



MILNGAVIE MUSIC

The newsletter of Milngavie Music Club

Bubbles with Memories In

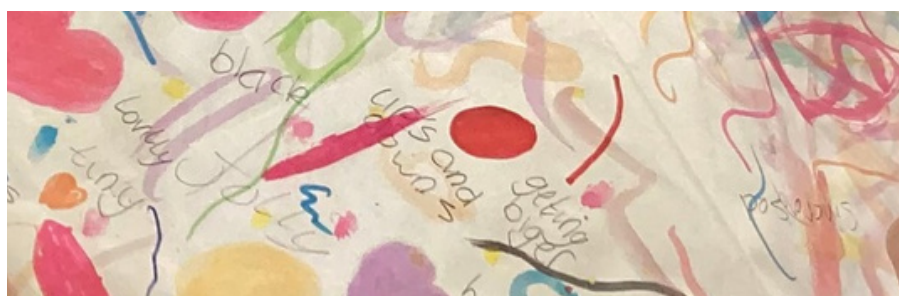
What do you think about when you listen to music? Do you see colours and pictures? We put this question to the children of primary 5 at Milngavie Primary School (MPS) when a group of players from the Music Hub visited them in June. The results are fantastic!

Five players visited the school to play as the children drew and painted. We'd picked a range of pieces to provide a variety of moods. We had drama with the Habanera from Carmen, folk flavour with the Ashokan Farewell and some Bartok duos for two violins, a jolly caper with a clarinet quartet by Krommer, concluding with contrasting storms and gentle pastoral sounds of the minuet and trio from Mozart's C minor string quintet K406.

Children and teachers alike had a great time and are keen for other opportunities to incorporate live music into their sessions. One pupil described the experience as hearing bubbles with memories in, with another saying they could forget worries as they focused on the music.

Following the success of this initial visit, we have planned with the MPS music teacher to contribute to activities for every year group, from interactive performances by Hub players, exploring moods and imagination through music, to the McOpera project mentioned in the last newsletter. What a year it will be!

Carron Shankland



FANDANGO, FOLKLORE AND FANTASIES

Our first event with our Associate ensemble, the Resol String Quartet, will be on Saturday 10th October. It's a new style of concert for us: one hour long, Saturday afternoon, in Bearsden Community Hub.

Our aim is to create a relaxed environment for the concert, with a number of shorter pieces drawn together by the themes of folk tales and folk music. Exciting Fandango rhythms perfuse Boccherini's quintet for guitar and strings. Coleridge-Taylor echoes the use of folk idioms through his Five Fantasiestücke for string quartet. Finally, the quartet bring us face to face with the Witch of Leannachan in

their own arrangement of Donald Grant's hair-raising evocation of this folktale.

**Bearsden Community Hub,
Bearsden Cross
Saturday 10th October, 3pm**

Tickets available at the door, or online through our website. Just £10 for adults, £5 for students and free for school pupils.

Carron Shankland



MEET THE COMMITTEE



Katie Hull
Treasurer

My childhood was spent in Dorset, and I have worked as a professional violinist and teacher since graduating from Guildhall, London. My first full-time job was with Northern Sinfonia and we spent a lot of time touring the world; a perfect fit as I love travel. I worked with many amazing musicians there too, notably cellist Heinrich Schiff, music director.

I moved to Glasgow (for love) playing in the Scottish Ensemble and the Scottish Chamber Orchestra. I have been lucky to perform in many international concert halls – the Musikverein in Vienna is my favourite. I then took the post of Assistant Leader with The Orchestra of Scottish Opera, leaving at the beginning of this year. My best memory is performing the complete Ring Cycle in 2005. Gaining an insight into Wagner's complex music was an incredible privilege.

I run a small charity, McOpera, focused on outreach and musical performance programmes in Scotland. To help my understanding of running a business I took a part-time MBA at the University of Glasgow.

I enjoy walking my two pointers round the Milngavie reservoirs. Other hobbies are baking and reading historical novels. You can see me selling tickets and CDs at concerts, and I'm always happy to say hello.

"When you go to a string quartet concert you feel more indivisible from everybody else around you ... you've got this incredible bond together"
Simon Schama, on "Key Changes"

What's on at Douglas?

There are always chances to enjoy the talents of the students of our local music school. This season:

- Wednesday 18th November – Variety Concert in Douglas Academy at 7.30 pm
- Monday 7th December – East Dunbartonshire Schools' Christmas Gala Concert in Glasgow Royal Concert Hall at 7.30 pm
- Monday 14th December – Christmas Concert in St Paul's Church at 7.30 pm

Tickets on the door, or email Catriona at musicsschool@douglas.e-dunbarton.sch.uk.

Could you be a First Aider?

