



Patron: Gina McCormack

CONCERTS 2021-2022

75th season

**World-class chamber music concerts
in the Eastgate Theatre, Peebles**



www.musicinpeebles.org.uk



Welcome

In the extraordinary times in which I write this, we need the arts, and live music in particular, more than ever. The Covid-19 pandemic has robbed audiences, musicians and venues of life-enhancing music, and the livelihoods that depend on it, since early March 2020.

Out of that long silence, it is with even greater delight than usual that I unveil our 75th season. We have no fewer than **ten** concerts, the most ever, including some artists whose concerts had to be cancelled last season. As you look through the pages of this brochure, you will see faces familiar and new, names unknown and world-renowned, music much-loved and awaiting discovery. I hope you will be enthused, intrigued and, above all, moved to join us.

Among the many highlights this season, we welcome back **Clare Hammond**, **Leon McCawley** and the **Brotsky Quartet**, all of whom have played to great acclaim in recent seasons. We also present a rare opportunity to hear **James Willshire**'s renowned performance of the gargantuan 'Passacaglia' by Ronald Stevenson, a composer who put down roots in West Linton.

Innovations include a music-drama production depicting the creation of the 'Carmen' story by **CarmenCo**, and a new work by Scottish harpist **Ailie Robertson** for harp, string quartet and recorded sounds, inspired by the Cairngorms. Outstanding young musicians feature strongly again in our **Patron's Concert** and in recitals by **GAIA** and the **Kwon-Lim Duo**. The season reaches a grand climax with a special performance of Stainer's 'Crucifixion' for Holy Week in Peebles Old Parish Church.

As we emerge from the silent gloom of the pandemic into the music-filled light that lies ahead, I hope that you will be able to share and enjoy with us the wonderful music on offer in the coming anniversary season, and I look forward to welcoming you to our concerts.

John Fox
President, Music in Peebles
June 2021

Sunday 5 September 2021

7.30pm, Eastgate Theatre & Arts Centre, Peebles



Clare Hammond (piano)

Montgeroult	Selection from Etudes
Piazzolla	Suite from A Midsummer Night's Dream
Brahms	Six Piano Pieces, Op. 118
Barnard	Neanderthal Ballads (2020)
W.G.Still	The Bells
Szymanowski	Variations on a Polish Theme, Op. 10

A huge 'Welcome Back' to Clare Hammond, who thrilled us in April 2018 with her dazzling playing. Passionate about contemporary music and also bringing to light forgotten female composers, Clare has chosen this exciting and different programme for us.

Hélène Montgeroult was the first woman professor at the new Paris Conservatoire in 1795, and she published two volumes of music after her tenure. A completely new work, "The Neanderthal Ballads", which Clare commissioned, is inspired by early cave paintings, and explores newly discovered connections between early humans and their human-like relatives.

William Grant Still Jr. was known as 'The Dean of African-American Composers'; The Bells suite is one of nearly 200 works. Karol Szymanowski was the most celebrated Polish composer of the early 20th century, and Clare ends her concert with a virtuosic early work, written in a late Romantic style.

"Pianist Clare Hammond has a knack of mixing repertoire to revealing effect." (Observer)

Tuesday 5 October 2021

7.30pm, Eastgate Theatre & Arts Centre, Peebles



CarmenCo presents ‘Creating Carmen’

Emily Andrews (mezzo soprano & flute)

David Massey & Francisco Correa (guitars)

Robin Soans and Suzanne Ahmet (actors)

Creating Carmen is more than a concert; it occupies the borders between a play and a concert. It is a fully staged, costumed and professionally lit show for three musicians and two actors. The main characters are Prosper Mérimée, writer of the novella on which Bizet's Carmen was based, and Carmen herself, as imagined by Mérimée.

Prosper Mérimée is struggling with his latest novella, when his leading character, Carmen, turns up in his study, larger than life, with a band of musicians in tow and chaos in her wake. Which one of them controls the narrative? And what happens when Carmen discovers the nasty ending Mérimée has planned for her?

The musicians of CarmenCo have collaborated with writer Clare Norburn and director Nicholas Renton to devise a fun-filled evening of fantasy, comedy, drama, and tremendous music. As well as pieces from Bizet's ever-popular 'Carmen', there is Spanish and Spanish-inspired music by Boccherini, da Falla, Garcia-Lorca, Granados, Ravel and Albeniz, all arranged by the musicians for guitars and flute/voice.

