

MUSIC



Founded 1947

Patron: Gina McCormack

musicinpeebles.org.uk

CONCERTS 2024-2025

78th season

World-class chamber music
in the Eastgate Theatre, Peebles

Music in Peebles gratefully
acknowledges support from



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Welcome

Before introducing the new Music in Peebles season I would like to pay a heartfelt “thank you” to John Fox, who has retired as President after an astonishing 14 years. I am a comparative newcomer to Peebles, but am assured by those with longer memories that the range and quality of the chamber concerts offered by Music in Peebles has been largely down to John. So once again, “thank you”.

For the forthcoming season we have put together a diversity of composers and performers: a solo pianist, a piano trio, a string quartet, a “posh boy band”, a harp and saxophone duo, a celebration of the heritage of Scottish song, an evening of innovative music-making on fiddle and accordion, and of course, the annual Patron’s Concert.

The season opens with clarsach virtuoso and composer **Savourna Stevenson** and saxophonist **Steve Kettley**; a blend of haunting melodies, pulsating rhythms and stirring improvisations. **Khrystyna Mykhailichenko** is from Crimea, but now lives in England, having fled Ukraine after Russia’s invasion. She will include music from her homeland in her programme. **Quartetto Noûs**, from Italy, performs around the world and brings to Peebles a programme of Haydn, Shostakovich and Schubert’s “Death and the Maiden” quartet. The “boy band” is **Scozzesi**, Scotland-based, and their programme includes arias, songs from the shows and traditional songs.

Roo & Neil are already familiar to Peebles audiences, having each performed as soloists with Peebles Orchestra. Together, they draw on traditional, classical and jazz influences to create original compositions. “Song over Scotland” is a celebration of Scottish song, with historical background from speaker **David Purdie** and a *cappella* and accompanied song from **Robyn Stapleton**. The **Odysseus Piano Trio** combines trios by Beethoven (the “Ghost” Trio and) and Brahms with three miniatures by Scottish composer Helen Grime.

The season will close with the annual **Patron’s Concert**, sure to be a highlight of the season. Details of this season’s concert will be announced on the Music in Peebles website (musicinpeebles.org.uk).

Helen Narracott
President, Music in Peebles
June 2024

Sunday 1 September 2024

7.30pm, Eastgate Theatre, Peebles



**Savourna Stevenson (clarsach)
&
Steve Kettley (saxophone)**

Clarsach virtuoso Savourna Stevenson is well known to Peebles audiences, having grown up, and lived much of her life, in Tweeddale. She began playing the piano and composing from the age of five with her father, the renowned composer, Ronald Stevenson.

For this concert, Savourna joins forces with old friend and saxophonist Steve Kettley in a duo showcasing her compositions - a blend of haunting melodies, pulsating rhythms and stirring improvisations.

Savourna is known for breaking stylistic barriers while maintaining her Scottish roots and in this concert, she and Steve include music ranging from Savourna's seminal *Tweed Journey* of 1990 to their latest album together *Wine of Life*.

“a talent which deserves to be shouted from the rooftops” (Sunday Times)

“a composer who is a national treasure” (The Herald)

Tuesday 1 October 2024
7.30pm, Eastgate Theatre, Peebles



Khrystyna Mykhailichenko (piano)

Debussy	Preludes (selection)
Chopin	Piano Sonata No.2 in B flat minor, Op.35
Lyatoshynsky	5 Preludes, Op.44
Liszt	Après une lecture du Dante: Fantasia quasi Sonata, S.161/7

Young Ukrainian pianist Khrystyna Mykhailichenko was born in Crimea, and began to play the piano age four. She won her first international competition within six years, and now performs throughout Europe and the USA.

At the outbreak of war in Ukraine she fled to Poland with her mother and sister, before settling in Northumberland. She won a full scholarship to the Royal Academy of Music in London, where she studies with Joanna MacGregor.

Khrystyna's programme includes *Preludes* by Debussy, Chopin's *Piano Sonata No 2, Op 35*, *Five Preludes* by leading Ukrainian composer Borys Lyatoshynsky and Liszt's *Après une lecture de Dante*.

