



musicinverness

May 2023 eNewsletter

Mahler Players - Eroica -+- Cathedral Cake and Concert

The Arts Society Highland Lecture -+- Groam House Concert

Redcastle Arts Concert -+- TOMS - Westerton Male Voice Choir

National Theatre LIVE -+- Music Nairn - Ruth Wall

LIVE from The Met – Don Giovanni -+- Floral Fantasia and Gardening Giges

Scottish Opera - Carmen -+- Royal Ballet – Sleeping Beauty

Highland Chamber Orchestra - Eroica

The musicinverness 2022/2023 Season came to an enthralling climax with the six concerts of Springfest '23 during which Scotland based musicians held their own against international stars. My thanks to all of you who have sent messages about how much you enjoyed the varied selection of concerts over the two weeks. musicinverness is now on its summer break but will be back with an exciting programme of concerts for 2023/2024.

When it comes to thanks, the April eNewsletter had been sent out before my dear friend Oxana Shevchenko performed for us on Thursday 30th March in the Crown Church. I do not exaggerate when I say that it was one of the most thrilling piano recitals I have ever attended. May I quote a comment received from a professional arts consultant, “I imagine hearing the young Martha Argerich must have been a similar experience to last night, but without the charming introductions! High point for me was the last movement of the Prokofiev—summoning not just an entire orchestra but an entire theatre in her wonderfully colourful and well-judged playing.” And our sincere thanks go to Oxana as she refused to accept any payment for her recital or any contribution to her travel costs from Israel where she and her family are temporarily taking refuge having escaped from St Petersburg at the start of Putin’s Invasion of Ukraine in February last year.

Let’s have a look at what May 2023 has to offer.

Saturday 6th May 2023 at 8.00pm in Inverness Cathedral and Sunday 7th May 2023 at 3.00pm in Strathpeffer Spa Pavilion

The Mahler Players conducted by Tomas Leakey with guest soprano Magdalena Anna Hofmann perform Arias from Tannhäuser by Wagner, Overture and Leonora's Aria from Fidelio by Beethoven and the famous "*Eroica*" Symphony by Beethoven No 3 in E flat major, Op 55.

For tickets go to www.mahlerplayers.co.uk

Sunday 7th May 2023 at 3.00pm in Inverness Cathedral. The May Cake and Concert event is being given by the **Astar School of Traditional Music** with **Làirig**. Astar was started in 2018 by musician and tutor Rachel Campbell, with a vision to providing easily accessible learning facilities for everyone in and around Inverness for all things traditional to the Highlands: Music (Ceòl), Gaelic Language (Gàidhlig), Art (Ealain), History (Eachdraidh) & Culture (Cultar). Come and enjoy the results of the efforts of Rachel and her team.

Tickets £10 on the door.

Tuesday 9th May 2023 at 11.30am in Nairn Community and Arts Centre. The **Arts Society Highland** illustrated lecture for May **The Bayeux Tapestry: 950 years of Propaganda, Intrigue & Spin** - with **Timothy Wilcox**

Timothy is a writer, lecturer and exhibition curator with special interests in British art, in landscape and in watercolour painting. He was a museum curator in the British Museum Department of Prints and Drawings following positions at the V&A, in Liverpool and Hove. He contributes regularly to the educational programmes at the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford and lectures at museums and galleries in Britain, Europe and the USA. Tea and coffee served from 11.00am

Friday 12th May 2023 at 7.00pm in Fortrose Free Church, Church Street. **Groam House Museum** presents **An Evening of Traditional Music**. Featuring Charlie McKerron, Marc Clement and Feis Rois.

Tickets £15 from www.groam-house-museum.arttickets.org.uk

Saturday 13th May 2023 at 7.30pm in Cromarty Stables. **Redcastle Art Group Exhibition 2023 Opening Concert**. Tenor Christopher Josey and pianist Robin Versteeg open the Exhibition with a recital highlighting the links between landscape, art and music.

Tickets £10 from paintbrush@btinternet.com with remaining tickets available at the door.

The Exhibition (FREE admission) will continue until Sunday 21st May in The Stables daily from 10.30am until 4.00pm.

Saturday 13th May 2023 at 7.30pm in Boat of Garten Community Hall. **The Osprey Music Society** is hosting the Glasgow based **Westerton Male Voice Choir** which has been entertaining audiences for over 60 years, and are shortly embarking on a Highland Tour. The Choir's conductor Bryan Marshall, one of the 2021 BBC 'Scotland's People', says 'To take the Choir out to an audience beyond West Central Scotland has been an ambition of mine for a loooong time! So I am absolutely delighted that in May we will be embarking on our first ever Highland Tour! This is an important milestone for the choir and I'm so excited to be taking our entertaining brand of male voice singing to a new audience. It's going to be fun!'

You can have a listen to them by following this link

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCg-l-zMLNHlRSxGfElw-2wQ?app=desktop>

Tickets £10 from usual TOMS source. ann.nap@btinternet.com or 01479 831213 or 07850 752757

Thursday 18th May 2023 at 7.00pm in La Scala Cinema, Eden Court. **National Theatre LIVE** screens **Best of Enemies** by James Graham. In 1968 America, as two men fight to become the next president, all eyes are on the battle between two others: the cunningly conservative William F. Buckley Jr., and the unruly liberal Gore Vidal. During a new nightly television format, they debate the moral landscape of a shattered nation. As beliefs are challenged and slurs slung, a new frontier in American politics is opening and television news is about to be transformed forever.

