



musicinverness

November 2023 eNewsletter

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Arts Society Highland Lecture +- Royal Ballet : Don Quixote +- New Groove Collective
HCO Runthrough +- Inverness Piano Recitals : Jia Ning Ng +- Scottish Opera : Barber of Seville
TOMS : London Bridge Piano Trio +- Sacred Music Workshop : Elizabethan Choral Evensong
Music Nairn : London Bridge Piano Trio +- musicinverness : Burns Savicevic Duo +- Inverness
Choral Society : Haydn's Creation +- Live from The Met : Life and Times of Malcolm X
St John's Rothiemurcus : Piano duets*

Here we are, back in the dark evenings and, up until Christmas, the long nights. I appreciate that many of you do not like driving in the dark, but you will see that much of what is on offer during November provides a chance to join up with a friend for the travel.

For those that are wondering why I have left out Duncan Chisholm's performance at Eden Court next Friday, it is simply because every seat in the Empire Theatre has been sold. I'm sure he'll be back and you will have another chance to see him.

The other omission is the musicinverness Piano Sunday. For a variety of reasons this double concert with dinner has been postponed to Sunday 18th February 2024 when there might have to be a slight change in format, but the high standard of music will be the same. This is the one event in the musicinverness series when pre-booking is essential, so I look forward to receiving lots of emails from you.

In addition, Inverness Film Festival 2023 takes place from Wednesday 1st November to Thursday 9th November and features forty-six screenings at Eden Court, with some shows in Cromarty Community Cinema. Full details on Eden Court website.

Let's look at what I have selected for you to support and enjoy during November.

Saturday 4th November at 7.30pm in Crown Church. One of the most exciting young string quartets on the Scottish, and indeed the UK, music scene, the **Resol String Quartet** are four friends who joined together through their love of chamber music while at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. I have been at concerts by them in Perth and in Edinburgh, and you have my word that the Resol Quartet is an outstanding ensemble that will go far.

The programme for musicinverness is:

Beethoven : String Quartet No 8 in E minor, Op. 59 No. 2 "Razumovsky"

Julian Broughton* : String Quartet No 4. "The Crossing Point". (New commission)

Mendelssohn : String Quartet No 2 in A minor, Op. 13

* Julian Broughton is to be found in the School of Media, Arts and Humanities of the University of Sussex. His String Quartet No 4 was commissioned by the Resol Quartet and part-funded by a member of musicinverness who wishes to remain anonymous. This is the premiere performance of "The Crossing Point".

As this concert is in an active place of worship, admission is by suggested donations of £15 for musicinverness members, £18 for non-members and £1 for Children.

Sunday 5th November at 3.00pm in The Stables, Cromarty. The Resol String Quartet continue their Highland Tour with a concert for Cromarty Arts Trust. The programme will be the same as for Inverness, but in reverse order. Tickets £14 (£12 concs), children under 18 free. Booking: info@cromartyartstrust.org.uk, 01381 600354 or on the door. Tea and coffee available.

Sunday 5th November at 3.00pm in Boat of Garten Community Hall. "Wind Connection"

A talented ensemble of wind players from across Scotland, who came together post-covid, led by the first Horn, Tim Barret. Since then the full complement of players has performed at Inverness, Nairn, Perthshire, Inverness Cathedral, Skye, and concerts are now arranged for Frankfurt and the French Alps in April and in the summer of 2024!

Now, they are coming to Boat of Garten.....

The programme, under the baton of special guest conductor **Robin Versteeg**, begins with an arrangement, by Tim Barrett, of the Strauss 'Alpine Symphony', followed by the Mozart masterpiece 'Serenade for 13 winds No 10 'Gran Partita'.

There is no charge for the concert, but donations are requested on the day.

Tuesday 7th November at 11.00am in Nairn Community and Arts Centre. The Arts Society Highland Lecture. Mediterranean Archipelago. Mary Rose Rivett-Carnac explores Malta in the UK's public art collections, revealing the many paintings that are held in storage and rarely seen.

Tuesday 7th November at 7.15pm in La Scala Cinema, Eden Court. The Royal Ballet : Don Quixote. Based on Miguel de Cervantes' epic novel of the same name, Don Quixote regales the adventures of the eccentric nobleman and his faithful squire Sancho Panza, as they help to bring a vivacious young couple, Kitri and Basilio, together. This energetic 19th-century ballet is enlivened by Ludwig Minkus' spirited score and is a wonderful showcase for the virtuosity of The Royal Ballet's principal dancers. Created for The Royal Ballet a decade ago, Carlos Acosta's exuberant production, featuring Tim Hatley's characterful designs, brings the heat and romance of Cervantes' classic novel to life. **ENCORE Screening on Sunday 12th November at 2.00pm.**

Friday 10th November at 7.30pm in Nairn Community and Arts Centre. New Groove Collective.