““Khrystyna is an extraordinary talent of rare maturity for her age” (Jonathan Freeman-Attwood, Principal, Royal Academy of Music)

Tuesday 5 November 2024

7.30pm, Eastgate Theatre, Peebles



Quartetto Noûs

Ekaterina Valiulina & Alberto Franchin (violins)

Sara Dambruoso (viola), Ricardo Baldizzi (cello)

Haydn	String Quartet in B minor, Op.64, No.2
Shostakovich	String Quartet No.4 in D major, Op.83
Schubert	String Quartet in D minor, D.810 "Death and the Maiden"

Quartetto Noûs was formed in Italy in 2011, and now perform throughout Europe, North and South America, and the Far East.

Their programme covers three centuries: Haydn's *String Quartet in B minor Op. 64, No. 2*, dating from 1790, one of a set dedicated to Johann Tost, a violinist at the Esterházy court. Shostakovich's *String Quartet No 4 in D major Op.83*, written in 1949, but only performed after Stalin's death in 1953. And finally, Schubert's "*Death and the Maiden*" Quartet, one of the pillars of the chamber music repertoire.

"Decisive and unanimous, the Noûs had the measure of the piece, as well as energy and clear heads" (The Strad)

Sunday 1 December 2024
7.30pm, Eastgate Theatre, Peebles



Scozzesi

Roger Paterson & Christian Schneeberger (tenors)
Jonathan Kennedy & Douglas Nairne (baritones)
Ed Cohen (piano)

Scozzesi (Italian for “Scottish men”) have been called “the latest word in posh boy bands”.

All classical trained, with their own individual careers in the worlds of opera, recitals and teaching, they come together with pianist Ed Cohen, to sing harmonies arranged specifically for a male vocal quartet.

Their repertoire includes solos, duets, trios and quartets from the worlds of opera (Gounod, Bizet, Mozart, Puccini and Donizetti), operetta (Lehár and Offenbach), Gilbert & Sullivan, songs from the shows (Fiddler on the Roof, Les Miserables & South Pacific) and traditional Scottish songs.

“There’s some serious talent there – young conservatoire graduates with numerous opera roles under their belts” (The Scotsman)

Sunday 12 January 2025
2.30pm, Eastgate Theatre, Peebles



‘Roo & Neil’

Ruairidh Geddes (violin) & Neil Sutcliffe (accordion)

Roo Geddes and Neil Sutcliffe combine their shared experience across classical, folk and jazz to create original music for violin and accordion. Their compositions are inspired by landscape and people, and by the ways in which music can evoke a sense of place and community.

They met, and began collaborating musically, as students at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, graduating with First Class Honours.

Their debut album, 'HOMELANDS', was a critical success, winning the prestigious Danny Kyle Award and being selected as a winner of Feis Rois' In Tune with Nature competition. The duo are writing a new body of work inspired by woodlands and the wisdom they have to offer us.

“Glasgow-based Roo Geddes and Neil Sutcliffe create stunning music for violin and accordion”
(Celtic Music Radio)

Sunday 2 February 2025

2.30pm, Eastgate Theatre, Peebles



‘Song Over Scotland’

A lecture-recital with

**Prof. David Purdie (speaker), Robyn Stapleton (singer)
and Alistair Iain Paterson (piano)**

A celebration of the traditional song heritage of Scotland, with historical background from David Purdie, and songs (*a cappella* and with piano accompaniment) from Robyn Stapleton to trace the history of Scotland through its songs—of peace and war, ballads from Border straths and Highland glens, and songs of men and women: the Meeting, the Loving and the Parting.

Scotland's dramatic history is illuminated by story and folksong. Singer Robyn Stapleton, a BBC traditional musician of the year, and historian Professor David Purdie present a national story, reflecting the unique musical heritage of the people.

The history and the songs are accompanied by glorious images from the National Records of Scotland and the music of pianist Alistair Iain Paterson.

“[Robyn Stapleton] has a charmingly unassuming stage presence which blended beautifully with some stunning singing” (Daily Record)

Tuesday 4 March 2025
7.30pm, Eastgate Theatre, Peebles



Odysseus Piano Trio

Domonkos Csabay (piano)
Sara Trickey (violin), Rosie Biss (cello)

Beethoven Piano Trio in D ("Ghost"), Op.70, No.1

Helen Grime Three Whistler Miniatures

Brahms Piano Trio No.1 in B major, Op.8

The Odysseus Piano Trio's programme includes two great classics of the piano trio repertoire, Beethoven's *Trio in D Major, Op.70, No.1 (the "Ghost")* and Brahms' *Trio No.1 in B major, Op.8*.

