

# Melrose Music Society

June 2025-April 2026



A woman with long dark hair, wearing a black sleeveless top and a silver necklace with circular pendants, is singing. A man in a grey suit is playing a lute, looking towards her. A bright circular light is visible in the background.

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





I am proud to present this astonishing series of concerts by internationally acclaimed musicians in our small picturesque town. Why go to a major city when you can enjoy such greatness in our gorgeous, tranquil surroundings? The range of music is immense, works by more than fifty composers, some pieces over a thousand years old, some composed only this year. We celebrate two notable birthdays, James Dillon's 75<sup>th</sup> and György Kurtág's 100<sup>th</sup>, and mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Ravel's birth and the centenary of Berio's. We are hosting at least eleven Scottish premieres, probably more because we are featuring some unjustly neglected works alongside famous masterpieces by Bach, Beethoven, Brahms, Chopin, Debussy, Liszt, Mozart, Rachmaninov... Please join us for this life-affirming banquet of sublime creativity.

Martin Paterson, Chair

[melrosemusicsoc@gmail.com](mailto:melrosemusicsoc@gmail.com)

**Sunday, June 15<sup>th</sup> 3pm - Jack Hancher, guitar**



As well as James Dillon's exquisite and mysterious *Shrouded Mirrors*, Jack will play Sally Beamish's latest, utterly enthralling, work for guitar and the entirety of his recent, unanimously lauded CD: "youthful intensity tempered by sophisticated musical intelligence" (*Gramophone*) "Clean, clear, well focused playing....so compelling" (Andrew McGregor, BBC Radio 3)

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

## Sunday, July 6<sup>th</sup> 3pm - Noriko Kawai, piano



The Scottish premiere of “*echo the angelus*” will be given by its dedicatee, Noriko Kawai, who has been closely associated James Dillon’s music for years, and has recorded his complete *Book of Elements*. To quote *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 French masterpieces, which inspired Dillon.

Debussy: *Estampes*

Dillon: *The Book of Elements Volume 3*  
“*echo the angelus*”,

Ravel: *Gaspard de la Nuit*

## Sunday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> 3pm

### Michael Kevin Jones, cello & John Bryden, piano



John gives us delicate shimmering Berio for his centenar, Michael the Scottish premiere of a newly discovered work by Rodrigo. Together they offer up an irresistible array of flowing melodies and infectious rhythms.

Christus: *The Dragon & the Phoenix*

Rodrigo: *Como una Fantasia*

Vivaldi: *Sonata E minor op.14,*

Bruch: *Kol Nidrei*

van Goens: *Scherzo*

Berio: *Wasserklavier,*  
*Erdenklavier,*  
*Luftklavier*

Rachmaninov: *Sonata in G minor*





## Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup> 3pm - Patrick Hemmerlé, piano

The maverick French musician will become only the second major pianist in history to play these two epic sets of variations at one concert, after András Schiff, who in 2013, sold-out Carnegie Hall, New York; Walt Disney Hall, L.A., and Jordon Hall, Boston. You have the chance to hear these awesome masterpieces up close and personal in the wonderful acoustics of our church hall on a piano Martin Roscoe recently said was the best he had played in ages.

Bach: *Goldberg Variations*

Beethoven: *Diabelli Variations*



## Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup> 3pm - The Telyn Quartet



This exciting young quartet based at Oxford University continue our celebration of Dillon, conclude our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary survey of Ravel, and perform one Mozart's sublime Prussian quartets, together with a glittering, evocative gem from 1943 by Elizabeth Maconchy, whose thirteen quartets, though scandalously rarely heard, are among the finest of the last century.

Mozart: *String Quartet No. 21 in D-Major, K. 575*

Maconchy: *String Quartet No 4*

Dillon: *String Quartet No.7*

Ravel: *String Quartet in F major*

Friday, October 10<sup>th</sup> 7:30pm

Mathilde Milwidsky, violin & Richard Uttley, piano



Ranging across four centuries, this fascinating programme includes the baroque beauty of one of the oldest surviving works for solo violin, great sonatas from Mozart and Brahms, charming pieces by two neglected geniuses of melodious modernism, and Lutoslawski's virtuosic valediction.



Skalkottas: *Sonatine No.2*; Bacewicz: *Stained glass window, Polish Caprice*  
Biber: *Passacaglia*; Dillon: *Traumwerk Book III (no 2&4)*; Lutoslawski: *Subito*;  
Mozart: *Sonata in A Major, K. 305*; Brahms: *Sonata No. 3 in D minor, Opus 108*

Sunday, October 26<sup>th</sup> 3pm - Joshua Hayward, viola

This voyage out of darkness, centred around Musgrave's work composed for Joshua during the pandemic, also marks Berio's centenary with his extraordinary exercise in *tremolo*.

