

MILNGAVIE MUSIC

The newsletter of Milngavie Music Club

LOOKING FORWARD - AN EXCITING SEASON AHEAD!

At a time when classical music seems in danger of being increasingly marginalised, we're happy to report that Milngavie Music Club is in excellent health. This month we announce details of next season's International Concert Series. And it truly is international, though the best of Scottish and Scotland-based musicians are also strongly represented.

It's an extraordinarily varied season, with the fantastic Scottish percussionist Colin Currie at one end of the scale and the superb professional voices of the Dunedin Consort at the other. We open the season on 26 September with one of Britain's most distinguished singers, Roderick Williams, and we continue to encourage brilliant young talents like cellist Hugh Mackay and pianists Julian Chan and Nikita Lukinov.



On a dark mid-winter evening violin-piano duo Elena Urioste and Tom Poster will entertain and inspire us with their amazing, interactive 'Jukebox' programme. Add to that lineup two string quartets and a piano trio, all world-class, and you have what we believe to be one of Scotland's finest concert series. Our brochure is out now and full details will soon be on our website.

Season Ticket / Subscription applications open now!

UPCOMING CONCERTS AT DOUGLAS ACADEMY

There are two events the MMC audience might look forward to at Douglas Academy before summer. Tickets for both events are £8 (£4 concession) at the door.

The Douglas Academy Concerto concert is on the 3rd of June at 7.30pm. This is a performance of the winning concerto performances from the school's concerto competition. Abigail Bates writes "in my opinion this is one of the best concerts all year, as there is a spotlight on some amazing musicians accompanied by an orchestra of Douglas Academy students."

"There were so many great concerto performances but ultimately, we will hear Bach's F minor keyboard concerto from Aeronwy Gault, Ellie Digger playing Lebrun's 1st oboe concerto and Johnny Gray playing Saint-Saëns' cello concerto. These three wonderful musicians also played in the March recital with Aeronwy playing a delicate Schubert Impromptu in G flat major."

Johnny has also recently won the Rotary Young Musician competition after playing David Popper's Hungarian Rhapsody in the final heat in London at the end of March. He was accompanied by another Douglas pupil, Eilidh Harris.



Abigail is also tempting us to attend 'Coffee, Cake and a Concert'. Last year's pupil-run event was such a success they're doing it again. Come to Douglas Academy on the 24th of June at 7.30pm to have tea and cake with chamber music performances playing throughout. It will feature the Douglas Senior String quartet, a Horn trio and a piano duo (playing Milhaud Scaramouche.)



AUDIENCE spotlight



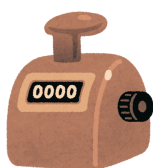
It was a chance meeting with Ahilya Noone at Angela Hewitt's Music Festival in Umbria about twelve years ago that introduced us, Kathleen and Neville Cartwright, to Milngavie Music Club. Ahilya's enthusiasm for the Club was infectious: we signed up as soon as we returned home. It is wonderful to have the opportunity to hear such superb and varied chamber music so close to home in comfortable and friendly surroundings from both experienced musicians and young up-and-coming ones. Being subscribers means we go to all the concerts and don't miss out on any gems we might have overlooked.

Our interest in classical music has spanned many years, from Neville's teenage enjoyment of the Yorkshire Symphony Orchestra, through the wonderful years of Sir Alexander Gibson's reign at Scottish Opera and the Scottish National Orchestra. In the early 90's enroute to Arctic Russia we were lucky to be able to experience many performances in the best seats at the Bolshoi and Mariinsky Theatres for one dollar! How times have changed. Now our summers are spent attending some of the excellent music festivals in Scotland including the East Neuk, Paxton and of course Lammermuir. It is so inspiring to hear music in such interesting locations. We are lucky to be able to enjoy chamber music in Scotland all year round.

Apart from music we enjoy the outdoors and have spent much of our free time in the past hill walking in Scotland and camping in the Arctic. We have always been enthusiastic gardeners and enjoy visiting gardens all over Scotland.

THANKS KENNETH!

Kenneth Brown is stepping down from the committee at the AGM in April 2025. Kenneth is the first face audience members see when they arrive: he has the crucial job of counting us.



Kenneth has served the club for many years, in lots of ways, for which the committee thank him. He's looking forward to attending concerts as an audience member.

SUMMER IS ICUMEN IN

Where to hear live chamber music

Summer is the season of festivals, and Scotland offers plenty of treats for chamber music lovers, whether instrumental or vocal. Here are our top tips, and they're all within a couple of hours' drive of Milngavie.



