



# musicinverness

## April 2023 eNewsletter

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*Cromarty Arts Trust : Trio Doyenne +- Mahler Players play Beethoven*

Artistically, we've had a fabulous March with still more to come as I write this. April promises to be even better. Horticulturally my garden has not seen much progress. A few crocuses, some daffodils have burst the surface but no blooms. And I've one lonely snowdrop!

Let's start the April Preview with one or two that carry over from March.

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm in Crown Church, Inverness. musicinverness is proud to present the world-renowned Kazakh concert pianist **Oxana Shevchenko**. Making a special trip to Scotland to play for the Inverness friends she has made on three previous visits, Winner of the 2010 Scottish International Piano Competition and the Best Accompanist Prize in the 2011 Moscow Tchaikovsky Competition as well as numerous other competition successes, Oxana has put together a special programme which includes highlights from her international career.

**Mozart** – Sonata No 18 in D major, K576

**Schubert** — Hungarian Melody in B minor, D817

**Brahms — Piano Sonata No 1 in C major, Op 1**

*Interval*

**Prokofiev — Six Pieces from the Suite “Romeo and Juliet” Op 64bis :**

*i/. The Street Awakens, ii/. Juliet as a Young Girl, iii/. Montagues and Capulets, iv/.  
Mercutio, v/. Dance of the Girls with Lilies, vi/. Romeo and Juliet before Parting.*

**Stravinsky — Les cinq doigts**

**Stravinsky — Piano Rag Music**

**Gershwin — Three Preludes**

Doors in Midmills Road open at 7.00pm. As the concert takes place in an active place of worship, admission is by a suggested donation by cash or card. Adults £16. musicinverness members £13. Under 16s £5. As I am expecting this recital to be popular, I am accepting pre-booking and pre-payment. Either go to the Contacts page on [www.musicinverness.uk](http://www.musicinverness.uk) and submit a message or send me an email at [jamesdmunro@btinternet.com](mailto:jamesdmunro@btinternet.com) I will then send you information on how to pay.

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April. An evening performance at 7.30pm and a Saturday matinee at 2.30pm in the Empire Theatre Eden Court. **Inverness Musical Theatre** returns with another dazzling, high-energy show, the romantic comedy **The Wedding Singer**. Based on the 1998 film of the same name, with music by Matthew Sklar and lyrics by Chad Beguelin from the book by Tim Herlihy, this musical totally embraces the lively 80's vibe of the movie - the music, choreography, fashion, pop culture and humour.

The **Cash for Kids Symphony Orchestra** are having an open door fundraiser Playday on **Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 at Inverness Cathedral** where they will be welcoming Tomas Leakey (Mahler Players) to conduct and guide them through Brahms Symphony No. 1 in C minor. They will be rehearsing from 10.00am to 3.30pm and then they will be putting on an informal playthrough concert at 4.00pm. Donations gratefully received during the day or at the performance – all welcome to come hear this superb work. 100% of funds collected will be going directly to MFR Cash for Kids. This is an amazing symphony orchestra coming together once again from all over the Highlands and it will be so nice to be able to revisit some classical origins – nothing quite like the pressure to pull it off with just a few hours rehearsal! Been many years since Brahms 1 has had an outing here in the Highlands...

Verdi's **Falstaff** at the **Metropolitan Opera**, New York. Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April at 5.30pm in Eden Court La Scala cinema. Baritone Michael Volle stars as the caddish knight Falstaff, gleefully tormented by a trio of clever women who deliver his comeuppance, in Verdi's glorious Shakespearean comedy. Maestro Daniele Rustioni takes the podium to oversee a brilliant ensemble cast that features sopranos Hera Hyesang Park, Ailyn Pérez, mezzo-soprano Jennifer Johnson Cano, contralto Marie-Nicole Lemieux, tenor Bogdan Volkov, and baritone Christopher Maltman.