Bach: *Suite No. 2 in D minor, BWV 1008*  
Berio: *Sequenza VI*  
Penderecki: *Sarabande; Tanz*  
Kurtág: *Doloroso*  
Musgrave: *Light at the End of the Tunnel*  
Beamish: *Pernillion*  
Bach: *Suite No. 6 in D major, BWV 1012*



Sunday, November 16<sup>th</sup> 3pm - Robert Creimerman, piano



Having travelled from D minor to D major Bach in the previous recital, we are now taken, by the charismatic winner of last year's Governor's Prize at the RCS, from C minor to C major Beethoven, with very many marvels along the way.

Beethoven: *32 Variations in C minor, WoO 80*  
Brahms: *6 Klavierstücke, Op.118*  
Prokofiev: *Sonata no. 3 in A minor, op. 28*  
Chopin: *Ballade No. 4 in F minor, Op. 52*  
Debussy: *L'isle joyeuse*  
Beethoven: *Sonata No.21 in C Major, "Waldstein"*



Friday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 7:30pm - The Intesa Duo, viols & voice



Lucine Musaelian and Nathan Giorgetti's recital is inspired by the Venetian island, San Lazzaro degli Armeni, where the monks of the Mekhitarist monastery preserved and disseminated Armenian, Latin, and Italian music. The duo will feature works by Narekatsi, Shnorhali, Willaert, Lasso, Caccini, Marenzio, Monteverdi, Hume, Ferrabosco, East, Caccini, Strozzi and Marais.

Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> 3pm - Hamish Strathdee, guitar

Born in Brisbane, Hamish Strathdee is one of the leading guitarists of his generation, his CDs receiving international acclaim. His Scottish debut combines memorable melodies with dazzling dexterity.

Dowland: *Prelude, Lachrimae Pavane, Fancy*  
Giuliani: *Rossiniana no. 6 op. 124*  
Barrios: *Julia Florida, Vals Op. 8 no. 4*  
Younan: *Fantasia No. X for Solo Guitar*  
Davies: *In Flow*  
Sdraulig: *Sonata for Solo Guitar*



Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup> 3pm - Alina Horvath, Piano



To celebrate György Kurtág's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, his compatriot juxtaposes his homages and extrapolations with classics that inspired them.

Scarlatti: *Sonata in D major K. 119*  
Mozart: *Sonata in G major KV 283. No. 5*  
Liszt: *Hungarian Rhapsody No. 16 in A minor*  
Haydn: *Sonata in E minor Hob.XVI:34*  
Debussy: *Pour le Piano.*  
Kurtág: *Hommage à Domenico Scarlatti,*  
*Eight Pieces, Op. 3, Szálkák, Op. 6,*  
*... feuilles mortes..., Perpetuum mobile,*  
*...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. It is blessed with gloriously clear and warm acoustics.

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



## Chamber Music Scotland

Although we have been hosting concerts of the highest calibre since the 1960s, we remain a small operation relying entirely on volunteers. If you think you might be able to help by, for example, transporting musicians to and/or from Tweedbank or Berwick station, providing overnight accommodation, serving refreshments during the interval, creating publicity materials, displaying posters, please, contact us at [melrosemusicsoc@gmail.com](mailto:melrosemusicsoc@gmail.com)

We are a charity (SC005891) with the sole aim of promoting the appreciation of serious music in Melrose and the surrounding area. We keep ticket prices unrealistically low because we believe great music should be accessible to anyone regardless of income. We are, thus, 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.



# Concerts in Melrose Parish Church Hall

Sun, June 15th 3pm:	Jack Hancher, guitar
Sun, July 6th 3pm:	Noriko Kawai, piano
Sun, Aug 3rd 3pm:	Michael Kevin Jones, cello & John Bryden, piano
Sun, Sept 7th 3pm:	Patrick Hemmerlé, piano
Sun, Sept 21st 3pm:	The Telyn Quartet
Fri, Oct 10th 7:30pm:	Mathilde Milwidsky, violin & Richard Uttley, piano
Sun, Oct 26th 3pm:	Joshua Hayward, viola
Sun, Nov 16th 3pm:	Robert Creimerman, piano
Fri, Jan 23rd, 7:30pm:	The Intesa Duo, viols & voice
Sun, March 22nd 3pm:	Hamish Strathdee, guitar
Sun, April 26th 3pm:	Alina Horvath, piano
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](http://www.ticketebo.co.uk/melrose-music-society)  
[www.melrosemusicsociety.org.uk](http://www.melrosemusicsociety.org.uk)

## Notable Concerts in Nearby Kelso

Fri, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Oct	Beth Taylor, mezzo & Marcia Hadjimarkos, piano
Fri, 31 <sup>st</sup> Oct	Trio Archai, violin, cello & piano
Fri, 14 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Thomas Mathias, violin & Dominic Degavino, piano
Sun, 30 <sup>th</sup> Nov	The Maxwell Quartet
Sun, 25 <sup>th</sup> Jan	The Gould Piano Trio & Robert Plane, clarinet
Sun, 8 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Flute and Frets
Sun, 15 <sup>th</sup> March	Nikita Lukinov, piano

[www.kelsomusicsociety.com](http://www.kelsomusicsociety.com)