East Neuk Festival

The East Neuk Festival, centred on Crail and other East Fife villages, runs from 25-29 June. This year,

for the 20th festival, they are programming all of Beethoven's late string quartets and Schubert's three major song cycles. Guitarist Sean Shibe is there too, and there's another chance to hear the Beethoven Septet featured in our April concert.

Paxton House, a beautiful Palladian mansion in Berwickshire, hosts Music at Paxton from 18-27 July with plenty of enticing recitals from classical to folk and Indian. The programme includes associate ensemble the Consone quartet (who played for us in 2023), mezzo-soprano Helen Charlston accompanied by theorbo, and an evening with the Princesse de Polignac (played by Maggie Steed) and the Chloé piano trio.



EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

The Edinburgh International Festival (1-24 August), as always, concentrates its chamber music in the morning concerts at the Queen's Hall. Lots of choice!

With September comes the delight that is the 16th Lammermuir Festival. It runs in East Lothian from 4-15 September. With Haddington as its main centre, concerts are given in venues across the county. This year's programme includes the Tchaikovsky string quartets, Brahms' piano trios, and a focus on Ravel's 150th anniversary.



Want to go further afield? May brings festivals in Bath, Brighton, Chipping Camden, Sheffield, Swaledale. June ushers in festivals in Aldeburgh, Bradfield, Penarth, the Stour Valley and Thaxted. Special note here to the St Magnus International Festival in Orkney, 20-27 June, which brings together music and literature, with a special emphasis on new work. Nikita Lukinov, who is playing for us in 2025-26, will be there in a solo recital and one with the Resol Quartet. Scheduled through July are festivals in Deal, Hereford (Three Choirs), the Lake District and Ryedale. In August there are festivals in Clandebye and Machynlleth.

If you attend any festivals over the summer why not send the editor a line about what you heard and enjoyed? Mail newsletter@milngaviemusic.org. We'll feature your thoughts in the September issue.



ABOUT SUBSCRIBERS

Subscribers are the core of our audience, so we want to know what you think.

Last April we asked subscribers what they thought about the programming choices the committee makes.

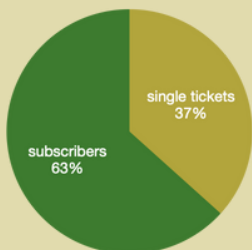
Specifically, we asked "What sort of programming do you enjoy?". Subscribers said:

- 36% are very happy with the programming as it is
- 49% would be happy to see broader programming in some way
- 21% would like more vocal performances

These numbers suggest we're getting it about right, and concert attendance backs up the popularity of the programmes. We had some lovely comments too:

"wonderful concert series on our doorstep"

"I think you make great choices"



MEET THE COMMITTEE

Abigail Bates
Youth Liaison



Abigail's main role on the Milngavie Music Committee is to advertise Milngavie Music Club's concerts by passing leaflets around schools and spreading the word of free children's tickets. She is also a direct contact in helping to organise occasional outreach activities between Douglas Academy Music School and visiting concert performers.

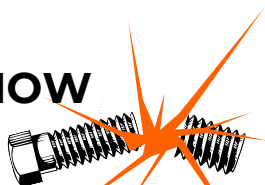
Abigail plays the piano, violin and organ and has thoroughly enjoyed her six years at Douglas Academy playing all sorts of music from solo performances and piano duets to larger chamber ensembles. She teaches the piano and plays for church services at Baldernock Church and St Andrew's Church in Milngavie.

She likes art and maths in school and at home she likes to walk her dog Crumble. In the next academic year Abigail has a big change as she will be going to university to study architecture.

She is looking forward to learning about architecture, especially the designing and model making. Sadly this means she's stepping down from the committee.

THANK YOU ABIGAIL!

KEEPING THE SHOW ON THE ROAD



We woke up on the morning of our March concert to news about the closure of Heathrow Airport. We knew that our artists for that evening (Hanna Hipp and Emma Abbate) were flying up from London, but from where? An anxious phone call found them on their way to Gatwick. Panic averted! An hour later a bolt holding a leg on to our piano sheared off during the move to Cairns Church from its usual home in Bearsden. More panic! Fortunately, those legs have two bolts each and we were able to continue with the concert, though the piano has had to go off to Edinburgh for repair. The trials of show business!

