

MUSIC *in* Peebles

*Bringing the best of chamber
music to the Scottish Borders*



Picture courtesy of Phillip Hutton

CONCERTS 2025-26

Founded 1947
Patron: Gina McCormack

musicinpeebles.org.uk

MUSIC *in* Peebles

*Bringing the best of chamber
music to the Scottish Borders*

Music in Peebles 2025-2026

Our season this year ranges from the “simply terrific” violinist Mathilde Milwidsky with pianist Richard Uttley, the astonishing feat of playing both the Bach *Goldberg* Variations and Beethoven’s *Diabelli* Variations in one concert, Troppos’ cultural melting pot of the music of Spain and Latin America (“music that wants to be danced to”), favourites of the wind quintet repertoire with Sirocco, the “impeccable musicianship” of Kosmos, and Steven Osborne taking us on a journey through the world of jazz. And our patron Gina MacCormack’s annual showcase of young musicians.

The theme, if there is one, is variety, introducing new—and we hope enjoyable—experiences while keeping the same high quality.

You may have noticed our concerts have changed to different days of the week. Sunday afternoons are now Saturday afternoons, allowing the Eastgate to re-instate the popular Sunday afternoon films, and the move from Tuesdays to Thursdays avoids clashes with rehearsals for other music organisations.

Donations

Sadly, we have had to increase the ticket price to £22, but season tickets stay £100. This is partly to make sure musicians are paid a fair fee, and to cover increased hire charges at the Eastgate.

There is also uncertainty about the reliability of our annual grant. We are actively looking for additional finance from a number of funds, but would welcome any support you may be able to give, either as a one-off or recurring donation (<https://musicinpeebles.org.uk/donate>).

How you can help

As well as supporting Music in Peebles financially there are other ways you can help: *Poster/brochure distribution*, especially outside Peebles (Innerleithen, Cardona, Broughton etc).

Become a trustee We’re always keen to hear from people who feel they could add their skills or experience, particularly in fund-raising or publicity.

Thank you for supporting us in whatever way you can, helping Music in Peebles continue to bring the best of chamber music to the Scottish Borders since 1947.

Helen Narracott
contact@musicinpeebles.org.uk
07483 176225

Thursday 9 October 2025 at 7.30pm

Eastgate Theatre Peebles

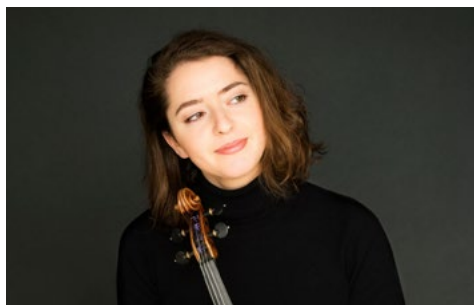
Mathilde Milwidsky

violin

Richard Uttley

piano

From Biber, Mozart & Brahms to Ravel & Lutoslawski



Two professors from the Royal College of Music join forces to open our 2025-2026 season with a programme ranging across four centuries—from Baroque Biber, classical Mozart, Brahms (a Romantic composer drawing on the classical tradition), to the 20th century with Nikos Skalkottas, Grazyna Bacewicz, Lutoslawski and Ravel's Violin Sonata, influenced by American jazz and blues.

British violinist Mathilde, a *Classic FM Rising Star: 30 under 30* and Gramophone's "one to watch" performs widely across Europe, both as a soloist and chamber musician. Her début CD led *Classical Music Magazine* to name her *Artist of the Month*.

Richard Uttley is renowned internationally both as an accompanist and soloist. He broadcasts regularly on Radio 3, and is also a composer, with compositions included in the Edinburgh International Festival and the Festival Archipel in Geneva.

"the very gifted Mathilde Milwidsky"
Musical Opinion

Saturday 8 November 2025 at 2.30pm

Eastgate Theatre Peebles

Patrick Hemmerlé
piano

Bach *Goldberg Variations*
Beethoven *Diabelli Variations*



French pianist Patrick Hemmerlé is one of Europe's foremost and most enigmatic pianists. Refusing to follow traditional music conventions he has forged a unique path in the musical world, leaving him free to immerse himself into his chosen repertoire. He is also a charismatic speaker, able to elucidate the musical concepts close to his heart.

