

SCOTTISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

JANUARY – MAY 2022

SEASON BROCHURE

IT'S PLAYTIME

WWW.SCO.ORG.UK

WELCOME FROM GAVIN REID

Welcome to the second instalment of the Scottish Chamber Orchestra's 2021/22 concert season. We're thrilled to be sharing more live performances with you, as the musical world continues its step-by-step return to normality. We're delighted to return to full-length concerts from January, with intervals, although we'll continue to observe the latest government guidance to ensure your safety and comfort at all times.

We celebrate renewed connections in 2022, with a longed-for reunion with the SCO Chorus, with musical travels across the globe, and visits from some of the most vibrant soloists in the world today. Our exuberant Principal Conductor Maxim Emelyanychev brings together all of our season's themes, in concerts that draw on his exceptional and varied talents.

We look forward to seeing the SCO and SCO Chorus come together again for two special performances of Handel's monumental Messiah, and again in May for a performance of Vaughan Williams' visionary *Flos campi* and the world premiere of *The Years* by SCO Associate Composer, Anna Clyne.

Many of us have been unable to travel in the past 18 months, but we're excited to bring the world to you. We make two stopovers to America in the company of Conductor Emeritus Joseph Swensen and violinist Pekka Kuusisto, and we invite you to Italy with charismatic violinist Lorenza Borrani. Maxim and cellist Steven Isserlis are our guides to France, and we even take a trip down south for a very British adventure in May, in the company of conductor Andrew Manze and violist Timothy Ridout.

Timothy and Steven are just two of the remarkable international soloists in our spring season. Exceptional British pianist Benjamin Grosvenor joins us for two concerts of Liszt and Chopin, and Russian violinist Alina Ibragimova joins us with Prokofiev. Pekka Kuusisto's US foray forms part of a three-concert residency, which also features a brand-new collaboration between singersongwriter Karine Polwart and sound artist Pippa Murphy. Edinburgh-born Colin Currie returns for the scintillating *Percussion Concerto* by Scottish composer Helen Grime, and flamboyant oboist François Leleux performs a new concerto by Laurent

Petitgirard. We're also excited to perform with Anoushka Shankar as part of the 2022 Celtic Connections festival.

We present some particularly ambitious digital projects this season. Maxim conducts Stravinsky's rousing Pulcinella, and we have a Mendelssohn digital festival, featuring Nicola Benedetti in the composer's captivating Violin Concerto. We've also connected three emerging composers with SCO Associate Composer Anna Clyne: their brand new pieces are inspired by the art of storytelling and are available to experience online this season. Whilst we might not have been able to mark Beethoven's 250th anniversary in quite the way we'd hoped last year, there's still every reason to celebrate his music – in all its power and diversity. We perform four of his symphonies – Nos 1, 2, 4 and 6 – throughout the Season, as well as chamber music and his lyrical Romance No 1. We can't wait to share our exciting, eclectic spring season with you.

Gavin Reid

Chief Executive, Scottish Chamber Orchestra

SEASON HIGHLIGHTS FROM MAXIM

I'm delighted to present another exciting Season of concerts with the SCO in 2022. I'm particularly looking forward to working with lots of fantastic guest artists and bringing you a kaleidoscope of music from across the centuries and around the world.

In February, I will join SCO colleagues in an intimate afternoon of chamber music that includes Schubert's gloriously carefree 'Trout' Quintet alongside chamber works by Rossini and Beethoven.

After our emotional BBC Proms performance in August, I will once again conduct an all-Mozart programme, but this time the concert will feature the composer's 39th Symphony and 20th Piano Concerto which I will direct from the keyboard. I would very much like to invite you join us for this beautiful concert.

In March I will direct from the harpsichord Handel's Messiah reuniting colleagues in the SCO and SCO Chorus, who have not performed together for so very long. It is a great honour to conduct this monumental work with both creative forces.

Alongside Stravinsky's lavish Firebird ballet score, our season finale features Prokofiev's First Violin Concerto, performed by my hugely talented friend, Alina Ibragimova. We will play the 1945 version of The Firebird which was written specially for chamber orchestra. I'm so excited to bring you this exciting programme of Russian music to Scottish audiences in May!

I look forward to seeing you in the concert hall very soon!

Maxim Emelyanychev

Principal Conductor, Scottish Chamber Orchestra

NEW YEAR GALA CONCERT

Jiří Rožeň Conductor

Jennifer France Soprano

Including music by Dvořák, Schubert and the Strauss family

Celebrate the arrival of 2022 and a new year of musical adventures with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra and vibrant young Prague-born conductor Jiří Rožeň.

Our New Year Gala Concert offers a tempting selection of musical confection to enthrall and delight from right across Europe – from the rich musical flavours of Rožeň's homeland, in the form of Dvořák's delicious dance-hall Prague Waltzes and a succulent Slavonic Dance, to exquisite morsels from Hungary and Germany.

The SCO is also joined by brilliant British soprano Jennifer France, who brings her silvery vocal sparkle to showpieces by Lehár and Zeller, as well as Richard Strauss' touching love song Amor.

Your whistle-stop trip concludes with the opulence of the Strauss family's Vienna – where else? – amid the lyrical beauty of The Blue Danube, and the roof-raising splendour of the Radetzky March.