Also in the programme is 'Three Whistler Miniatures' by Scottish composer Helen Grime, a work the Trio has recorded. The shimmering, delicate textures that Helen explores make this contemporary work both approachable and intriguing. There is a background influence of the beautiful miniatures by Whistler.

"The Odysseus Trio took us...through a range of passion and humour in a powerfully expressive and moving concert" (Keswick Music Society)

"Her palette is all her own . . . she writes as though her music needs to be told" (Kate Molleson, The Guardian, reviewing 'Three Whistler Miniatures')

Tuesday 1 April 2025

7.30pm, Eastgate Theatre, Peebles



**Patron's Concert
with**

Gina McCormack (violin) & Nigel Clayton (piano)

Details to follow

The Patron's Concerts have been highlights of recent seasons. As well as being treated to recitals by Gina McCormack herself, with regular duo partner Nigel Clayton, we have also enjoyed a dazzling programme of piano duets, given by Nigel and Imma Setiadi, a former student of his at the Royal College of Music, where Nigel is Professor of Piano.

The concerts have also introduced our audience to some outstandingly talented young musicians, hand-picked for us by Gina, including cellist Madelyn Kowalski, violinist Michelle Dierx, pianist Maurizio Arroyo Reyes and saxophonist Lewis Banks, all of whom have since embarked on exciting musical careers.

What will this year's concert bring? Keep an eye on our website nearer the time to find out - whatever it is, you won't want to miss it!

TICKETS

Prices for 2024-2025

Season Ticket (all 8 concerts)	£100
Single full price tickets	£20
Discounted tickets*	£10
Under-21s	Free

* Available to: under-26, adults accompanying children under 12 and members of other Scottish Chamber Music Societies

Buying Tickets

Season Tickets

The best way to buy your season ticket is online at <https://musicinpeebles.org.uk>, where you can pay securely by credit or debit card. You will be emailed a season ticket voucher to download or print.

Alternatively, you can complete the enclosed form and send it with your cheque (payable to 'Music in Peebles') to the Treasurer:

John Gibson
34 Kittlegairy View
Peebles
EH45 9LZ
(07906 215894)

You will be sent a season ticket voucher, as above.

On receipt of your season ticket voucher (hard copy or download), present it at the Eastgate Theatre box office, where you can choose your seats and be issued with tickets for all the concerts.

Buying a season ticket entitles you to:

- entry to all concerts, with a reserved seat, at a substantial saving over single ticket prices;
- priority booking for the following season, allowing you to secure a favourite seat;
- regular newsletters and updates about Music in Peebles events and local musical activities;
- discounts on entry to concerts at other Scottish Chamber Music Societies.

Single Tickets

Single tickets may be purchased from:

Eastgate Theatre Box Office (01721 725777)
or online from <https://eastgatearts.com>

Music in Peebles 2024-2025

Sunday 1 September 2024 at 7.30pm

**SAVOURNA STEVENSON
& STEVE KETTLEY**

Original music for harp and saxophone

Tuesday 1 October 2024 at 7.30pm

KHRYSTYNA MYKHAILICHENKO

Debussy, Chopin, Lyatoshynsky, Liszt

Tuesday 5 November 2024 at 7.30pm

QUARTETTO NOÛS

Haydn, Shostakovich, Schubert

Sunday 1 December 2024 at 7.30pm

SCOZZESI

Selections from opera and operetta, plus songs from the shows and traditional Scots songs

Sunday 12 January 2025 at 2.30pm

ROO & NEIL

Original music for violin and accordion

Sunday 2 February 2025 at 2.30pm

'SONG OVER SCOTLAND'

A celebration of Scotland's traditional song heritage

Tuesday 4 March 2025 at 7.30pm

ODYSSEUS PIANO TRIO

Beethoven, Helen Grime, Brahms

Tuesday 1 April 2025 at 7.30pm

PATRON'S CONCERT

