

Melrose Music Society

**June 2025 -
April 2026**

**world-class performances
amid the beauty of the Borders**



I am thrilled to present this astonishing series of concerts, of which any major city would be proud, by internationally acclaimed musicians in our small picturesque town. The range of music is immense, works by more than fifty composers, some pieces over a thousand years old, some not yet even completed. We are delighted to be celebrating two notable birthdays: James Dillon's 75th and György Kurtág's 100th, and to be marking the 150th anniversary of Ravel's birth and the 100th of Berio's. We will host at least twelve Scottish premieres, probably more because we feature some unjustly neglected works alongside famous masterpieces by Bach, Beethoven, Brahms, Chopin, Debussy, Liszt, Mozart and Rachmaninov. Please join us for this life-affirming feast of sublime creativity.

Martin Paterson, Chair

Sunday, June 15th 3pm:	Jack Hancher
Sunday, July 6th 3pm:	Noriko Kawai
Sunday, August 3rd 3pm:	Michael Kevin Jones & John Bryden
Sunday, September 7th 3pm:	Patrick Hemmerlé
Sunday, September 21st 3pm:	The Telyn Quartet
Friday, October 10th 7:30pm:	Mathilde Milwidsky & Richard Uttley
Sunday, October 26th 3pm:	Joshua Hayward
Sunday, November 16th 3pm:	Robert Creimerman
Friday, January 23rd, 7:30pm:	The Intesa Duo
Sunday, March 22nd 3pm:	Hamish Strathdee
Sunday, April 26th 3pm:	Alina Horvath

Adult Season Ticket:	£100
Student/under 25/UC/PC Season Ticket:	£50
Adults:	£18
Students/under 25/UC/PC	£9
Children (must be accompanied):	free

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



Sunday, June 15th 3pm

Jack Hancher, guitar

Our season begins with the second of five concerts celebrating the 75th birthday of Scotland's greatest living composer, James Dillon. Jack Hancher will play *Shrouded Mirrors* and Sally Beamish's most recent work for guitar amid pieces from his recent, critically lauded CD, "youthful intensity tempered by sophisticated musical intelligence" (*Gramophone*), "Clean, clear, well focused playing.... so compelling" (Andrew McGregor, BBC Radio 3).

John Dowland:	<i>Praeludium, P98,</i> <i>Fantasia in G Major, P1,</i> <i>Forlorn Hope Fancy, P2</i>
Dani Howard:	<i>You don't Have to Tell Me Twice</i>
Laura Snowden:	<i>The Memory Garden</i>
Malcolm Arnold:	<i>Fantasy for Guitar, Op.107</i>
Sally Beamish:	<i>Unquiet</i>
James Dillon:	<i>Shrouded Mirrors</i>
Benjamin Britten:	<i>Nocturnal after John Dowland</i>

Sunday, July 6th 3pm

Noriko Kawai, piano

We are proud to present the Scottish premiere of “*echo the angelus*” played by its dedicatee, the distinguished Japanese pianist, Noriko Kawai, who has been closely associated James Dillon’s music for years, and recorded his complete *Book of Elements*. To quote from *Gramophone*’s review of that astounding CD, “It is Noriko Kawai who has become most closely involved with this music, and she offers an unfailingly persuasive realisation... While she has ample reserves of strength for the music’s many episodes of turbulence, the delicacy with which she plays the soft yet immensely intricate polyphony of *Volume 3*’s third piece is even more remarkable.” Noriko will also play two ravishing French masterpieces, which inspired Dillon.

Claude Debussy: *Estampes*

James Dillon: *The Book of Elements Volume 3*

“*echo the angelus*”,

Maurice Ravel: *Gaspard de la Nuit*





Sunday, August 3rd 3pm

Michael Kevin Jones, cello & John Bryden, piano

We are delighted to welcome back our good friend John Bryden to mark the centenary of Berio's birth with three of his delightful piano miniatures. Prize-winning and much recorded cellist, Michael Kevin Jones will give the Scottish premiere of a recently discovered work by Rodrigo. Together they will offer up a feast of gorgeous, poignant melodies, culminating in Rachmaninov's great sonata.

