1937) – *Strange and Solemn Music* (1998)

John Hearne is a Scottish composer, conductor, singer, music publisher, and translator, renowned for his choral, orchestral, and instrumental works that often draw on Scottish, Welsh, and Icelandic influences. Born in Reading, England, to Welsh parents, he has resided in Scotland since 1970. His *Strange and Solemn Music* for piano duet was the winning work of the 1998 Gregynog Composers' Award of Wales and first performed at the Gregynog Festival on 27th June 1998 by Harvey and Helen Davies.



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Leonard Bernstein (1918-1990) arr. Karol Close – *West Side Story* (1957)

America - I feel Pretty - Maria - Cool - One Hand, One Heart - Something's Coming - Somewhere - Tonight

The musical, conceived by Jerome Robbins with music by Leonard Bernstein and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, was inspired by William Shakespeare's play *Romeo and Juliet*. The story is set in the mid-1950s on the Upper West Side of

Manhattan in New York City, then a multiracial, blue-collar neighbourhood. The musical explores the rivalry between the Jets and the Sharks, two teenage street gangs of different ethnic backgrounds. The Sharks, recent migrants from Puerto Rico, and the Jets, who are white, vie for dominance, and the police try to keep order. The young protagonist, Tony, a former member of the Jets and best friend of the gang's leader, Riff, falls in love with Maria, the sister of Bernardo, the leader of the Sharks. The dark theme, sophisticated music, extended dance scenes, tragic love story, and focus on social problems marked a turning point in musical theatre.

The original 1957 Broadway production, directed and choreographed by Robbins, marked Sondheim's Broadway debut. It ran for 732 performances before going on tour. A 1961 musical film adaptation, co-directed by Robert Wise and Robbins, was nominated for eleven Academy Awards and won ten, including Best Picture.

Leonard Bernstein, an American conductor, composer, pianist, music educator, author, and humanitarian, is considered to be one of the most important conductors of his time. As a composer he wrote in many genres, including symphonic and orchestral music, ballet, film and theatre music, choral works, opera, chamber music, and pieces for the piano. He was music director of the New York Philharmonic and conducted the world's major orchestras.



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**Gustav Mahler (1860-1911) arr. Bruno Walter – *Symphony No. 1*
*‘Titan’ (1887-1898)***

langsam, schleppend (slowly, dragging) - kräftig bewegt, langsames waltzertempo (moving strongly, slow tempo waltz) - feierlich und gemessen, ohne zu schleppen (solemnly and measured, without dragging) - stürmisch bewegt (stormily agitated)

We conclude our celebration of Bruno Walter with his astonishing transcription of Mahler's 1st Symphony.

Mainly composed between late 1887 and March 1888, though incorporating music Mahler had composed for previous works, Mahler's first symphony was premièred at the Vigadó Concert Hall in Budapest, Hungary, in 1889, but was not well-received. Mahler made some major revisions for the second performance, given at Hamburg, Germany, in October 1893; further alterations were made in the years prior to the first publication, in late 1898. Mahler conducted more performances of this symphony than of any of his later works.

The symphony's movements are arranged in a fairly typical four-movement setup. Conventionally, the minuet and trio would be the third movement and the slow movement the second, but Mahler has them switched. and F minor for the last, with a grand finale at the end in D major. The use of F minor for the last movement was a dramatic break from convention.

Initially, there existed an additional second movement, entitled Blumine, but it was removed by Mahler for the final publication in 1899.

The first movement, in D major, is in modified sonata form. The second, in A major, is a scherzo and trio based on a Ländler, a traditional Austrian waltz. The third movement, in D minor, is a slower funeral march with a lyrical central section. In a dramatic break with convention, the fourth movement begins in F minor before moving to D major, forming an expansive finale that lasts around 18 minutes.

b!z'art or bizarre?

The duo b!z'art was founded in 2004 by André and Geoffrey after their studies, having met in the class of Professor Evgeny Moguilevsky at the Royal Conservatoire of Brussels.

Endowed with a strong artistic personality, motivated by a constant search for cohesion and precision, this duo of pianists on 1 and 2 pianos (or rather a single person with 20 fingers?) is out of the ordinary and déjà vu... Passionate and committed musicians, Geoffrey Baptiste and André Roe like to share their love of music wherever they can take it, with great simplicity and complicity with the public.

Every year, they make numerous tours across Europe (Scandinavia, the British Isles, the Baltic Republics, France, Luxemburg, Slovenia, Croatia,...) as well as in China. Influenced by their musical tastes ranging from romanticism to 20th century music, their concerts revolve around strong and original themes (An American in Paris, Aboard the Orient Express, Tales and Legends...) combining undisputed masterpieces with unjustly forgotten works.

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Alongside these recitals, they also offer musical performances where the concert is lived as a "complete" experience, combining music, theatre and visual projection, during which they ensure that the spectator lives a passionate artistic story. In addition, they attach great importance to sharing their passion with the young and regularly propose educational concerts for children, whether in partnership with cultural institutions (cultural centres, theatres, festivals, etc.) or directly in schools.

Our Next Concerts
Sunday, October 25th at 3pm
Nikodem Rodzeń, violin

This charismatic young virtuoso from Warsaw performs an irresistible programme of some of the finest, most memorable music ever composed for his instrument, exploring the full range of emotions that can be evoked by four strings and a bow. The programme includes J.S. Bach's Partita No. 2 in D Minor, Luciano Berio's Sequenza VIII and two pieces by Grażyna Bacewicz: Sonata No. 2 and Kaprys Polski.

Sunday, November 8th at 7.30pm
Ian Watt, guitar – Pieces of Picasso

Scotland's finest guitarist will brighten and warm a November evening with captivating works associated with Pablo Picasso. *Cantigas de Santiago* by Stephen Goss depicts a medieval pilgrimage to Coruna, where the painter spent his childhood. Miguel Llobet, a drinking companion of the artist in Barcelona, is represented by his *Schero-Vals & El Mestre*; from Pujol, who befriended him in Paris, we hear three works. His *Old Guitarist*, which inspired Tippett's *The Blue Guitar*, might just be playing a tune by Sor or Regondi who complete the programme.

Please volunteer - although we have been putting on concerts of the highest musical calibre since the early 1960s, we remain a very small operation relying entirely on a few volunteers to organise and manage our activities. If you think you might be able to help in any way by, for example, transporting musicians to and/or from local stations, serving refreshments during the interval, creating publicity materials, putting up posters around the Borders, please, do contact us.

Website - www.melrosemusicsociety.org.uk

Email - info@melrosemusicsociety.org.uk

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

Please donate – our ticket prices are affordable because we believe great music should be accessible to anyone regardless of income. If you can afford more, please, give a little extra. All donations are greatly appreciated. Equally, while we wish you a long, healthy life, a bequest, however small, would help the Society to keep organising concerts into the future.

We thank Creative Scotland, through Chamber Music Scotland, for their invaluable financial help. We are founder members of the Scottish Consortium of Music Societies.

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