

Music Nairn

2026/2027

Season

Emma Johnson





Welcome to another Music Nairn series of nine exciting and top quality concerts. We've again gone for lots of variety in this season's programme, including a return of fabulous clarinettist Emma Johnson and one of our favourite pianists, Leon McCawley. Our opening event promises to be very special - a co-promotion with Nairn Book and Arts Festival of 'Antonia' an exploration of Marie Antoinette's life in song and music, making a small Baroque opera. Another early music event will be a recreation of Frederick the Great's birthday party by Apollo's Cabinet, and outstanding young performers include Ethan Loch, Fibonacci Quartet and Chloe Trio. We welcome another top piano trio, the Czech based Bohemo and the pairing of violin and accordion of the acclaimed Karolina/Iwo Duo completes the programme. Many thanks once more to our audiences for the terrific support you gave us last season. We had some record attendances with lots of new faces and some youngsters which is so important for the future. For a small town we punch above our weight for music, be it jazz, traditional or chamber music. We have a beautiful venue at Nairn Community and Arts Centre with such helpful staff, and performers are full of praise for the Steinway piano, the acoustics and warmth of our audiences.

Everyone is welcome at our concerts, but having a body of members gives us the confidence and support we need to continue to promote concerts of the highest standards and also continue outreach work with nurseries, schools and community. There is also significant discount on tickets. Please consider joining us. An application form is attached to this brochure as a tear-off, or take out membership / join the mailing list only via our website: www.musicnairn.org.uk

We look forward to seeing you at the concerts!

Joan Noble (Music Nairn convener)

Wednesday 2nd September (time TBC)

Liberata Collective

'Antonia'



We are delighted to be co-promoting this special event with Nairn Book and Arts Festival

Baroque movement and music specialists, the Liberata Collective, perform a mini theatre/opera programme built around the life and times of Marie Antoinette, wife of the ill-fated King of France, Louis XVI. Born an archduchess of Austria, Maria Antonia Josefa Johanna was the youngest daughter of Empress Maria Theresa and Emperor Francis 1 of the Holy Roman Empire.

This staged recital - in full period costume and wigs - explores the real woman behind the myth of Queen Marie, and features music by Gluck, Piccinni and Joseph de Bologne.

Olivia Doutney plays the part of Marie Antoinette, with Petra Hajduchová at the Harpsichord, Maxim Del Mar (Violin) and Nathan Giorgetti (Cello) - and the musicians weave in and out of character as composers too! Producer: Susanna MacRae

Prior to the performance there will be a short demonstration of the art of Baroque gesture. As there were no supertitles in opera in Baroque times, a 'language' of gestures was employed to keep people up to speed with the story! Antonia is built within this language and explores the life of Marie Antoinette through music, movement and an original script.

Tickets for this performance £20, members £17, Under 25s and UC £3



**EVERYONE IS WELCOME
AT ALL OUR CONCERTS**

Saturday 19th September 7.30pm



“One of today’s most impeccably musical pianists.”
International Piano, January/February 2021

Praised for his unfailingly communicative playing, British pianist Leon McCawley has been delighting audiences worldwide since winning, in 1993, First Prize in the International Beethoven Piano Competition in Vienna and Second Prize at the Leeds International Piano Competition. Leon studied at Chetham’s School of Music then at the Curtis Institute, Philadelphia. His many concert performances and extensive and award winning discography have established him as a pianist of great integrity and variety. He has performed at the BBC proms and with many leading British orchestras and internationally acclaimed conductors. He can frequently be heard on BBC Radio 3, and has been professor of piano at London’s Royal College of Music since 2008.

Mozart: Sonata in G major K283

Fanny Mendelssohn: Notturmo in G minor H337

Beethoven: Sonata in C major Op. 2 No.

Grieg: Ballade in G minor Op. 24

Fauré: Nocturne No. 4 in E flat major Op. 36

Chopin: Ballade No. 3 in A flat major Op. 47

Tickets £19, members £16, Under 25s and UC £3

Buy advance tickets from Nairn Community & Arts Centre

In person, by phone (01667 453476)

or on www.nairncc.co.uk

Saturday 3rd October 7.30pm



Chloe Piano Trio

The Chloe piano Trio, Tunnell Trust Award Winners 2024/25, was formed in 2017 by talented emerging musicians from Romania and the Netherlands who met at the Royal College of Music. They previously were winners of the Royal Philharmonic society Henderson Chamber Music Prize 2021. They have performed across the UK and abroad, and in 2026 will play Beethoven's Triple Concerto in the Netherlands, make two concert tours of Scotland and release their first CD.

The Trio's repertoire ranges from Baroque to newly commissioned works, and they are particularly interested in the works of women composers.

J. Haydn: Piano Trio No. 45 in E-flat major, Hob. XV:29

H. Bosmans: Piano Trio in A major

J. Brahms: Piano Trio No. 1 in B major, Op. 8

Tickets £19, members £16, Under 25s and UC £3



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Saturday 31st October 7.30pm.