Grace Christus:	<i>The Dragon and the Phoenix</i>
Joachim Rodrigo:	<i>Como una Fantasia</i>
Antonio Vivaldi:	<i>Sonata E minor op.14, No.5</i>
Max Bruch:	<i>Kol Nidrei</i>
Daniël van Goens:	<i>Scherzo</i>
Luciano Berio:	<i>Wasserklavier, Erdenklavier, Luftklavier</i>
Sergei Rachmaninov:	<i>Sonata in G minor</i>

Sunday, September 7th 3pm

Patrick Hemmerlé, piano

This major cultural event will be an astonishing and unforgettable experience. The maverick French pianist is one of the most talented, idealistic and idiosyncratic musicians alive. Shunning fame because he prefers the intimacy of small venues, he delights in innovative and stimulating programming. We understand he will be only the second major pianist in history to play these two sets of variations at the same concert. In 2013 András Schiff played them to sell-out crowds at these vast venues: Carnegie Hall, New York; Walt Disney Hall, L.A., and Jordon Hall, Boston. You have the chance to hear them up close and personal in the wonderful acoustics of our church hall, and on a piano that Martin Roscoe recently said was the best he had played in ages.

Johan Sebastian Bach: *Goldberg Variations*

Ludvig van Beethoven: *Diabelli Variations*



Sunday, September 21st 3pm

The Telyn Quartet



This exciting young quartet based at Oxford University continue our celebration of Dillon, conclude our 150th anniversary survey of Ravel, also perform one of Mozart's ground-breaking Prussian quartets and a superb work composed during WWII by Maconchy, whose series of thirteen quartets, though rarely heard, are among the finest of the last century.

W.A. Mozart:	<i>String Quartet No. 21 in D-Major, K. 575</i>
Elizabeth Maconchy:	<i>String Quartet No 4</i>
James Dillon:	<i>String Quartet No.7</i>
Maurice Ravel:	<i>String Quartet in F major</i>



Friday, October 10th 7:30pm

Mathilde Milwidsky, violin & Richard Uttley, piano

Described by Maxim Vengerov as “exceptionally talented”, Mathilde Milwidsky has been enchanting and thrilling audiences since she burst onto the classical music scene eight years ago. We are delighted and honoured that she, and the equally acclaimed Richard Uttley, will give the final concert of our series celebrating James Dillon’s 75th birthday, playing two pieces from his *Traumwerk Book III* of 2002. Ranging across four centuries, their fascinating programme includes the baroque beauty of one of the oldest surviving works for solo violin, great sonatas from Mozart and Brahms, delightful pieces by two neglected geniuses of melodious modernism, and Lutoslawski’s virtuosic valediction.

Nikos Skalkottas:

Sonatina No.2

Grażyna Bacewicz:

*Stained glass window,
Polish Caprice*

Heinrich Ignaz Franz Biber:

Passacaglia for solo violin

James Dillon:

Traumwerk Book III (no 2&4)

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart:

Sonata in A Major, K. 305

Witold Lutoslawski:

Subito

Johannes Brahms:

Sonata No. 3 in D minor, Opus 108

Sunday, October 26th 3pm

Joshua Hayward, viola

This intensely emotional voyage from darkness to light, centred around Thea Musgrave's piece composed specially for Joshua during the Covid-19 pandemic, begins with Bach's melancholic suite in D minor and ends with his exuberant suite in D major. Berio's extraordinary exploration of *tremolo* is a fitting reminder of his inventive genius exactly one hundred years and two days after his birth, while his contemporary Kurtág's moving *Doloroso* will be a perfect early appetiser for our season's finale: a very special recital to celebrate his 100th birthday.

Johan Sebastian Bach: *Suite No. 2 in D minor, BWV 1008*

Luciano Berio: *Sequenza VI*

Kristof Penderecki: *Sarabande; Tanz*

György Kurtág: *Doloroso*

Thea Musgrave: *Light at the End of the Tunnel*

Sally Beamish: *Pernillion*

Johan Sebastian Bach: *Suite No. 6 in D major, BWV 1012*





Sunday, November 16th 3pm

Robert Creimerman, piano

Having travelled from D minor to D major Bach in our previous solo recital, we are now taken, by the charismatic winner of last year's Governor's Prize at the RCS, from early C minor to mature C major Beethoven, with very many marvels on route. After the youthful set of variations, we will hear poignant late Brahms, tempestuous early Prokofiev, and "the most exalted, intense and sublimely powerful of all Chopin's compositions" according to John Ogdon, before the ecstatic sunlight of Debussy's paean to love heralds that dazzlingly ebullient "heroic symphony for piano", the "Waldstein" sonata.

