



# musicinverness

## November 2022 eNewsletter

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A busy month ahead with a big variety of live events and streamed films to choose from. But first, a quick look back to October. For me it started with a trip to my colleagues in Inverurie for a piano recital by the French pianist Ida Pelliccoli - a worthwhile trip to hear some very delicate playing. Ten days later there were three events in two days, starting with a very interesting live talk by former BBC Radio 3 presenter Sandy Burnett about the 16<sup>th</sup> century Elizabethan composer William Byrd for The Arts Society Highland, and then a quick drive down the A9 to St John's Kirk, Perth to hear Bruce Fox talking about his research into Mozart's Eine Kleine Nachtmusik and showing, with musical illustrations from the Resol Quartet, why we do not hear the work today as Mozart intended. The next day there was a streamed performance of Verdi's Aida from Covent Garden - not entirely convincing with a stark set and a deliberate decision not to reveal the battling nations. It could have been Egypt and Ethiopia; or it could have been Ukraine against Russia. My last concert of the month before being hit by the lurgie was in Cromarty with the brilliant Norwegian ensemble, the Engegard String Quartet playing Mozart, Grieg and Debussy. The good news is that they are returning north to play for Music Nairn in April 2024.

On to November:-

## **James IV - Queen of the Fight**

**Eden Court Empire Theatre Wed 02 to Sat 05 November. Six shows.**

Employing the same wit and theatricality of the first three James Plays, acclaimed playwright Rona Munro takes you back to a thrilling and uncharted period of Scottish history in this brand new production.

Scotland, 1504, seen fresh through the eyes of new arrivals Ellen and Anne, two Moorish women who were expected to take their place at a royal court....but not this one. Both women now have to fight to find and keep a place in the dazzling, dangerous world of the Scottish Court of James IV. It's a world where war is never far away, words of love and promises of peace are not what they seem and where poets might turn out to be more dangerous than any assassin. **Contains adult themes and strong language.**

## **National Theatre Live : The Seagull by Anton Chekhov**

**Eden Court La Scala Cinema. Thurs 03 November at 7.00pm with Encore screening on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November at 1.00pm.**

A young woman is desperate for fame and a way out. A young man is pining after the woman of his dreams. A successful writer longs for a sense of achievement. An actress wants to fight the changing of the times. In an isolated home in the countryside, dreams lie in tatters, hopes are dashed, and hearts broken. With nowhere left to turn, the only option is to turn on each other.

## **Music Nairn : Steven Osborne**

**Nairn Community and Arts Centre. Friday 04 November at 7.30pm**

Pianist Steven Osborne (OBE) is one of Britain's most treasured musicians. Celebrated for his insightful interpretations, his musicality and technique, Osborne is much sought after as soloist, chamber musician and recitalist. Born in Edinburgh, Steven studied at St Mary's Music School and Royal Northern College of Music, and was one of the first BBC New Generation Artists.

Steven's programme for Music Nairn features three works by Debussy - Pour le Piano, Berceuse Heroique and Études Book 2 followed after the interval by Schubert's Piano Sonata No 22 in A major, D.959, the middle panel of the triptych of Schubert's final sonatas.

## **La Traviata from the Metropolitan Opera, New York**

**Eden Court La Scala Cinema. Saturday 05 November at 4.55pm**

Soprano Nadine Sierra stars as the self-sacrificing courtesan Violetta—one of opera's ultimate heroines—in Michael Mayer's vibrant production of Verdi's beloved tragedy. Tenor Stephen Costello is her self-centred lover, Alfredo, alongside baritone Luca Salsi as his disapproving father, and Maestro Daniele Callegari on the podium.

## **Cromarty Arts Trust : The Mahler Players Wind Quintet**

**The Stables, Cromarty. Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> November at 3.00pm.**

The Mahler Players Wind Quintet is made up of the wind principals of The Mahler Players, a local orchestra founded in 2013 by Tomas Leakey. The quintet's members have been playing together for over 15 years in various Highland-based ensembles such as the Highland Chamber Orchestra, the Inverness Choral Orchestra and of course, The Mahler Players. The programme to be played will include works by Jean-Michel Damase, Claude Arrieu and Eugène Bozza.