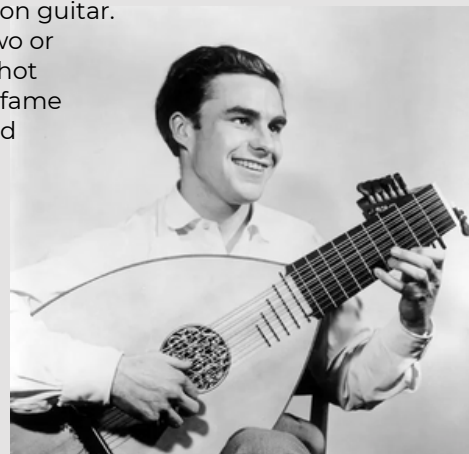
Junyan Chen

We've been following the career of this young pianist (see the January Newsletter) with great interest but sadly she won't return with cellist Hugh Mackay next season after all. The little matter of her solo debut at Wigmore Hall has intervened and so we must wish her well and look forward to seeing her back here before too long. Hugh will be accompanied in December by another highly-accomplished young pianist, Malaysian-born Julian Chan.

70 YEARS AGO ...

...the lute and 17th Century lute music were largely unknown to the average music lover. But in the early 1950s a young guitarist called Julian Bream took it up and began a career which would make him one of Britain's most world-renowned musicians. In 1955 the 22-year-old Bream (not long demobbed from national service in the army) came to Milngavie Music Club as accompanist for the soprano Eileen McLoughlin. He was given two solo spots, playing Dowland on the lute, and Villa-Lobos on guitar.

Over the next two or three years he shot to international fame and never looked back.



Music meets psychology

The radio series **Facing the Music** dramatises the human frailties, obsessions, emotions and vulnerabilities of composers to give insight into their music. Leading figures of the stage and screen narrate, bringing the stories to life. There are ten episodes to enjoy, including Michael Sheen depicting the terrifying effect of Stalinist Russia on Shostakovich, Maxine Peake celebrating Ethel Smyth's resilience, Dominic West on a rather grumpy Beethoven, and Nina Sosanya exploring what pride in her cultural heritage meant for Florence Price.

You can find the series on BBC iPlayer.



Not just a Septet

Simon Wassermann, former MMC Committee member, writes: I first made the acquaintance of the Beethoven septet in 1960 in a live World Refugee Year concert by members of the Northern Sinfonia. It made an immediate impression and in the following years I came to know it well in a piano duet arrangement which my mother and I often played. The septet's immediate popularity following its first performance in 1800 led to the appearance of quite a few arrangements for various forces, including a trio arrangement for piano, clarinet and cello by Beethoven himself which appeared in 1805 as his Op. 38. I intend to try it without delay!



The January issue featured outreach workshops with MacOpera. The tale of the Billy Goats Gruff continued in March with workshops at Woodland View School in Kirkintilloch.



MUSIC HUB REPORT

That's our Music Hub!

To begin the year the Music Hub followed our successful pre-Christmas concert with a fund-raising social event at the home of one of our players. The music, food, drink and a challenging, but not impossible, music quiz were enough to persuade us to donate a few pounds to the Hub coffers. We aim to keep costs to players as low as possible while also anticipating future events which might involve extra expenses. One such event is in the making: a workshop on early Schubert quartets in October.

At the Hub we have been playing some of Schubert's first essays in chamber music written during his early adolescence. In these pieces we find some of Schubert's musical obsessions already emerging and in eighteen short years they mature into music that is nothing less than a force of nature. To open the next MMC season, the Carducci Quartet will play Schubert's early quartet No 10 in E flat. On Saturday October 11th in Cairns Church the Music Hub will be holding a workshop on the early chamber music of Schubert with the Resol Quartet in residence. Subscribers will be able to attend some of the day; details will follow in the next newsletter.

In another event to raise funds for this workshop the Music Hub held an intensive day of playing during the Easter break. We had the luxury of our own Hugh Macdonald on piano so we played and performed Mozart's Kegelstatt trio and the great wind and piano quintet K452 arranged for strings, the rarely-heard sextet by Borodin, Brahms' op.18 sextet, a trio by McGibbon, Greig's two Elegiac Pieces, a Bach Cantata arrangement and to finish, some excitement with a klezmer-inspired piece and our guest clarinetist Carron showing off her newly-acquired bendy notes. There was more food and socialising too: we always make sure we enjoy ourselves!



New issues each January, April and September. Send your contributions at any time.



newsletter@milngaviemusic.org



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