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April at 1.00pm and Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April at 7.00pm in La Scala Cinema, Eden Court. **National Theatre LIVE!** screens **The Life of Pi**. Puppetry, magic and storytelling combine in a unique, Olivier Award-winning stage adaptation of the best-selling novel. After a cargo ship sinks in the middle of the vast Pacific Ocean, a 16-year-old boy named Pi is stranded on a lifeboat with four other survivors – a hyena, a zebra, an orangutan and a Royal Bengal tiger. Time is against them, nature is harsh, who will survive? Filmed live in London's West End and featuring state-of-the-art visuals, the epic journey of endurance and hope is brought to life in a breath-taking new way for cinemas screens.

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> April at 7.15pm in Eden Court La Scala Cinema. **Royal Ballet** Founder Choreographer Frederick Ashton's **Cinderella** celebrates its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary this season. The ballet's opening night in 1948, featuring Moira Shearer and Michael Somes in the lead roles, was received rapturously. After over a decade away from the Royal Opera House stage, Ashton's timeless reworking of Charles Perrault's famous rags-to-riches story returns, showcasing the choreographer's deft musicality and the beauty of Prokofiev's transcendent score. A creative team steeped in the magic of theatre, film, dance and opera brings new atmosphere to Cinderella's ethereal world of fairy godmothers and pumpkin carriages, handsome princes and finding true love.

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April to Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> April in St Margaret's Church, Topsham and Topsham Museum. Times vary. The inaugural **Topsham Music Festival**. Six concerts over three days. What? I hear you ask is he doing previewing an event in Exeter? A few reasons. Firstly the West Country is a popular holiday destination and some of our Highland music lovers may be enjoying an extended Easter break there. Secondly, Topsham is on the way to Plymouth and the ferries to Brittany and Spain, so a chance to relax before the waves of the Bay of Biscay. But most important, it demonstrates how musicians that we welcome to the Highlands also give of their time and artistry to the people at the opposite end of the UK. Pianist Duncan Honeybourne played for Cromarty Arts in February; another pianist, Adam Heron is booked to play for musicinverness on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November this year. And the whole Topsham Music Festival is curated and directed by Nina Savicevic who has twice charmed the Inverness audience and, I promise you, will be back again sometime in the not too distant future. For full details and descriptions go to [www.topshammusicfestival.co.uk](http://www.topshammusicfestival.co.uk)

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> April at 5.15pm in La Scala Cinema, Eden Court. Live from the Metropolitan Opera, New York, **Richard Strauss' Der Rosenkavalier**. A dream cast assembles for Strauss's grand Viennese comedy. Soprano Lise Davidsen is the aristocratic Marschallin, opposite mezzo-soprano Isabel Leonard as her lover, Octavian, and soprano Erin Morley as Sophie, the beautiful younger woman who steals his heart. Bass Günther Groissböck returns as the churlish Baron Ochs, and Markus Brück is Sophie's wealthy father, Faninal. Maestro Simone Young takes the Met podium to oversee Robert Carsen's fin-de-siècle staging.

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> April sees the start of Springfest '23 with all six events being held in St Stephen's Church on the corner of Southside Road and Old Edinburgh Road. Parking can be a bit of a toss-up, but please have respect for residents' entrances. I will list all six events together and then go back to other musical temptations. For full details go to [www.musicinverness.uk](http://www.musicinverness.uk) and look at the Springfest '23 page. Also, use the Contacts page on the website to obtain an All

Festival Ticket which will get you into as many concerts as you wish to attend. For adults the Ticket costs £60. For musicinverness members it costs £50.

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> April at 4.00pm. **Trotovsek Bizjak Canyigueral Trio**. All three artists are favourites of the Inverness audience from previous visits and are delighted to be opening this year's Springfest. Lana is an internationally renowned violinist; Boris is a very accomplished flautist as well as a film-maker and recording engineer; and Maria's piano playing is worth walking many miles to hear. In addition she is the Artistic Director of the Teatre Sarria in her home city of Barcelona. Their Springfest '23 programme is made up of music by Cervello, Ravel, Prokofiev, Schubert and the premiere of a work they have commissioned especially for this concert from the Grampian composer, John Hearne.