Recent engagements have taken him to New York, Berlin, Paris, Vienna, Prague and China. He has published 5 CDs,

the latest of which is a pairing of Bach's *Well-Tempered Clavier* and Fischer's *Ariadne Musica*. His programme includes just two works: Bach's *Goldberg Variations*, written originally for the harpsicord and published in 1741, but not recorded until 1933, by pioneer of the harpsichord Wanda Landowska.

Beethoven's *Diabelli Variations* are based on a waltz by the Austrian composer and music publisher Anton Diabelli. Other composers also wrote variations on Diabelli's waltz, but it is Beethoven's which have become part of the virtuosi pianist's repertoire. When Diabelli published Beethoven's set in 1823, he said: "all these variations, through the novelty of their ideas, care in working-out, and beauty in the most artful of their transitions, will entitle the work to a place beside Sebastian Bach's famous masterpiece in the same form."

"Hemmerlé's sympathetic playing is a joy"
Classical Music Magazine

Tuesday 18 December 2025 at 7.30pm

Eastgate Theatre Peebles

Sirocco Winds

Matthew Howells *flute* **Irena Klimach** *oboe* **Calum Robertson** *clarinet*
Victoria López *bassoon* **Peter McNeill** *horn*



The members of Sirocco Winds are all Master Graduates of the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. Based in Glasgow they come from all over the UK and Spain.

Successes for the quintet include winning the Governors' Recital Prize for Chamber Music at the Conservatoire, playing live on Classic FM, Radio 3 and BBC Radio Scotland, and entertaining guests on National Trust for Scotland cruises. They have also taken part in the St Magnus International Festival, the Cumnock Tryst and the Aberdeen International Festival.

Their programme includes a selection of their favourite repertoire, some with an appropriately Christmas twist, McEwen's *Under Northern Skies*, and *Mississippi Five*, a 1920s-style suite with echoes of King Oliver and Bessie Smith, by BAFTA-winning composer Jim Parker.

"The audience was transfixed throughout"
Grange over Sands & District Music Society

Saturday 17 January 2026 at 2.30pm Eastgate Theatre Peebles

Kosmos

Harriet Mackenzie *violin* **Meg Hamilton** *viola*

Milos Milivojevic *accordion*



Kosmos Ensemble performed with “telepathic rapport, dazzling virtuosity, serious scholarship, intellectual curiosity and impeccable musicianship” Richard Morrison, *The Times*.

An inspirational combination of tango, gypsy, Balkan and music from the Far East, referencing classical composers, with fearless improvisation and impeccable technique.

Prepare to be intoxicated by entrancing dance rhythms, soulful improvisation delivered with inimitable panache and virtuoso technique.

All three members of Kosmos are soloists in their own right and have recorded concertos with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and Orchestra Nova.

“major verve and musicality... as breathtaking as it is moving...
impressive and brilliantly effective”

The Herald

Saturday 14 February 2026 at 2.30pm Eastgate Theatre Peebles

Troppos

Pawel Jaworski *clarinet* **Eddy Betancourt** *violin*

Sergio Vega Domínguez *oboe*

Francisco (Paco) Martínez Merino *tuba* **Eric Alfonso** *percussion*



Troppos plays music that wants to be danced to, presenting audiences with passion-packed programmes featuring the sounds of Spain and Latin America.

From Spain, Scotland and Poland, the founder members of the ensemble all studied at the Royal Conservatoire in Glasgow.

They explain their music as “a synthesis of the traditional orchestral formation, attempting to break the often rigid classical rules, in search of a new, innovative sound”.

Their concerts create a musical journey through the fascinating cultural melting pot that is Spain and Latin American—reconnecting the art of their music with the sensuality of dance.

“Their vibrant performance painted a smile on every face and a twinkle in every eye”
Falkirk Herald

Thursday 19 March 2026 at 7.30pm Eastgate Theatre Peebles

Steven Osborne *piano*

Martin Kershaw *saxophone*



One of Britain's most treasured musicians Steven Osborne returns to Music in Peebles, but this time in "a programme with a difference".