“...the playing is exquisite...a delightfully warm, intimate sound.” (Susan Elkin, Lark Reviews)

Tuesday 2 November 2021

7.30pm, Eastgate Theatre & Arts Centre, Peebles



James Willshire (piano)

Ronald Stevenson Passacaglia on DSCH

Heralded as a ‘fabulous technician’ with ‘torrential virtuosity’, James Willshire has enthralled audiences in five continents with performances of ‘freshness and lucidity’, with ‘clarity and sensitivity of touch’ and ‘bravura technique’. His recordings of contemporary British solo piano music have received universal acclaim, being reviewed extensively internationally and broadcast on BBC Radio 3. To date he is most proud of his recording of the ‘Passacaglia’.

The Passacaglia is a large scale composition for solo piano by Ronald Stevenson who, for most of his life, lived at West Linton. The work was composed between 1960 and 1962, except for two sections added on the day of its first performance by the composer in the University of Capetown, South Africa, on 10 December 1963. DSCH are the initials of the German spelling of Dimitri SCHOstakovich, of whom Stevenson was a great admirer and to whom the work is dedicated.

The work takes more than an hour and a quarter to perform and may be the longest unbroken single movement composed for piano. It is extraordinary in its scope, the range of its reference to historic events, and the musical influences absorbed.

“It took all of about two bars to be utterly entranced.” (The Herald)

Tuesday 16 November 2021

7.30pm, Eastgate Theatre & Arts Centre, Peebles



GAIA

Chamber Music Scotland Ensemble in Residence 2019-21

Katrina Lee (violin) & Alice Allen (cello)

Duncan Strachan 13 Ways of Looking at a Blackbird*

Elizabeth Maconchy Theme and Variations

Corelli Sonata for Violin & Cello, Op.5/9

Sally Beamish Stone, Salt and Sky*

* GAIA commissions

Katrina and Alice are familiar to the Peebles audience as members of the Brodick Quartet, who opened our 2018/19 season. As GAIA, they are committed to unveiling the unheard voices of female composers from the past, whilst also supporting female contemporary composers.

Their fascinating programme showcases works by two women composers, a new work by Sally Beamish, one of today's foremost composers, and the other by Irish-English composer Elizabeth Maconchy, described as 'one of the most substantial composers these islands have yet produced'.

The concert opens with another new commission, from Duncan Strachan, perhaps best known as cellist with the Maxwell Quartet and now emerging as a leading young composer. Completing the programme is a sonata by Baroque master, Corelli, whose Opus 5 set is described by Andrew Manze as 'arguably the finest and most influential ever assembled'.

Monday 13 December 2021

7.30pm, Eastgate Theatre & Arts Centre, Peebles



Kwon-Lim Duo

Wayne Kwon (cello), Victor Lim (piano)

Stravinsky	Suite Italienne
Kabalevsky	Cello Sonata in B flat, Op.71
Rachmaninov	Cello Sonata in G minor, Op.19

Born in South Korea in 1995, cellist Wayne Kwon and pianist Victor Lim met while studying for Postgraduate Diplomas at the Royal Northern College of Music. They formed the Kwon-Lim Duo and became the worthy recipients of a prestigious Tunnell Trust Award to perform a Scotland tour in 2021-22.

This concert of music by Soviet Russian composers begins with Stravinsky's Suite Italienne, a jolly, light-hearted arrangement for cello and piano from his ballet music, Pulcinella. The mood changes with Kabalevsky's Sonata in B flat, composed for the great Rostropovich who gave its first performance with Kabalevsky in 1962.

The concert's second half is devoted to the Sonata in G minor by Rachmaninov, dedicated to cellist Anatoliy Brandukov, who gave the first performance in Moscow in 1901 with the composer at the piano. Rachmaninov regarded the role of the piano as not just an accompaniment but equal to the cello; many themes are introduced by the piano to be taken up and embellished by the cello.

Music in Peebles is very grateful to the Tunnell Trust for sponsorship of this concert.

Sunday 9 January 2022

2.30pm, Eastgate Theatre & Arts Centre, Peebles



Patron's Concert

Gina McCormack (violin) & Nigel Clayton (piano)
Young Musicians' Showcase – details to follow

The Patron's Concerts have been highlights of recent seasons, introducing our audience to some outstandingly talented young musicians, hand-picked for us by Gina McCormack. Appearances at these concerts have already led to follow-up engagements with Music in Peebles, including the Kowalski-Reyes Duo in our January 2021 recorded concert.

We are delighted that Gina will present another Young Musicians Showcase this season, for which she will again hand-pick some of the finest young musicians from Scotland's excellent national conservatoire.

Gina McCormack is one of the UK's leading violinists, having held First Violin position with the renowned Sorrel, Maggini and Brodsky string quartets. She is also a highly respected teacher, including seven years at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and currently at the Royal Northern College of Music.

