



Melrose Music Society

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

2026

Virtuosity and Variety in an Intimate, Idyllic Venue

Why endure the traffic, bustle and expense of a city to be inspired, uplifted and entranced by brilliant music? In beautiful, tranquil, Melrose, our recitals offer amazing variety: twenty-two instruments, works from four centuries, twelve countries and forty composers; famous favourites and rarely heard masterpieces, such as Tippett's *The Blue Guitar*, Schoenberg's *Wind Quintet* and Mahler's *First Symphony* transcribed by his friend and champion, Bruno Walter, part of our celebration of the great conductor, born 150 years ago.

We thank Melrose Parish Church for making their charming hall available. It boasts clear, warm acoustics, and even (fairly) comfortable chairs.



- Sunday, May 31st, 3pm:** Concert Royal, flute, cello and harpsichord
Sunday, June 28th, 3pm: The Bute Wind Quintet
Sunday, July 19th, 3pm: Simon Callaghan, piano
Sunday, Aug 16th, 3pm: Maria Waszyrowska, soprano & Harris Playfair, piano
Sunday, Sept 6th, 3pm: Boglárka György, violin & Amy Butler, piano
Sunday, Sept 27th, 3pm: Duo B!z'art, piano four-hands
Sunday, Oct 25th, 3pm: Nikodem Rodzeń, violin
Sunday, Nov 8th, 7:30pm: Ian Watt, guitar

- Season Ticket Membership** Adult - £96 Student/under 25/UC/PC - £48
Single Concert Admission Adult - £20 Student/under 25/UC/PC - £10
Accompanied Children admitted free of charge

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

Sunday, May 31st, 3pm - Concert Royal, flute, cello & harpsichord

Music for a Georgian Drawing Room



Concert Royal, one of Britain's first "authentic instrument" ensembles, has, remarkably, retained the same personnel for fifty years. This concert on their farewell tour, is absolutely your last chance to hear them recreate the sophisticated charm of a C18th musical entertainment in which German baroque sonatas and fantasies are played alongside British folk-song arrangements, dances and character pieces.

John Gunn: *Four Favourite Scotch Airs*

Edward Miller: *Harpsichord Sonata*

Carl Friedrich Abel: *Viola da Gamba Sonata*

George Frideric Handel: *Fantasia; Musik for the Royal Fireworks*

James Oswald: *The Ranunculus; The Crocus*

Johann Ernst Galliard: *Violincello Sonata*

Johann Christian Bach: *Flute Sonata*

Sunday, June 28th 3pm – The Bute Wind Quintet

We celebrate György Kurtág's 100th birthday with one of his earliest works, alongside music by composers with intimidating reputations. Fear not: Ligeti here is at his liveliest, quirkiest and wittiest; Berio's amusing "entertainment for children" is a set of animal impressions; Stockhausen's elegy is sublimely poignant. All these contrasting moods mingle in the greatest wind quintet ever composed: if you like the lush mysticism of *Verklärte Nacht*, you will be utterly entranced by Schoenberg's Op.26. György Ligeti: *Six Bagatelles*; György Kurtág: *Wind Quintet, op.2*; Luciano Berio: *Opus Number Zoo*; Karlheinz Stockhausen: *Adieu*; Arnold Schoenberg: *Wind Quintet, Op. 26*



Sunday, July 19th 3pm – Simon Callaghan, piano



One of the leading pianists of his generation, Simon Callaghan has recorded more than fifty CDs and performed in many of the major concert halls around the world. In Melrose, he will play two extraordinary pieces from 1908 by young English composers, both of which he has recorded to great critical acclaim. Rebecca Clarke's *Theme and Variations*, with its Schubertian grace and charm, established her as an emerging feminine talent in those chauvinistic times. Cyril Scott's astonishingly original first sonata so impressed Stravinsky that he incorporated its rhythmic motifs into *The Rite of Spring*. Simon's recital ends with arguably the most profound sonata ever, Schubert's last, completed just weeks before his death.

Rebecca Clarke: *Theme and Variations*

Cyril Scott: *Sonata No.1*

Franz Schubert: *Sonata in B-flat major, D. 960*

Sunday, August 16th 3pm – “It might as well be Spring”

Maria Waszyrowska, soprano & Harris Playfair, piano



Maria, accompanied by the majestically versatile Harris, will sing songs from her native Poland, and begin our celebration of Bruno Walter, exploring links between Europe and Broadway. Walter fled Vienna in 1938 as the Nazis took control, as did Georg von Trapp, whose story was adapted into *The Sound of Music*, with Edelweiss paying tribute to Austrian folk music. Rodgers also loved to mimic Viennese operetta, and composed as many great waltzes as Johann Strauss. Weill, like Walter, was a refugee who achieved fame in America; Gershwin sought classical respectability, admiring Ravel and Schoenberg.