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm. Dundee pianist **Christina Lawrie** returns to Inverness after a gap of some years to perform works by Bach, Mozart, Louise Farrenc, Gershwin, Schumann and Liszt.

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> April at 1.00pm. Sister and brother **Ciorstaidh and Eosaph Caimbeul** hail from the Isle of Skye and are just two of a family of musicians. Both were accepted for St Mary's Music School in Edinburgh after which harpist Ciorstaidh went to the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland in Glasgow while piper and guitarist Eosaph went south to the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama in Cardiff. Their programme will open with a short introduction from Eosaph on the bagpipes followed by each of them playing a solo set on harp or guitar and finishing with a duet selection.

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April at 4.00pm. MPW5, or to give them their full title, 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 members of the Quintet are: Leslie Callander (oboe), Rachel Farmer (clarinet), Rob Farmer (horn), Bruce Gordon (bassoon) and Catherine O' Rourke (flute). The full programme is yet to be confirmed but expect that works by Claude Arrieu, Eugene Bozza, Jacques Ibert and Malcolm Arnold will be featured.

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm. The **Fyrish String Quartet**. Established in late 2017, the Fyrish String Quartet is a young, vibrant ensemble. Each member excelled during their studies and collectively they have received tuition from some of the UK's leading musicians. The quartet has performed across Scotland, presenting varied programmes often combining classical and folk music. The members of the Fyrish Quartet are Joe Hodson and Emma Donald (violins), Sarah Leonard (viola) and Tim Cais (cello). Their programme for this Springfest '23 concert features Carl Nielsen : String Quartet No 1 in G minor, Webern : Langsamer Satz, Emma Donald : Sound of Sleepless Kings (World Premiere) and Beethoven : String Quartet No 12 in Eb major.

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April at 1.00pm. **Trio Doyenne**. Absolute stars of Springfest '22, violinist Michelle Dierx from Belgium, cellist Shannon Merciel from USA and Lithuanian pianist Monika Lozinskiene were immediately invited to return for Springfest '23. Their programme this year

will be Schubert's Piano Trio in Eb major, Op 100, D929 and the Piano Trio by the Lithuanian composer Stasys Vainiunas.

And now, back to the rest of the previews.

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April at 11.00am for 11.30am in Nairn Community and Arts Centre. The **Arts Society Highland** April Lecture is given by art historian **Georgina Bexon** who will talk and illustrate the **Art of the Mughal World**. The 16th to 18th centuries in India witnessed the golden artistic period of Mughal rule, marked by a unique flowering of art and architecture, unrivalled in luxury and opulence. From Mughal miniatures with their luminous, jewel-like colours to the exquisite design and ornamentation of imperial palaces and tombs, this talk considers the fascinating fusing of Persian, European, and indigenous Indian influences that produced this glorious work.

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April at 6.00pm in the Playhouse Cinema at Eden Court. **Exhibition on Screen**. This Spring, the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam is opening its doors to the largest display of the painting of **Johannis Vermeer** that has ever been assembled - all but three of his works. For those of us who cannot make the trip to Amsterdam, or even get our hands on a ticket, this conducted tour on screen by the Director of the Rijksmuseum lets us marvel at the works of one of the greatest and most mystical artists in history. Encore Screening on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> April at 1.30pm.

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> April at 7.00pm in La Scala Cinema, Eden Court. From the Harold Pinter Theatre in London, **National Theatre Live** presents C. P. Taylor's play **GOOD**, starring David Tennant, Elliot Levey and Sharon Small. As the world faces its Second World War, John Halder, a good, intelligent German professor, finds himself pulled into a movement with unthinkable consequences. Encore Screenings on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April and Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April.