With Gina will be her regular duo partner, **Nigel Clayton** who, in addition to his career as soloist, accompanist and chamber musician, is Professor of Piano at the Royal College of Music and Visiting Professor at the North East of Scotland Music School.

Sunday 6 February 2022

2.30pm, Eastgate Theatre & Arts Centre, Peebles



Brodsky Quartet

*Krysia Osostowicz & Ian Belton (violins)
Paul Cassidy (viola), Jacqueline Thomas (cello)*

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| Borodin | Scherzo in D for String Quartet |
| Schubert | String Quartet No.13 in A minor, D.804 |
| MacMillan | 'For Sonny' and 'Memento' |
| Shostakovich | String Quartet No.9 in E flat, Op.117 |

The Brodsky Quartet, widely regarded as one of the world's finest, is making an eagerly awaited return to Peebles.

Their programme opens with an energetic scherzo by Borodin, which he later orchestrated for inclusion in his unfinished Third Symphony. This is followed by Schubert's ever-popular 'Rosamunde' Quartet, full of the composer's characteristic lyricism yet tinged with the despondency he felt due to his failing health.

After two miniatures by James MacMillan, the concert ends with Shostakovich's enigmatic 9th quartet. Although often regarded as one of his more exuberant, there are also moments of darkness as well as of contentment before the exhilarating tour-de-force of a finale.

Don't miss the chance to hear this great quartet in a fascinating and wide-ranging programme.

"The finest playing I've heard in a long time; fiercely focused, blazing with integrity and brilliantly imagined." (The Telegraph)

Tuesday 1 March 2022

7.30pm, Eastgate Theatre & Arts Centre, Peebles



Leon McCawley (piano)

Haydn Keyboard Sonata No.53 in E min, Hob.XVI:34

Mozart Rondo for Piano No.3 in A min, K. 511

Mozart Piano Sonata No.18 in D ("Hunt"), K.576

Schubert Piano Sonata No.20 in A major, D.959

After Leon McCawley's performance for us in 2018, there were immediate calls for a speedy return visit, so we are delighted to welcome him back with a recital of masterworks from the Classical era through to the dawn of Romanticism, repertoire in which he has few peers.

Haydn's Piano Sonata in E minor, published in London in 1783, is followed by Mozart's final sonata, named the 'Hunt' for its horn-like opening. Leon's recordings of these works have received "Editor's Choice" and "Diapason D'Or" accolades. Between the sonatas comes Mozart's melancholy Rondo for Piano no.3 in A minor.

Schubert's penultimate Piano Sonata D.959 is one of three that he wrote after Beethoven's death and only three months before Schubert's own death the following year. Pianist Jonathan Biss called the andantino 2nd movement "a composed hallucination", whilst the final Rondo, based on the finale of Beethoven's Sonata No.16 in G, reflects Schubert's admiration for the great master.

"One of today's most impeccably musical pianists."
(International Piano)

Tuesday 29 March 2022

7.30pm, Eastgate Theatre & Arts Centre, Peebles



AILIE ROBERTSON (harp)
with The Turadh String Quartet

Michelle Dierx & Abigail Young (violins)
Theodore Chung Lei (viola), Balázs Renczés (cello)

Baroque & Contemporary works for Scottish Harp
Robertson 'The Living Mountain'

Ailie Robertson, who was born in Edinburgh in 1983, is a multi-award winning composer, performer and creative curator whose work crosses the boundaries of traditional and contemporary music.

Winner of the 'Achievement in New Music' prize at the inaugural New Music Scotland Awards, and a National Mod five times gold medallist, Ailie has received many commissions, awards and residences in the UK, Ireland and Canada. She is currently Composer-in-Residence for Sound Scotland and Glyndebourne Opera.

Ailie loves to incorporate the natural world of Scotland into her music. Exploring the interactions between folk, electronic and classical music, her project 'The Living Mountain' (which takes its name from Nan Shepherd's classic book) pays homage to the Cairngorms with field recordings and newly composed music that connect identity, memory and place. Harp, string quartet and electronics combine to create musical soundscapes that are emotive, exciting, haunting and soulful.

"Innovative, assured and beautiful...her harp exerts an undeniable and inexorable tug at the heart strings...you know without doubt you're listening to inspired genius." (Scotland on Sunday)

Tuesday 12 April 2022

7.30pm, Peebles Old Parish Church



Strathclyde University Chamber Choir

David Hamilton, organ

Alan Tavener, director

Stainer The Crucifixion
for tenor, bass, chorus & organ

Note: venue for this event is Peebles Old Parish Church

Strathclyde University Chamber Choir is one of Scotland's leading amateur choirs, with a unique and varied repertoire. It was founded in 1980 by the distinguished conductor and scholar Alan Tavener who, two years later, also founded professional choir Cappella Nova. The choir flourished under his leadership ever since and has commissioned new works by composers including Toby Young and Sir James MacMillan.