George Gershwin: *Someone to Watch Over Me; They Can't Take That Away from Me*

Frédéric Chopin: *Życzenie; Posel; Wiosna; Śliczny Chłopiec; Niema czego trzeba*

Karol Szymanowski: *Lecioły zórazie; Wysta burzycka; U jeziorecka;*

A pod borem siwe kunie; Uwoz, mamó

Richard Rodgers: *Some Enchanted Evening; Falling in Love with Love;*

It might as well be Spring; Edelweiss

Pyotr Tchaikovsky: *Twas in the Early Spring; Amid the Din of the Ball*

eden ahbez: *Nature Boy*

Bruno Walter: *Waldtraut's Lied 1 & 2; Die Elfe; Die Lerche;*

Des Kindes Schlaf; Solvejg's Lied

Kurt Weill: *It Never was You*



Sunday, Sept. 6th, 3pm - Boglárka György, violin & Amy Butler, piano



The scintillating duo that performed Beethoven's "Spring" Sonata so memorably for us in 2024 return to play his passionate "Kreutzer" Sonata. Our celebration of Bruno Walter continues with his only sonata, inspired by, and modelled on, the Beethoven, and with works from the two composers Walter most admired. He made the first commercial recording of Mahler's *Symphony No. 5* with the NYPO in 1947. Its poignant *Adagietto*, made famous by Visconti's film *Death in Venice*, sounds wonderful as a delicate duet in this sensitive arrangement. Mozart's *K301* is his first masterpiece in the genre, with a gorgeous lilting waltz as a *finale*.

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart:

Violin Sonata No. 18, G Major, K. 301

Bruno Walter:

Violin Sonata in A major

Gustav Mahler (arr. Otto Wittenbecher):

Adagietto

Ludwig van Beethoven:

Violin Sonata No. 9 in A major, Opus 47

Sunday, Sept. 27th, 3pm: Duo B!z'art, piano four-hands



Our celebration of Bruno Walter reaches an appropriately epic, spectacular, climax with his astonishing transcription of Mahler's *Symphony No 1, "The Titan"*, played by the Belgian duo of André Roe and Geoffrey Baptiste, who have, over the last two decades, become one of the top piano duos in Europe. Leonard Bernstein began his career as Walter's assistant at the NYPO, making his sensational debut at Carnegie Hall in 1943 when the Austrian refugee was ill with 'flu, so it is appropriate that we will hear his *West Side Story Suite*. His fellow American, and friend, John Corigliano's *Gazebo Dances* are exuberant, exhilarating foot-tappers. *Strange and Solemn Music* by Scotland's John Hearne is as moody and evocative as its Shakespearean title suggests.

John Corigliano: *Gazebo Dances*
John Hearne: *Strange and Solemn music*
Leonard Bernstein: *West Side Story Suite*
Gustav Mahler, arr. Walter:
Symphony No.1, "The Titan"

Sunday, Oct. 25th, 3pm: Nikodem Rodzeń, violin



This charismatic young virtuoso from Warsaw performs an irresistible programme of undoubted masterpieces, exploring the full range of emotions. Bach's second *partita*, culminating in the famous plaintive, searingly beautiful, *ciaccona* contrasts remarkably with his sunny, lilting *Preludio* and *Loure* in E Major. Grażyna Bacewicz, renowned during her lifetime as an exceptionally talented violinist, is now recognised as one of the finest, most engaging, composers of the last century, her works for her own instrument being particularly uplifting. A performance of Berio's intense, passionate, technically demanding (a euphemism for "almost impossible") *Sequenza VIII* is an unforgettably exhilarating experience, with gorgeous moments of serenity amid the mayhem.

Johann Sebastian Bach:

Partitas: No.2 in D Minor;

No.3 in E Major, Preludio and Loure

Luciano Berio:

Sequenza VIII

Grażyna Bacewicz:

Sonata No. 2; Kaprys Polski

Sunday, Nov. 8th, 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. Goss' piece depicts a medieval pilgrimage to Coruna, where the painter spent his childhood. Llobet was a drinking companion of the artist in Barcelona; Pujol befriended him in Paris. His *Old Guitarist*, which inspired Tippett's great composition, might just be playing a tune by Sor or Regondi.

Fernando Sor:

Minuet in C minor Op 24;

Rondo in C major, Op. 22

Stephen Goss:

Cantigas de Santiago

Giulio Regondi:

Introduction and Caprice, Op. 23

Michael Tippett:

The Blue Guitar

Miguel Llobet:

Scherzo-Vals; El Mestre

Emilio Pujol:

Canción de Cuna;

Las Abejas; Guajira



Help us Keep the Music Alive

We are a charity (SC005891) with the sole aim of promoting the appreciation of serious music in Melrose and the surrounding area. Although we have been hosting high calibre concerts since the early 1960s, we rely 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. Consider, too, whether you might like to join the committee and become a trustee of the Society.

Our ticket prices are unrealistically low 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.

melrosemusicsoc@gmail.com

www.melrosemusicsociety.org.uk

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