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> and Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> April at 7.30pm in Eden Court Empire Theatre. **Scottish Ballet** performs **A Streetcar Named Desire**. This hugely popular, award-winning production returns to Scotland for the first time since 2015. An astonishing take on Tennessee Williams' masterpiece is narrative ballet at its very best, with white-hot choreography, devastating drama, pitch-perfect period design and a sizzling score used to tell the iconic story. In steamy 1940s New Orleans, fading Southern belle Blanche DuBois moves into her sister Stella's apartment. Stella's brutish husband Stanley sees that Blanche is not what she appears to be, and sets out to destroy her... Scottish Ballet's stylish production breathes new life into the classic tale, with graceful waltzes at the DuBois family home, electrifying lindy jives in a Louisiana nightclub, and intense duets in the caged heat of Stella and Stanley's apartment.

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> April at 7.30pm in Inverness Cathedral. Spring Concert by **Inverness Choral Society**. Conductor Gordon Tocher will direct the Choral, with organ accompaniment from Adrian Marple, in a performance of the famous **Requiem** by **Gabriel Fauré**. Soloists in this ever-popular work are soprano Colleen Nicoll and baritone Colin Brockie. The Society will also

perform some works by Mendelssohn and Elgar as well as a selection of songs chosen by the soloists.

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April at 7.30pm in Nairn Community and Arts Centre. **Music Nairn** presents the **Leonore Piano Trio** playing Haydn : Piano Trio in F# minor, Hob XV/26, Dvorak : Piano Trio No 4 in E minor “Dumky” and Mendelssohn : Piano Trio No 1 in D minor. Three superb pieces of music, especially the “Dumky”.

Three internationally acclaimed artists, Benjamin Nabarro (violin), Gemma Rosefield (cello) and Tim Horton (piano) came together in 2012 to form the Leonore Piano Trio. The Trio has since given concerts both at home and in many other parts of the world, combining a comprehensive repertoire of works by the celebrated classical and romantic composers; an unrivalled exploration of lesser-known and forgotten pieces from the 19th century; exciting and innovative performances for young audiences and a range of contemporary and new works.

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm in Boat of Garten Community Hall. The **Leonore Trio** continues its visit to the North of Scotland to perform for **The Osprey Music Society**.

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April at 6.45pm in Eden Court La Scala Cinema. **Royal Opera Covent Garden** presents Mozart’s **The Marriage of Figaro**. Arguably the most popular and best known of all operas, this socially comic tale has more twists than a pageboy’s stockings. Antonio Pappano conducts and leads a truly international cast. There is an Encore Screening on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April at 2.00pm.

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm in St Bride’s Church, Newtonmore. **Trio Doyenne** perform the first of the three concerts in their Highland tour. For details, see the entry within the Springfest ’23 list of events above.

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> April at 5.55pm in Eden Court Playhouse Cinema. Live from the Metropolitan Opera New York, the premiere of Terence Blanchard’s new opera, “**Champion**”, the story of boxer Emile Griffith who rose from obscurity on the Virgin Islands to become world champion at three different weights. Bass-baritone Ryan Speedo Green is the young boxer Emile Griffith and bass-baritone Eric Owens portrays Griffith’s older self, haunted by the ghosts of his past.

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> April at 7.00pm in Inverness Cathedral. Join the **Ness Sinfonia** for their latest concert which is a real smackeroo! Their programme includes Fauré : Pavane; Bizet : Carmen Suite No 2 and my all-time favourite symphony, Saint-Saens : Symphony No 3 in C minor, Op 78. “Organ”. If this is work that you know, I need say no more. If you do not know it, you MUST come along as the Finale; Maestoso Allegro will have the hairs on the back of your neck standing up!

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April at 3.00pm in The Stables, Cromarty. **Trio Doyenne** play the third and last concert of their Highland tour for Cromarty Arts Trust. Further details within the Springfest ’23 list above.

And finally.....

Just some advance notice about the Mahler Players next pair of concerts, featuring Beethoven's Symphony No 3 "Eroica" and arias from Tannhauser and Fidelio sung by the acclaimed dramatic soprano Magdalena Anna Hofmann. Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May at 8.00pm in Inverness Cathedral and Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May at 3.00pm in the Spa Pavilion, Strathpeffer. I know; I know! It is Coronation Weekend! You really would have thought that Charles would have checked with Tomas Leakey before fixing the date of his visit to Westminster Abbey!

More next month. Enjoy what you go to!