## **The Osprey Music Society : Martin Milford Duo**

**Boat of Garten Community Hall. Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm**

Maxi is Principal Clarinet of the SCO, and combines this with an international career as a soloist and chamber musician. Julian is a renowned international pianist, a profession he combines with being an eminent KC! They first performed for TOMS in 2015 as part of a Trio, and since then Maxi has organised an annual concert for TOMS comprising Trios, Quartets, a Quintet, a Sextet, and a Septet! This will be Maxi's 7<sup>th</sup> visit to TOMS and Julian's 5<sup>th</sup>, when they will play as a Duo with the following delightful programme –

Francis Poulenc : Sonata for Clarinet and Piano

Camille Saint-Saëns : Clarinet Sonata Op 167

Darius Milhaud : Scaramouche

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Claude Debussy : Premiere Rhapsodie

Johannes Brahms : Opus 17 no 1 in E flat Major – piano solo

Johannes Brahms : Clarinet Sonata no1, Op.120

## **Vincente Simone : TANGO PASSIONS**

**Eden Court Empire Theatre. Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> November at 8.00pm.**

Argentine Tango King and Strictly Come Dancing legend, Vincente Simone, returns to the stage with his brand new show... 'Tango Passions'. Also starring Argentine Tango specialist Paula Duarte as his leading lady. Accompanied by world-class Argentine Tango specialists, let the original Italian stallion take you on a journey to Buenos Aires and enjoy his dancing, tales and poetry about the history of the Argentine Tango. Featuring music from Astor Piazzolla and Gotan Project.

## **The Arts Society Highland : William Morris At Home**

**Nairn Community and Arts Centre. Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> November 11.00am for 11.30am**

William Morris considered a beautiful home to be “the most important production of Art” and much of his working life was devoted to the production of household goods that were intended to bring art and beauty into a wide range of homes. He also expended enormous time and energy on beautifying his own homes, creating first at Red House in Bexleyheath, and then at Kelmscott House in Hammersmith, and finally at his country home, Kelmscott Manor, a series of interiors that exemplified his ideas about art and design. This lecture explores not only the decoration, but also the relationships and lifestyles associated with each of these very different homes.

*Joanna Banham is a curator, lecturer and writer. She has been head of public programmes at the V&A, Tate Britain and the National Portrait Gallery. She has published books on many aspects of 19th century art and design and has curated exhibitions on William Morris and the Arts and Crafts Movement. She is a Trustee of Leighton House Museum and is currently writing a book on the history of Wallpaper.*

## **Dyad Productions : Female Gothic**

**Eden Court One Touch Theatre. Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm**

In the dark between life and death, a haunted woman tells strange and terrifying tales; eerie stories, dusty and forgotten. Until now. It's nearly the Hallowe'en season, so come along and be thrilled by three lost gothic spine-tinglers from the great Victorian female writers.

## **Inverness Piano Recitals : Nikita Lukinov**

**Inverness Town House. Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm.**

Heralded for “magic of music-making at its finest” (Keyboard Charitable Trust) and praised as “Exceptional talent” (The Scotsman), Nikita Lukinov is one of the most exciting pianists of a younger generation residing in Scotland. In recent years he performed as a soloist in the United Kingdom, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, France, Poland, Croatia, Germany and Russia, appearing at Wigmore Hall, Southbank Centre, Kings Place, Fazioli Hall, Tchaikovsky Conservatoire in Moscow. A disciple of the Russian Piano School Nikita Lukinov started his musical education in the class of Prof. Svetlana Semenkova at the age of six in Voronezh, Russia. At the age of 10 Nikita had a debut performance as a soloist with a symphonic orchestra. At the age of 14 Nikita won a full scholarship to study at the Purcell School in London in the class of Prof. Tatiana Sarkissova. In 2017 Nikita was awarded a full scholarship to study Bachelor's Degree at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland (RCS) with Prof. Petras Geniušas. Nikita is currently pursuing his Master's Degree at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland on a full scholarship from ABRSM.