Ludwig van Beethoven: *32 Variations in C minor, WoO 80*

Johannes Brahms: *6 Klavierstücke, Op.118*

Sergei Prokofiev: *Sonata no. 3 in A minor, op. 28*

Frédéric Chopin: *Ballade No. 4 in F minor, Op. 52*

Claude Debussy: *L'isle joyeuse*

Ludvig van Beethoven: *Sonata No.21 in C Major, "Waldstein"*

Friday, January 23rd, 7:30pm

The Intesa Duo – viols and voice

We are thrilled that the Tunnell Trust have facilitated this recital by two new stars of early music. Lucine Musaelian and Nathan Giorgetti will perform some pieces dating back more than a thousand years. Their programme is inspired by the Venetian island of San Lazzaro degli Armeni, where the monks of the Mekhitarist monastery preserved and disseminated Armenian, Latin, and Italian music. The recital will feature works by Grigor Narekatsi (c. 950-1007), Nerses Shnorhali (1102-1173), Adrian Willaert (c. 1490–1562), Orlando di Lasso (1532-1594), Giulio Caccini (1551-1618), Luca Marenzio (1556-1599), Claudio Monteverdi (1567-1643), Tobias Hume (1569-1645), Alfonso Ferrabosco II (1575-1628), Michael East (c. 1580-1648), Francesca Caccini (1587-1640), Barbara Strozzi (1619-1677) and Marin Marais (1656-1728).





Sunday, March 22nd 3pm

Hamish Strathdee, guitar

From medieval Armenia to today's Australia, never say that Melrose does not offer amazing musical variety. From Brisbane, Hamish Strathdee has become one of the leading guitarists of his generation, his CDs receiving international critical acclaim. We are proud to host the Scottish debut of this major artist, who will play a delightful mix of memorable melodies: mournful Elizabethan lute music, exuberant virtuoso variations on themes by Rossini; unforgettable lyricism from the Paraguayan genius whom John Williams regards as "the greatest guitarist/composer of any time"; and, finally, new works from prominent young Australian composers, and when I say new, two were completed only this year.

John Dowland:	<i>Prelude p. 98, Lachrimae Pavane p. 15A, Fancy p. 73</i>
Mauro Giuliani:	<i>Rossiniana no. 6 op. 124</i>
Agustin Barrios:	<i>Julia Florida, Vals Op. 8 no. 4</i>
Elizabeth YOUNAN:	<i>Fantasia No. X for Solo Guitar</i>
Olivia Davies:	<i>In Flow</i>
Harry Sdraulig:	<i>Sonata for Solo Guitar</i>

Sunday, April 26th 3pm - Alina Horvath, Piano

In celebration of György Kurtág's 100th birthday, his compatriot will juxtapose the Hungarian composer's homages and extrapolations with classics that inspired them. Our season ends, fittingly, with his profound meditation on the 4,000-year-old wood carving in the Louvre of a couple holding hands: we don't know who they are, where they came from, where they are going, only that they belong together.