**Emma
Johnson**

**Gregory
Drott**



Having won BBC Young Musician of the Year age 17, Emma is one of the few clarinettists to have established a career as a solo performer, which has taken her to prestigious venues all over the world. She has 30 recordings to date and reached the top of the classical charts. Emma's eclectic programming has ranged from Mozart with Sir Yehudi to Jazz with Dame Cleo Laine. Her many compositions have been extensively performed and in 2024 she formed the Emma Johnson Foundation which has entertained thousands of children. Johnson studied Music and English at Cambridge University, where she was the first woman to be made an Honorary Fellow. She was honoured with an M.B.E. in 1996.

A prize-winning organ and piano student at both RCM and RAM, Gregory Drott holds degrees in musicology and performance (organ and piano) from London and Cambridge. He combines freelance work in the U.K. and abroad with research and teaching at Cambridge

Mozart: Grande Sonate K581

Weber: Grand Duo Concertant

Poulenc: Sonata

Johnson: Scottish Folk Song Suite

Gershwin: Goodman Medley

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Saturday 21st November 7.30pm



Fibonacci Quartet

"You can quickly see why the young, Guildhall-trained Fibonacci Quartet have done so well in international competitions. In short, because they're astonishingly good." The Scotsman 2025

The Fibonacci Quartet is one of Europe's leading young string quartets. Formed at the Guildhall School of Music, the quartet teach at the Royal Welsh College of Music as well as the Royal Academy of Music. The Fibonacci are prolific prize winners, winning (among many other prestigious awards) First Prize in the Royal Overseas League Chamber Music Competition and Winners at the 2024 Young Classical Artists Trust International auditions. The 2025/26 season included performances at the Edinburgh International Festival, Vienna Musikverein, Berlin Philharmonie and Wigmore Hall.

Mozart: String Quartet No. 21 in D Major, K.575

Bridge : 3 Idylls

Debussy: String Quartet in G Minor

Tickets £19, members £16, Under 25s and UC £3



**EVERYONE IS WELCOME
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Friday 15th January 7.30pm

Karolina-Iwo Duo

Violin and Accordion



Duo Karolina Mikołajczyk & Iwo Jedynecki is one of the most vibrant and innovative chamber ensembles of the current generation, recognized by artists such as Penderecki and Vengerov. In 2024 they won Poland's most prestigious prize for classical music - the 'Polityka Passport' - with the duo being praised for its 'versatility, virtuosity, unbridled imagination, and ingenuity' in selecting and creating new repertoire. This accolade follows a long line of First Prizes at international music competitions in addition to performances at prestigious venues, including Carnegie Hall, Warsaw Philharmonic, and other prestigious venues across 32 countries. The Duo has recorded 4 albums, and some of their videos on social media have gained millions of views

Vivaldi: The Four Seasons

Astor Piazzolla: The Four Seasons of Buenos Aires

Tickets £19, members £16, Under 25s and UC £3



**EVERYONE IS WELCOME
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Friday 19th February 7.30pm



Ethan Loch (piano)

Scottish pianist Ethan Loch has been captivating audiences from an early age with his deeply expressive playing and remarkable musicality. Born in 2004 and blind since birth, Ethan was exploring the piano as a toddler. He now studies at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, where he has been awarded the Governors' prize. At 18, Ethan was Grand Finalist of BBC Young Musician of the Year, playing Chopin's Piano Concerto No. 2. This led to engagements with leading UK orchestras, and in recital Ethan performs regularly throughout the UK. He won first prize at the Scottish International Youth Piano Competition (2019) and has now been nominated for a RPS Young Artist award. He is also a keen composer and improviser in both jazz and classical. Upcoming events are Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue with RSNO and a new chamber music production 'Earth, Wind and Fire' with Scottish Ballet.

Bach: Prelude & fugue no 3 in C# major book 1

Mozart: Rondo in A minor k.511

Chopin: Sonata no 2 in B flat minor, Op 35

Debussy: Two preludes - no 9 bk 1, no 4 bk 1

Rachmaninoff: Moments Musicaux Op 16

No1 in B flat minor, no 2 in E flat minor

Ethan Loch: Tonal Vision no 6 "Last moments of the Day"

Chopin: Scherzo no 2 in B flat minor, Op 31

Music Nairn are grateful for sponsorship of this concert through the Governor's Prize Tour.

Sunday 14th March - afternoon 2.30pm



Trio Bohemo

**'They are the music that this world needs.'
(Wigmore Hall Debut)**

Founded in Budapest in 2019, the award-winning Czech trio, Trio Bohémo has swiftly emerged as a force on the international chamber music scene. Within just five years, the ensemble has garnered prestigious accolades and many awards, with debuts at Vienna Musikverein, Wigmore Hall and Stoller Hall, as well as major festivals including Prague Spring Festival. They are regular guests on Radio 3 'In Tune' and in 2024, released their debut CD of works by Smetana and Schubert. The Guardian chose it as "Classical Album of the Week" and BBC Magazine gave it five stars. In 2024-2025, they undertook tours in Australia and the US, and performances throughout Austria, Netherlands, Denmark and Germany, including the Brno Philharmonic and the Aldeburgh Festival.