Nikita will introduce and then perform:

Beethoven, Sonata 3 op.2 (26')

Tchaikovsky, "Meditation" from op.72 (5')

Prokofiev, "Amoroso" from op.102 (5')

— *interval* —

Liszt, B Minor Sonata (29')

## **Matthew Bourne's Nutcracker!**

**Eden Court La Scala Cinema. Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November at 8.00pm and Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> November at 2.00pm**

The sweetest of all Matthew Bourne's treats comes to cinemas for the first time. Celebrating its 30th Anniversary, this 'witty, wonderful, rip-roaring spectacular' is a Nutcracker! for all seasons and 'the sweet treat we all deserve.' With family-sized helpings of Bourne's trademark wit, pathos and magical fantasy, Nutcracker! follows Clara's bittersweet journey from a darkly comic Christmas Eve at Dr. Dross' Orphanage, through a shimmering, ice-skating winter wonderland to the scrumptious candy kingdom of Sweetieland, influenced by the lavish Hollywood musicals of the 1930s. Tchaikovsky's glorious score and Anthony Ward's newly-refreshed delectable sets and costumes combine with Bourne's dazzling choreography to create a fresh and charmingly irreverent interpretation of the classic production.

## **The Royal Ballet : A Diamond Celebration**

**Eden Court La Scala Cinema. Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November at 7.15pm and Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> November at 2.00pm.**

The Royal Ballet's dazzling Principals lead an evening not to be missed, their sparkling talents a perfect fit for a diamond anniversary. Celebrating the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of The Friends of Covent Garden, this programme recognises the amazing support of all ROH Friends past and present. The showcase will demonstrate the breadth and diversity of The Royal Ballet's repertoire in classical, contemporary and heritage works. It will also include world premieres of short ballets by choreographers Pam Tanowitz, Joseph Toonga and Valentino Zucchetti as well as The Royal Ballet's first performance of *For Four* by Artistic Associate Christopher Wheeldon and a performance of George Balanchine's *Diamonds*.

## **With Love to Ukraine**

**Eden Court Empire Theatre. Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm.**

The Highlands pays tribute to Ukraine, its people and their struggle for freedom in this special, one-night-only event. An extraordinary line-up of internationally renowned musicians and poets from the

Highlands and beyond, including outstanding Ukrainian artists, will celebrate and pay respect to the courage of Ukraine and its defence of democracy. Featured artists include:

**Julie Fowles, Duncan Chisholm, Nataliya Gorban, Inverness Gaelic Choir, Hamish MacDonald, Iona Zajac, Ross Ainslie, Hamish Napier, and Aidan O'Rourke.**

With an interweaving narrative told through words and video, the show will also feature stories told by Ukrainians and Highlanders of how the people of the Highlands have engaged with and supported Ukraine. The beauty and accomplishment of each performance, delivered in the Highlands' premiere auditorium, will provide our audience with an unforgettable evening of wonderful music, song and spoken word. This will be a celebration of art and civilisation, reflecting the values Ukraine is fighting for in the face of brutality.

Proceeds raised from ***With Love to Ukraine***'s ticket sales will be donated to charities and groups providing humanitarian support, with love, to Ukraine. Money raised from ***With Love to Ukraine*** will go to: UK-Med, AUGB Edinburgh, Black Isle & Highlands Refugee Network Support/KSD Highlands for Ukraine.

## **musicinverness : JKL Duo**

**St Stephen's Church, Inverness. Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November at 1.00pm.**

**Kerry Lynch** (Flute) and **Jacopo Lazzaretti** (Guitar) met almost 6 years ago when Jacopo came to Glasgow to complete an Erasmus year at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. The couple met, and have been together ever since. Their musical partnership has taken them to concert halls and recital spaces around Scotland, and in 2019 they opened their very own teaching studio in Glasgow's West End 'JKL Duo Studios' – where they teach and coach people on their respective instruments. The global pandemic cut their planned 2020 Scottish tour short, however, their most recent performances prior to that include recitals for Inverurie Music, The North East Classical Guitar Society, The Spire Concert Series (Glasgow) and Saint Margaret of Scotland Scottish Episcopal Church Concert Series (Glasgow).