Some of the committee are brushing up their first aid training, because it's good to be prepared. We know there are a few (retired) healthcare professionals in the audience. If you're already trained and would be prepared to help in an emergency, please get in touch via newsletter@milngaviemusic.org.

SCHUBERT RE-IMAGINED

Schubert's music is endlessly rewarding and like all great art so multi-faceted that it can be re-discovered through radically new and different interpretations. The ensemble ZRI (Zum Roten Igel – The Red Hedgehog) who gave us a magical classic Charlie Chaplin silent movie with live soundtrack a few years ago, are back on Friday 4 December with a very different project – their highly original re-imagining of a Schubert classic, his String Quintet.

The Viennese tavern The Red Hedgehog, from which the five musicians of ZRI take their name, was a wine tavern and music venue combined, established in the early 19th century. The East European folk and gypsy musicians who played there made it a favourite drinking and dining haunt of many of the city's classical musicians. Regulars included Schubert, Mendelssohn, Schumann, Brahms, Mahler and Bruckner. Brahms, indeed, never wanted to eat out or drink anywhere else and the staff even kept a special barrel of Hungarian Tokay wine for his personal use!

Schubert particularly loved hearing the Hungarian and Romanian gypsy musicians there and his quintet, one of his last works, has a definite undercurrent of that Magyar sound in it. ZRI's ingenious re-scoring of parts of it for a folk band of clarinet, violin, cello, accordion and santouri (a type of cimbalom) is designed to bring out those hidden influences. Between sections of the Schubert, ZRI insert various traditional European folk melodies from Hungarian pub tunes and Jewish klezmer dances to Carpathian shepherd tunes and an improvised wedding lament. A strikingly

different experience from the great Schubert we know and love – essentially, it's a different piece – but fascinating, entertaining and moving, nonetheless.

Hugh Macdonald





MUSIC HUB ACTIVITIES

Summer 2026

The Summer "term" at the Music Hub lasts just six weeks. We don't like to compete with better weather and the chance to enjoy it but attendance stayed high and in those six weeks we covered works by an impressive seventeen composers. There could have been many more but Boccherini has taken my fancy. I have discovered a whole area of music history that I hadn't been aware of; the development of the string quartet in Spain and the even more extraordinary output of Boccherini's hundreds of string trios, quintets and even six sextets. At the time, Europe was in a state of political uncertainty and life for many was by no means easy: rather like today. Boccherini was writing music to calm, entertain and enchant his patrons. His inventiveness was effortless and he was rewarded with repeated publication in London, Paris and Vienna. His musical charms were clearly having an effect and, 250 years later, I can wholeheartedly recommend a dose of Boccherini before bedtime! So, the term opened with an evening of Boccherini quartets.

We ended the term with an evening of music by women composers. "Women" should be a redundant word in that sentence but the lack of music by women can't have escaped anyone's attention and it is still worth setting aside time to consider this problem. The main attraction was playing Fanny Hensel's quartet in E ♭ major and we added in works by Teresa Carreño and Ethel Smyth. All exceptional pieces and by no means easy to play.

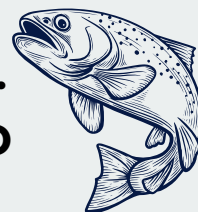


In between we had a performance of "All at Sea", a quartet by our own Richard Barron written for The Music Hub, Five Pieces for String Orchestra by Hindemith, and numerous lesser-known classical composers who enjoyed fame during their lives but have since fallen into relative obscurity. The fetishising of a few iconic composers leaves us with a poorly understood music history and the loss of much enjoyable and playable music. The Music Hub is exploring this new territory and occasionally we can say that we have given a modest performance of a good work that hasn't been heard in 300 years.

In June we played at the Mugdock Theatre as part of Milngavie Week and somewhere over the now fading summer there was a Summer Social with playing and general overindulgence in all things bad for the waistline. We do hard work and fun in equal measure. If you are interested in joining us visit our Hub web pages or email us at themusichub@milngaviemusic.org.

Pat Field

LOOKING BACK A TROUT TO REMEMBER



Schubert's Trout Quintet may be one of the truly great masterpieces of chamber music, but it isn't played at societies like ours as often as you might think. Why? Well, the addition of a double bass to the standard piano quartet line-up makes it tricky to fit into a programme. And anyway, it costs more...

So it's exciting to have it in our season's opening concert, especially as we've only programmed it once before – 57 years ago in 1969! On that occasion, as this year, The Trout was played by a distinguished group of Scottish musicians, The Scottish Piano Quartet with Marie Dare playing bass.