John Stainer's 'meditation on the sacred passion of the Holy Redeemer' has been a firm favourite with choirs for over 130 years. It tells the story of Christ's crucifixion through a sequence of choruses, recitatives and arias in a structure similar to Bach's Passions. Written for liturgical use, with five hymns for congregational participation, it is now frequently performed as a concert piece.

For anyone wishing to join in the singing of the hymns, Alan Tavener will be running a workshop ahead of the performance. More details will be announced nearer the time.

TICKETS

Prices for 2021-2022

Season Ticket (all 10 concerts)	£100
Single full price tickets	£15
Discounted tickets*	£7
Under-25s	Free

* Available to members of Biggar Music and Moffat Music Society and to adults accompanying children under 12.

Buying Tickets

In person: Box Office
Eastgate Theatre & Arts Centre
Eastgate
Peebles
EH45 8AD

By phone: 01721 725777

Online: www.eastgatearts.com

Season tickets

Buying a season ticket entitles you to:

- entry to all concerts, with a reserved seat, at a substantial saving over single ticket prices;
- half-price entry to concerts at Biggar Music and Moffat Music Society;
- an invitation to the next Season Launch event, allowing you to obtain advance information about concerts in the following season;
- priority booking for the following season, allowing you to secure a favourite seat;
- regular newsletters and updates about Music in Peebles events and other local musical activities.

Concert-going and the 'new normal'

Every one of us is, of course, all too familiar with the public health measures implemented during the Covid-19 pandemic. As this brochure goes to press, these restrictions are being eased, but there remains talk of a 'new normal', with some measures remaining in place for the foreseeable future. We do not yet know what form, if any, these restrictions may take by the time our season opens and as it progresses.

In Peebles, we are fortunate indeed to have the wonderful Eastgate Theatre as our venue, with its outstanding professional management and staff. As the situation evolves, and public health advice changes, between now and April 2022, you can be assured that everyone at Music in Peebles and the Eastgate Theatre will do whatever is required to keep us all safe.

In the meantime, we plan to go ahead in a way that is as close to the 'old normal' as possible. Season tickets will be on sale, giving entry to all ten concerts in the season, and in due course we hope to welcome audience members in the same numbers as before, if not greater. The Eastgate Box Office will carefully control ticket sales in line with prevailing restrictions, so it makes sense more than ever to make your booking early to avoid possible disappointment.

In the (hopefully unlikely) event that ongoing, or even new, restrictions intervene, then we will keep you fully informed of these and of their impact. If appropriate, refunds will, of course, be made on request, so you may buy with confidence!

Finally, we would like to keep you up to date, not only with changing restrictions, but also with information about our concerts and other musical events. Please see the following page for ways you can keep in touch.

Keep in touch with Music in Peebles:

Visit www.musicinpeebles.org.uk



Email us: contact@musicinpeebles.org.uk

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....and on Facebook

Join our mailing list (at a concert or via the website)

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Music in Peebles 2021-2022

Sunday 5 September 2021 at 7.30pm

CLARE HAMMOND

Piazzolla, Brahms, Szymanowski, W.G. Still, etc

Tuesday 5 October 2021 at 7.30pm

CARMENCO

'Creating Carmen'

Tuesday 2 November 2021 at 7.30pm

JAMES WILLSHIRE

Ronald Stevenson: Passacaglia

Tuesday 16 November 2021 at 7.30pm

GAIA

Duncan Strachan, Elizabeth Maconchy, Corelli, Sally Beamish

Monday 13 December 2021 at 7.30pm

KWON-LIM DUO

Stravinsky, Kabalevsky, Rachmaninov

Sunday 9 January 2022 at 2.30pm

PATRON'S CONCERT

Gina McCormack & Nigel Clayton

Sunday 6 February 2022 at 2.30pm

BRODSKY QUARTET

Borodin, Schubert, MacMillan, Shostakovich

Tuesday 1 March 2022 at 7.30pm

LEON McCRAWLEY

Haydn, Mozart, Schubert

Tuesday 29 March 2022 at 7.30pm

AILIE ROBERTSON

Music for harp with string quartet & electronics

Tuesday 12 April 2022 at 7.30pm

STRATHCLYDE UNIVERSITY CHOIR

Stainer: 'The Crucifixion'