Beethoven: Piano Trio no 3 in C minor
Marios Christou: Dvorak in Cyprus
Dvorak: Piano Trio no 3

Tickets £19, members £16, Under 25s and UC £3



**EVERYONE IS WELCOME
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Friday 16th April 7.30pm



Put on your dancing shoes and get ready to party!

It's January 24th 1758 and Frederick the Great is having a big birthday bash! Everyone who is anyone in the musical world is represented and musicians from the royal court orchestra perform under Johann Graun, Frederick's concertmaster for the special occasion. Works by Germany's most gifted composers are being performed, Johann Sebastian Bach has made a 'Musical Offering' to the king and Telemann brings flair from the city of Hamburg. Revered flute master Johann Quantz leads the celebrations.

Apollo's Cabinet, a dynamic young early music group offer a signature mix of acting, dancing, poetry and drama to bring historical performances to modern audiences. They are multi award winners including the Royal Overseas League Ensemble Competition, and Tunnell Trust award winners 2024.

Come and join them in a fun evening recreating the famous celebration!

Pieces by JS Bach, Telemann, Quantz, Hasse and Graun for recorder, violin, flute, viol, guitar and harpsichord.

Buy advance tickets from Nairn Community & Arts Centre
In person, by phone (01667 453476)
or on www.nairncc.co.uk



Although all our concerts are public and everyone is welcome, Music Nairn is a members' society and a registered charity (Charity No. SC 018868). We need the commitment and support of a membership to give us the confidence to book musicians of the highest calibre.

Our venue is Nairn Community & Arts Centre which has an excellent acoustic, tiered seating for over 150 and maximum capacity of 300. Concertgoers can enjoy wine and soft drinks before concerts and during intervals.

Membership

- **Discounted concert ticket prices (£3 reduction, as below)**
- **Receiving an annual brochure by post and inclusion in our email/postal contact list sending details of each concert/event**
- **Invitation to Members' social events**
- **An opportunity to join our 100 club - a small annual contribution for a monthly prize draw**

Membership year Sept 1st to August 31st

Single person £15

Couple £26

**Season ticket £120 for all nine concerts.
(includes membership)**

**Join on line at www.musicnairn.org.uk
or fill in the form overleaf and post / hand this to
Nairn Community and Arts Centre,
King Street, Nairn, IV12 4BQ
with your cheque, payable to Music Nairn**

Ticket Prices

£19 each (£16 members, £3 under 25s and UC)

To join Music Nairn or renew membership

You may join on our website and pay by bank transfer www.musicnairn.org.uk

or just complete your details below.

Please note we can only accept cash or cheques (made out to Music Nairn) with this form.

I/we would like

to join/renew membership of Music Nairn

Name(s)

Email

Address

Tel.No.

Please tick:

I would like single membership at £15

☐

We would like double membership at £26

☐

**I/we would like season ticket/s at £120 each
(membership included)**

Please send details of the 100 Club.....

Cheque enclosed for **£**payable to **Music Nairn**

Please return this form to

**Music Nairn Membership Secretary
Nairn Community and Arts Centre
King Street, Nairn IV12 4BQ**

Your details will be kept on Music Nairn's membership list and we will send e mails about concerts and meetings. You may unsubscribe at any time.



Music Nairn is a longstanding and well supported society and a registered Scottish Charity. (SC018868)

Musicians of the highest calibre, many with international reputations, perform at our concerts. The promotion of classical music, both old and new, is an important part of our function and we are very keen to encourage youngsters through community workshops and discounted tickets, and to promote local musical activity. We hold occasional members' social events but everyone is welcome at our concerts.

Our splendid Steinway Model B piano has been acquired through the generosity of local charities and many individuals, and is considered one of the best concert pianos in private hands in Scotland.

2026/27 Calendar

- Wed Sep 2nd Liberata Collective 'Antonia'
(event co-promoted with Nairn Book and Arts Festival)
- Sat Sep 19th Leon McCawley - Piano
- Sat Oct 3rd Chloe Piano Trio
- Sat Oct 31st Emma Johnson/Gregory Drott Clar/piano
- Sat Nov 21st Fibonnaci String Quartet
- Fri Jan 15th Karolina/Iwo Duo Violin/Accordion
- Fri Feb 19th Ethan Loch - Piano
- Sun Mar 14th Trio Bohemo (2.30pm) - Piano Trio
- Fri Apr 16th Apollo's Cabinet - Early Music Group

All concerts are held at Nairn Community and Arts Centre and start at 7.30pm except for March 14th at 2.30pm

www.musicnairn.org.uk