Their visit to Inverness will be part of their "'JKL Duo - The International Poet, Album Tour' and they will be playing music from their soon to be released debut album which features new music commissioned especially for them from classic Burns melodies, bringing to the 21<sup>st</sup> century audience what it was conceived that Burns songs would sound like as written in the modern day.

## **Black is the Colour of My Voice**

**Eden Court Empire Theatre. Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm.**

Inspired by the life of Nina Simone, and featuring many of her most iconic songs performed live. Apphia Campbell's acclaimed play follows a successful singer and civil rights activist as she seeks redemption after the untimely death of her father. She reflects on the journey that took her from a young piano prodigy destined for a life in the service of the church, to a renowned jazz vocalist at the forefront of the Civil Rights Movement.

## ABBA Party Night

Eden Court Empire Theatre. Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm.

Always a great fun evening with the ABBA tribute band playing all the much-loved favourite songs. But, sorry, you'll have to drop the idea of being a Dancing Queen meeting your Mamma Mia disco-dancing in the aisles in your platform boots. It's SOLD OUT.

## Scottish Opera - *The Verdi Collection*

Eden Court Empire Theatre. Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm

*The Verdi Collection* celebrates some of the operatic canon's best known and loved melodies and stories.

Presented as a gala concert to capture the breadth of Verdi's output, led by the power and passion of **The Orchestra of Scottish Opera** under the baton of **Stuart Stratford**, *The Verdi Collection* features the romance of *La traviata*, the intrigue of *Un ballo in maschera*, the passion of *La forza del destino*, the stately tragedy of *Don Carlo*, and the domestic tragedy of *Otello*.

Giuseppe Verdi's prolific output was marked by many styles, themes, and stories in a career that spanned over 50 years. At the heart of all are instantly recognisable characters (noble heroes and dastardly villains alike), nuanced relationships between lovers and families, and melodies that transcend time.

Scottish Opera is delighted to present a selection of Italian opera's greatest hits with a small cast of singers bringing numerous roles to life in a single evening, guaranteeing a great night out.

## Music Nairn : The Broen Ensemble - Afternoon Concert

Nairn Community and Arts Centre. Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November at 2.30pm

Broen Ensemble is a young and exciting string ensemble based in Scotland. Formed in 2017 they strive to perform works that are less well-known or rarely played, alongside the more familiar masterpieces. This ambition led them to work with exceptional musicians such as Greg Lawson, Robert Irvine, György Déri and Edward McGuire whose new cello concerto is going to be premiered by the ensemble.

Winners of the Tunnell Trust Award 2019 they had their first tour in Scotland and were invited to perform alongside the Maxwell Quartet and Isabel Charisius at the Loch Shiel Festival as featured Young Artists. Other festivals they appeared at include the Edinburgh Festival Fringe and the Glasgow Cathedral Festival.

The Broen Ensemble's programme for Music Nairn will feature four fabulous pieces of music:-

Mozart : Adagio and Fugue in C minor, K546

Schoenberg : Verklärte Nacht

Webern : Langsamer Satz

Brahms : String Sextet No 2 in G major, Op.36

## And finally.....

A bit of advance notice of three events during the first few days of December that you will want to get your tickets for. Full details will appear in the December eNewsletter.

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December at 7.30pm in Inverness Cathedral. The Scottish Ensemble's Annual Concert by Candlelight featuring works by Purcell, Bach, Vasks, Norris and Ades. Tickets from Eden Court.

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December. Time and location tba. Jazz Nairn presents Andy Hodge's Quartet - 'Jazz Collusion' who bring us "Swinging standards delivered with Freshness, Flair and Fun"

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December at 8.00pm in Inverness Cathedral and Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December at 3.00pm in Strathpeffer Pavilion. The Mahler Players perform Wagner's Tristan und Isolde Act II with Overture and Liebestod. Joining The Mahler Players are five soloists of world-renown, including one of the world's most legendary basses, Sir John Tomlinson, singing a role for which he has provided the benchmark for decades: King Marke.

An unprecedented opportunity for audiences in the Highlands, these performances promise to be unmissable. For more information and to buy your tickets go to : <https://www.mahlerplayers.co.uk>  
Tickets are selling well so don't waste time.