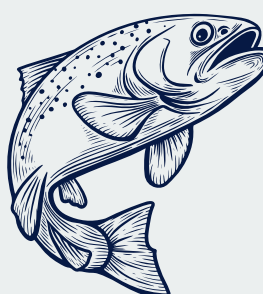
They were all pillars of Scottish music after WWII. The pianist, Glasgow-born Wight (known as 'Jack') Henderson had studied in Vienna with Emil Sauer who was himself a pupil of both Nikolai Rubinstein and Franz Liszt. Jack Henderson played regularly with both the BBC Scottish and the Scottish National Orchestras and became Head of Piano at the RSAMD in 1955. His superb Bösendorfer concert grand can still be heard in concerts at The Cathedral of the Isles in Millport.

The violinist was Louis Carus, Head of Strings at the RSAMD and later Principal of the Birmingham School of Music. The viola player was the much-loved Jimmy Durrant, also a senior professor at the RSAMD and commissioner of innumerable new pieces for his instrument from Scottish composers. Edinburgh-born cellist Joan Dickson was another famous teacher who had studied with Fournier in Paris and Mainardi in Rome and made her BBC Proms debut in 1957.

And last but not least, the redoubtable Marie Dare, who had started her amazing career as a cello prodigy, broadcasting from the first BBC radio station, 2LO, in London in the early 1920s and then formed her own string quartet. She was also an incredibly prolific composer, producing much chamber music and a large amount of educational music for young people. After the war she moved back to

Scotland, living in Edinburgh, playing the double bass and teaching. The Scottish Music Centre has around 100 of her compositions in its archive!

Hugh Macdonald



AUDIENCE spotlight



For this issue we talked to Andy MacGregor, who is an audience member and a Hub player. If you'd like to be featured, get in touch!

Did you learn an instrument or sing and do you still make music?

There was no escaping classical music. My mother trained as a pianist and singer at the RSAMD (before it became the RCS) and went on to teach music in various Glasgow schools, and piano privately. She gave up on my lacklustre pianism early, but the seed was sown. I moved onto flute, then guitar, followed at age 18 by the violin which I practised for a couple of years like a young man possessed (latterly under the tutelage of our own Pat Field, though I seem to have been a forgettable student as she remembers nothing of this!).

The instruments mostly gathered dust during my 20s, but I took up the guitar again quite seriously in my 30s, moving more recently onto the lute.

Tell us about your experience of chamber music.

I owe a revitalised interest in the violin to the creation of the Music Hub in 2022 – my first real introduction to playing chamber music. Guitarists and lutenists can easily become solitary creatures, but there's nothing like the alchemy of being in a string quartet (or trio, quintet, whatever) and making a complex piece come alive. Imagine playing Beethoven's C sharp minor quartet – his last, most profound quartet – or Brahms' astonishing C minor quartet. A dream for now, but after a few years with the Music Hub it starts to seem possible ...

What's been your favourite performance at MilngavieMusic?

Musical inspiration is of course also available locally through performances hosted by the Milngavie Music Club. And I can honestly say that the best live music performance I've ever heard was in our own Cairns Church – Steven Osborne playing late Schubert and Beethoven piano sonatas. Incredible to hear such world-class music so close to home!

New Programme Format

We've redesigned the layout of the concert programmes. What do you think?

We're also changing how we prepare programmes. Instead of one person doing all of the notes, we'll have different authors each month. We've got people lined up to write for each concert in the 2026–27 season, but if you're interested in contributing programme notes in a future season, please mail us at newsletter@milngaviemusic.org

PUZZLE CORNER: CONNECTIONS

Congratulations to Simon Wasserman who got all the groups for the April connections quiz and even managed to find connections new to us!

Answers to the April connections grid:

Ghost, Kegelstatt, Archduke, Dumky: named trios; Brian, Mahler, Schubert, Chopin: wrote pieces associated with the name "tragic"; Corelli, Jargar, Astrea, Larsen: brands of strings; Martini, Tartini, Corrette and Mouret were all born in April (and were also Baroque era composers).

Here's the next puzzle. There are four groups of four, and each group is connected by a year. The first person to mail newsletter@milngaviemusic.org correctly identifying the groups and the connecting year will receive a modest prize. Answers in the next newsletter.

Paul Dukas	Massenet's <i>Thaïs</i> premiered	Charles Dickens	Otokar Ševčík
Harold MacMillan	Beethoven's 7th Symphony completed	Alexander Glazunov	Gustav Holst
Edward Elgar	Rudyard Kipling	Frederick Delius	Tower bridge opens
Jean Sibelius	First commercial 7" horizontal gramophone disc available	PS Comet launched on the Clyde	US declares war on the UK

MilngavieMusic Season 2026–2027

Concerts this Autumn:

25 September 2026 The Lark Trio and friends
16 October 2026 Leon McCawley
13 November 2026 Fibonacci Quartet
4 December 2026 ZRI play Schubert