Already recognised for his depth of musicality across a diverse repertoire, with awards including The Royal Philharmonic Society Instrumentalist of the Year, two *BBC Music Magazine Awards* and two *Gramophone Awards*, Steven explores solo piano works based around the waltz—from Schumann and Boulanger to Bill Evans and Rzewski. He is then joined by saxophonist Martin Kershaw, a central figure in the Scottish jazz scene for the last 20 years, for a second half tracing the workings of jazz.

"Another jazz improvisation, a remarkable demonstration
of both pianism and musicianship at their very best"

The Guardian

"What lifts Martin Kershaw head and shoulders above other commanding,
technically flawless saxophonists is his canny gift for melody"

City Life

Thursday 16 April 2026 at 7.30pm Eastgate Theatre Peebles

Patron's Concert



Traditionally the Music in Peebles season at the Eastgate Theatre ends with a “Patron’s choice” concert when our patron, the international violinist Gina MacCormack handpicks both the performers and the programme.

Past years have seen her introduce the Akela String Quartet, cellist Madelyn Kowalski, saxophonist Lewis Banks, and pianist Maurizio Arroyo Reyes, all of whom have since embarked on their own careers.

“Nordic Rhapsody” in 2024 was an evening of music from Norway, Sweden and Finland with professor of piano at the Royal College of Music Nigel Clayton, Gina’s regular duo partner.

And to end last season Gina introduced Nomad, all students of hers from the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester, who brought a magical evening with a tale where folklore, myth and music intertwined in *The Witching Hour*.

Gina’s choice for this season will be available on our website in the coming months.

Music in Peebles in the community

Our outreach programme into the community continues, with concerts in care homes, and for the first time branching out into hospitals, with a concert at Hay Lodge for both patients and staff—a first for the hospital as well. More concerts will follow.

School workshops are also planned (Roo and Neil, who played for us in January 2025, and others in due course).

And we would like to branch out to offer concerts in smaller-scale venues providing a platform for young Scottish-based musicians at the start of their careers.



Tickets

Tickets

Prices for 2025-2026

| | |
|----------------------------|------|
| Season ticket (7 concerts) | £100 |
| Single full price ticket | £22 |
| Discounted ticket* | £11 |
| Under 21s | free |

*Available to under 26s, adults accompanying children under 12, and members of other Scottish chamber music societies.

Season tickets

Can be bought online at <https://musicinpeebles.org.uk> securely by credit or debit card. You will be emailed a voucher to download or print.

Alternatively complete the enclosed form and post with your cheque (payable to "Music in Peebles") to our treasurer:

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

You will receive a voucher, as above.

Take your voucher to the Box Office, Eastgate Theatre to 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 on single ticket prices.

Priority booking for this season, allowing you to secure your favourite seat.

Regular newsletters and updates about Music in Peebles events

Discounts on entry to concerts by other Scottish chamber music societies.

Single tickets

Can be bought from the Eastgate Theatre Box Office (01721 725777) or online at <https://eastgatearts.com>

MUSIC *in* PEEBLES

Patron: Gina McCormack

2025-2026 Season

Thursday 9 October 2025 at 7.30pm
MATHILDE MILWIDSKY & RICHARD UTTLEY
(violin & piano)

Saturday 8 November 2025 at 2.30pm
PATRICK HEMMERLÉ
(piano)

Thursday 18 December 2025 at 7.30pm
SIROCCO WINDS
(flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, horn)

Saturday 17 January 2026 at 2.30pm
KOSMOS
(violin, viola & accordion)

Saturday 14 February 2026 at 2.30pm
TROPPOS
(clarinet, violin, oboe, tuba & percussion)

Thursday 19 March 2026 at 7.30pm
STEVEN OSBORNE & MARTIN KERSHAW
(piano & saxophone)

Thursday 16 April 2026 at 7.30pm
PATRON'S CONCERT



Music in Peebles
gratefully
acknowledges
support from

**Chamber
Music
Scotland**