Get ready for a musical revolution in the heart of the Highland community as the "New Groove Collective" debuts this autumn with two unforgettable performances featuring vocalist Peter McPherson. Led by experienced bandleader Rob Farmer, this 18-piece Big Band is a musical force stepping onto the scene. Their repertoire is a masterful fusion of jazz classics, pop hits, and modern compositions, promising a wide-ranging sound that appeals to a diverse audience. With a full Big Band line-up of highly experienced musicians that includes 5 Saxophones, 4 Trumpets, 4 Trombones, Rhythm Section and local vocalist Peter McPherson, the group is looking forward to showcasing their unmistakable sound throughout the Highlands.

Bandleader Rob Farmer, a local Australian with an unwavering passion for swing, leads the New Groove Collective. His vision for the band is far from trivial — to revive the timeless appeal of Big Band music, while infusing it with contemporary creativity.

"SHADES OF SAMMY", the first ever performance series of the band, features classic Big Band hits from the Jazz Master Sammy Nestico as well as contemporary tunes, and the infectious energy that this talented collective deliver will impress any audience.

Encore Performance on Sunday 12th November at 2.30pm in Boat of Garten Community Hall.

Sunday 12th November at 10.00am in Phipps Hall, Beaulieu. Highland Chamber Orchestra Playthrough Day. Calling all players! A day of music making. Rehearsal from 10.00am – 1.00pm with a mid-morning break, then 2.00pm – 3.30pm. At 4.00pm there will be an informal run through to which friends and family can be invited. Conductor Robin Versteeg will take the HCO through Four Dance Episodes from Rodeo by Aaron Copland and the first performance of Gordon Tocher's Symphony.

Cost for the day is £20.00 payable on the day (students free).

Further details from phyzymc@gmail.com

Monday 13th November at 7.30pm in Inverness Town House. Inverness Piano Recitals presents Jia Ning Ng. Each year, the Governors of the Royal Scottish Conservatoire hold a competition to select the top keyboard player. Jia Ning Ng from Singapore is performing the winner's tour of several Scottish music clubs, giving a recital in each. This is an opportunity to hear a future soloist, at the outset of her career. She will be playing

Beethoven	Piano Sonata Op. 31 No. 2 "Tempest"
Schumann	<i>Blätter</i> Op. 99 (Colourful Leaves)
Schubert	Sonata in G major, D894

After the Beethoven, Ning will give a short talk on learning in Singapore, or moving to Glasgow and starting a professional career.

20 tickets are available free to music students, either private or school pupils. Tickets have been allocated to their teachers. Standard tickets (adults £20 students/under 18 £10) through the website www.invernesspianorecitals.com or on the door if available.

Thursday 16th November and Saturday 18th November at 7.15pm in Empire Theatre, Eden Court. Scottish Opera presents Rossini's The Barber of Seville.

Back by popular demand, Director Sir Thomas Allen and Conductor Stuart Stratford create a riotous production of Rossini's beloved comedy. The action centres around Figaro, one of opera's most delightful characters and perhaps the only voice of reason in a world of young love and old foolishness. When Count Almaviva sets his sights on the beautiful Rosina, he enlists Figaro – barber, fixer, and all-round man of action – to help woo her. It is no easy feat: Rosina's guardian Doctor Bartolo keeps her under lock and key with the intention of marrying her himself!

The multiplying disguises, pranks, and daring escapes engineered by Figaro are enhanced by Simon Higlett's enchanting designs, bright with Spanish colours. This revival is sung in English for a fresh spin on Rossini's larger-than-life characters and antics.

With Rossini's signature toe-tapping ensembles, high-speed patter and lively arias, this masterpiece is a joyful theatrical experience packing in one comic scene after another.

There will be a Pre-show Talk and Touch Tour at 6.00pm before the Saturday performance, which is Audio Described.

Tickets are going fast with Stalls seats for both performances nearly sold out. Eden Court Box Office in person, by phone on 01463 234234 or online at www.eden-court.co.uk

Friday 17th November at 7.30pm in Boat of Garten Community Hall. The Osprey Music Society welcomes the London Bridge Piano Trio.

The London Bridge Trio is one of Britain's leading chamber ensembles, known for their deeply nuanced and searching interpretations. Formed in 2002, they continue their original mission of prioritising strong, composer-led programmes, often collaborating with regular guest artists. Their name reflects an admiration for English music of the early twentieth century, which forms part of the group's varied repertoire and is represented by their hugely successful Frank Bridge recordings. For 2022 and beyond, founder Daniel Tong is joined by Ben Hancox and Cara Berridge, both members of the acclaimed Sacconi Quartet with whom Daniel has performed on numerous occasions.