ENCORE Screening on Sunday 21st May 2023 at 1.00pm.

Friday 19th May 2023 at 7.30pm in Nairn Community and Arts Centre. **Music Nairn** presents internationally renowned harpist **Ruth Wall**, introduced by **Graham Fitkin**.

A unique evening with harpist Ruth Wall. Exploring the theme of Migration in its many forms, Ruth and composer Graham Fitkin have taken old Gaelic songs and tunes from bagpipe and fiddle books to make 'creative transcriptions' for Ruth's three harps - the sitar-like Renaissance bray harp, the beautiful medieval Gaelic wire harp (clàrsach) and the Scottish lever harp. Ruth's long-term research into the pibroch piping technique - a highly ornamental style underpinned by a drone - informs her playing style and inspires the sound world of this fascinating and unique concert, combining ancient aural sources with modern technology. Ruth conjures up mesmerising and intricate patterns on these unique instruments, while Graham introduces the evening and talks about the stories of migration connected to the music.

Tickets from Nairn Community and Arts Centre at www.nairncc.co.uk or 01667 453476

Saturday 20th May 2023 at 5.55pm in the Playhouse Cinema, Eden Court. **LIVE from The Met. Mozart's Don Giovanni**. Director Ivo Van Hove makes a new take on this familiar opera and Maestro Nathalie Stutzmann conducts an international star-studded cast.

Sunday 21st May 2023 at 2.15pm for 2.30pm in Nairn Community and Arts Centre. **Floral Fantasia and Gardening Giges in aid of Autism Charity “Friendly Access”**. Local musicians Ann Corbet, Ian Douglas, Ros Hill, Mairi Mackenzie, Liz McLardy, Anna Merrouni, Joseph Kelly and Gordon Tocher along with guest baritone Colin Brockie celebrate the end of winter and the earth coming to life again with a selection of music from grand opera to traditional Scots.

Tickets £10 on the door which includes welcoming refreshments.

Tuesday 23rd May 2023 at 7.15pm, Thursday 25th May 2023 at 7.15pm and Saturday 27th May 2023 at 7.15pm all in Eden Court Empire Theatre. **Scottish Opera’s New Production of Bizet’s Carmen.**

Georges Bizet’s classic opera of jealousy, lust, and life outside the dictates of society gets a boldly updated new production, translated and performed in English, to conclude Scottish Opera’s 60th Season. With such hit melodies as the Habanera, Flower Aria, and Toreador Song – alongside Bizet’s magnificent orchestral interludes and rousing chorus numbers – the opera has musical riches for all.

But *Carmen* is not merely one show-stopping number after another. With director **John Fulljames** (*Nixon in China* 2020) at the helm and a design team led by **Sarah Beaton** and **Christina Cunningham**, *Carmen*’s iconic images are delivered amidst the unrest and upheavals of 1970s Spain, where the investigation into Carmen’s murder runs alongside the systems that led to her death. Carmen is the eternal outsider, carving out a life by her own rules in a militaristic and patriarchal society. The contrast of an often buoyant score and much crowd-driven action with the libretto’s introspective psychological darkness makes *Carmen* an endlessly fascinating work.

With **Justina Gringyte** in the title role and featuring four of Scottish Opera’s 22/23 Emerging Artists – **Zoe Drummond**, **Lea Shaw**, **Osian Wyn Bowen**, and **Colin Murray** – don’t miss the chance to see the Company’s timely take on this timeless masterpiece. Orchestra of Scottish Opera conducted by **Toby Hession**.

Access Performance on Friday 26th May at 3.00pm. Pre-show Talk on Saturday 27th May at 6.00pm. Touch Tour on Saturday 27th May at 6.00pm. Saturday performance is Audio Described.

Wednesday 24th May 2023 at 7.15pm and Sunday 28th May 2023 at 2.00pm in La Scala Cinema, Eden Court. **Royal Ballet’s** historic production of **The Sleeping Beauty**.

The Sleeping Beauty holds a very special place in The Royal Ballet’s heart and history. It was the first performance given by the Company when the Royal Opera House reopened at Covent Garden in 1946 after World War II. In 2006, this original staging was revived and has been delighting audiences ever since. Frederick Ashton famously cited the pure classicism of Marius Petipa’s 19th-century ballet as a private lesson in the atmospheric art and craft of choreography. Be swept away by Tchaikovsky’s ravishing music and Oliver Messel’s sumptuous fairy tale designs with this true gem from the classical ballet repertory.

Saturday 27th May 2023 at 7.00pm at the Macphail Centre, Ullapool and Sunday 28th May 2023 at 3.00pm at Nairn Community and Arts Centre. The Highland Chamber Orchestra, conducted by Robin Versteeg with piano soloist Catriona Mackenzie perform the Overture to "The Soul of The Philosopher" by Haydn, Mozart's Piano Concerto No 24 in C minor, K491 and the magnificent Symphony No 3 in E flat major, Op 55 by Beethoven known as the "Eroica".

Admission by suggested donation of £10. Further information about the HCO at www.highland-chamber-orchestra.co.uk

Well, that's all for May, folks! Enjoy the performances that you support. My apologies that this issue is a few days late. I have been up to my eyes with Springfest '23 and my calendar for the last week in May and the last week in June when normally I would prepare this eNewsletter is looking rather full, so please bear with me.