Domenico Scarlatti: *Sonata in D major K. 119*

György Kurtág: *Hommage à Domenico Scarlatti,
Eight Piano Pieces, Op. 3*

W.A. Mozart: *Sonata in G major KV 283. No. 5*

György Kurtág: *Szálkák, Op. 6d*

Franz Liszt: *Hungarian Rhapsody No. 16 in A minor*

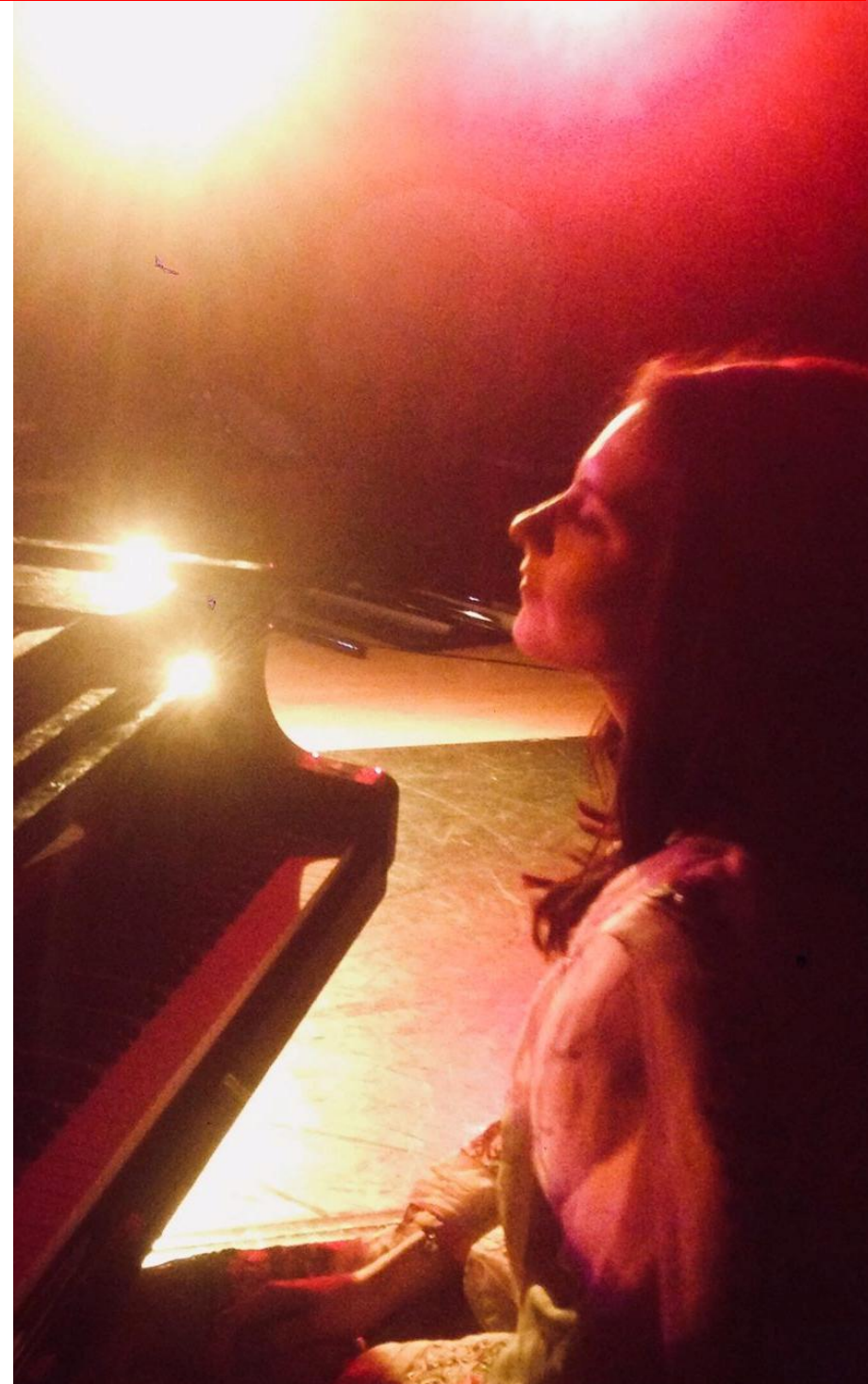
György Kurtág: *... feuilles mortes ...*

Joseph Haydn: *Sonata in E minor Hob.XVI:34*

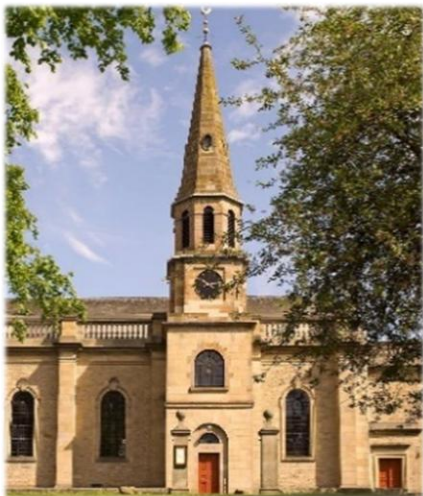
György Kurtág: *Perpetuum mobile (objet trouvé)*

Claude Debussy: *Pour le Piano.*

György Kurtág: *couple égyptien en route vers l'inconnu*



Our concerts are held in Melrose Parish Church Hall. We thank the Church for its always friendly co-operation in making this wonderful venue available.



Chamber Music Scotland



We very gratefully acknowledge financial support from Creative Scotland, through Chamber Music Scotland, without which we would find it very hard to continue.

Although we have been putting on concerts of the highest calibre since the 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 Tweedbank or Berwick station, providing overnight accommodation, serving refreshments during the interval, creating publicity materials, putting up posters, please, contact us.

We are a charity (SC005891) with the sole aim of promoting the appreciation of serious music in Melrose and the surrounding area. We keep our ticket prices as low as possible because we believe great music should be accessible to anyone regardless of income. This means, however, that we are under constant financial pressure. If you are in the fortunate position of being able to afford to pay more, please, give a little extra. It would be very greatly appreciated.

Thank you so much for your continued support.

melrosemusicsoc@gmail.com

www.melrosemusicsociety.org.uk