The Trio's programme for TOMS is:

Beethoven : Piano Trio in G. Op.1 No.2

Schumann : Piano Trio in D minor, Op.63

Schubert : Piano Trio in E flat, Op.100, D.929

Tickets (£15 Members; £17 Non-members; Students and Schoolchildren Free) from Ann Napier on 01479 831213 or 07850 752757 or ann.nap@btinternet.com

Saturday 18th November at 5.00pm in Inverness Cathedral. The Sacred Music Workshops under the leadership of D James Ross, MBE, are presenting an Elizabethan Choral Evensong. Everyone is very welcome to attend this service conducted by the Revd Canon Dr John Cuthbert (Precentor) and featuring lovely music by Thomas Tallis and his contemporaries. There will be a retiring collection in aid of the Cathedral.

Saturday 18th November at 7.30pm in Nairn Community and Arts Centre. Music Nairn welcomes the London Bridge Piano Trio. Information about the Trio is the same as above for Friday 17th November at Boat of Garten but the programme is slightly different :

Beethoven : Piano Trio in G, Op.1 No.2

Fauré : Piano Trio in D minor, Op.120

Schumann : Piano Trio in D minor, Op. 63

For tickets visit www.musicnairn.org.uk

Sunday 19th November at 3.00pm in St Stephen's Church, Inverness. musicinverness is delighted to welcome the **Burns Savicevic Duo** for an afternoon concert, with refreshments, of music for violin and piano. Emerging artist and award-winning violinist Ailsa Burns pairs up with pianist Nina Savicevic who needs little introduction having charmed the Inverness audience in both the Old High Church and St Stephen's on previous visits. musicinverness is grateful to Ailsa and Nina for preparing a programme at short notice to replace the postponed Piano Sunday. They will be playing :

Jessie Montgomery : Rhapsody No 1 for Solo Violin

Antonin Dvořák : Sonata for Violin and Piano in F major, Op.57, B.106

Karol Szymanowski (arr. Paul Kochanski) : Zarzyze kuniu. No. 9 from 12 Kurpian Songs

Béla Bartók : Six Romanian Folk Dances, Sz.56

and possibly more.

As this concert is taking place in an active place of worship, musicinverness requests donations rather than selling tickets. Suggested £10 for members of musicinverness, £12 for non-members and £1 for children. The concert has been timed to enable patrons who wish to support both musicinverness and Inverness Choral Society to attend both events.

Sunday 19th November at 7.30pm at Macdonald Drumossie Hotel. Inverness Choral Society perform Haydn's Creation.

After a postponement from 2020 caused by Covid and lockdown, Inverness Choral Society presents their Centenary programme of The Creation by Franz Josef Haydn. The Choral and the Highland Sinfonia are conducted by Gordon Tocher with Rehearsal Accompanist Adrian Marple. Guest soloists are Jessica Leary (soprano), William Searle (tenor) and Colin Murray (bass).

For tickets (£15. Under 16s Free) go to www.invernesschoral.org.uk There will be a limited number of tickets at the door.

Wednesday 22nd November 2023 at 7.00pm in the Playhouse Cinema, Eden Court. LIVE from The Met : The Life and Times of Malcolm X. It has taken 37 years for Anthony Davis's powerful and ground-breaking opera to reach The Met in New York where Director Robert O'Hara's new staging imagines Malcolm X as an everyman whose story transcends time and space. The opera features a blend of jazz, gospel, and classical music, and is known for its powerful and emotionally charged performances. The work explores themes of racial inequality, identity, and social justice, and is considered to be a landmark in the history of American opera. Conductor Kazem Abdullah leads a cast that includes Will Liverman, Leah Hawkins, Raehann Bryce-Davis and Michael Sumuel.

Friday 24th November from 7.00pm in St John's Episcopal Church, Rothiemurcus, Aviemore. As Cathy Cargill explains, "Our next event will be on November 24th: piano duets, by not only the lovely and talented Janet Wardle, but me too (mostly rumbling along in the bass)." Come along for drinks before the concert starts at 7.30pm. Admission is free, but donations are requested to help cover costs.

Well, that's all folks for November! Enjoy what you go to and support. I know that I'm going to have a busy month and I have three special events on three successive evenings in the middle of the month. I'll leave you to decide what they are and I look forward to seeing you at them! Not a lot in December as you all plan how to make the turkey more interesting in the run up to Christmas. Please let me know if you have an event you would like me to include.