Sat 1 Jan, 3pm Usher Hall, Edinburgh

Sun 2 Jan, 3pm Aberdeen Music Hall

Mon 3 Jan, 3pm Perth Concert Hall

Please note: The New Year Gala Concert is not part of Jan-May multibuy offer.

www.sco.org.uk/ny2022

HADYN AND MADERNA

Lorenza Borrani Director / Violin

Maderna Music of Gaiety

Haydn Symphony No 56 in C major

Maderna Movements from 'Odhecaton' Suites Nos 1 and 2

Haydn Symphony No 90 in C Major

Charismatic Florence-born violinist Lorenza Borrani – Leader of the Chamber Orchestra of Europe since 2008 – makes her debut with the SCO in music by an unconventional pairing of composers, but one that's sure to delight and inspire.

It's no coincidence that Borrani has chosen two Haydn symphonies in the key of C - both are bright and brilliant. No 56 was the pinnacle of his symphonic achievements when he wrote it, and No 90 home to one of the composer's most outrageous musical jokes.

Borrani's compatriot Bruno Maderna was an uncompromising modernist, but also a much-loved, larger-than-life composer who created much of his music simply for joy and entertainment. His Music of Gaiety is sure to raise a smile with its witty orchestral rethinks of 17th Century English keyboard music, while his 'Odhecaton' Suites look even further back to the Renaissance for their brilliantly energetic, sparkling creations.

Kindly supported by The Usher Family

Thu 13 Jan, 7.30pm The Queen's Hall, Edinburgh

Fri 14 Jan, 7.30pm City Halls, Glasgow

www.sco.org.uk/maderna

MUSIQUE AMÉRIQUE

Joseph Swensen Conductor

Maximiliano Martín Clarinet

Milhaud La Création du monde

Copland Clarinet Concerto

Bernstein (arr. Ramin) Sonata for Clarinet & Orchestra

Poulenc Sinfonietta

Put on your dancing shoes and let your hair down to join the SCO in jazzy, foot-tapping style on both sides of the Atlantic, with Conductor Emeritus Joseph Swensen as master of ceremonies.

Dixieland meets Baroque brilliance in Milhaud's bewitching ballet score La Création du monde, infused with the jazz he encountered on the streets of Harlem, while Poulenc freely mixes Mozart, Tchaikovsky and catchy Parisian tunes in the breathless energy of his sunny Sinfonietta.

SCO Principal Clarinet Maximiliano Martín is a remarkably expressive soloist in his own right, and he completes the programme with two larger-than-life masterpieces: the bittersweet lyricism and wild euphoria of Copland's Clarinet Concerto, written for jazz legend Benny Goodman; and Bernstein's jazzy, snazzy Sonata, recast across the vivid colours of the Orchestra.

Kindly supported by SCO American Development Fund

Thu 20 Jan, 7.30pm The Queen's Hall, Edinburgh

Fri 21 Jan, 7.30pm City Halls, Glasgow

www.sco.org.uk/musique

ANOUSHKA SHANKAR AND ORCHESTRAL QAWWALI PROJECT

Part of Celtic Connections 2022

World-renowned heir to her father Ravi Shankar's iconic legacy, sitar player and composer Anoushka Shankar has built her career on transcending genres and musical boundaries, mixing styles that range from flamenco to electronica, and collaborating with such diverse luminaries as Herbie Hancock, Patti Smith, Joshua Bell and Sting.

Here, together with a selection of solo pieces, she teams up with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra to revisit her father's Concerto No 3 for sitar and orchestra, which she gave its Carnegie Hall premiere in 2009. Embodying a dynamic dialogue between Indian and Western classical tradition, this rhythmically intricate, soulfully melodic work evokes a young girl's journey into maturity.

Combining the ancient Sufi devotional tradition of qawwali with modern orchestral arrangements, the Orchestral Qawwali Project features the soaring vocals of Abi Sampa, the UK's first female qawwal, together with tabla player Amrit Singh, and singer/composer Rushil, whose innovative scores to both classical and original qawwalis are performed by the Scottish Chamber Orchestra.

Fri 28 Jan, 7.30pm Glasgow Royal Concert Hall

Please note: This concert is not part of Jan-May multibuy offer.

www.celticconnections.com

GROSVENOR PLAYS LISZT

Maxim Emelyanychev Conductor
Benjamin Grosvenor Piano

Beethoven Symphony No 1 in C Major, Op 21
Liszt Piano Concerto No 1 in E-flat major
Sweelinck (arr. Emelyanychev) Beati pauperes from Cantiones Sacrae
Mendelssohn Symphony No 5 'Reformation'

Electrifying British pianist Benjamin Grosvenor was keyboard winner of the 2004 BBC Young Musician aged 11, and performed at the First Night of the Proms aged 19. Since then he's continued to dazzle with his power, his poetry and his profound musical insights: he brings his exceptional talents to two concerts with the SCO this season.

For the first of them, Grosvenor joins Principal Conductor Maxim Emelyanychev to tackle the breathtakingly virtuosic challenges of Liszt's first piano concerto, 23 years in the making, and a single compressed movement of gripping intensity, teeming with adventure and drama for soloist and orchestra alike.

Emelyanychev completes his typically wideranging programme with visionary spirituality from Sweelinck and Mendelssohn, separated by two centuries, and Beethoven's first fiery foray into the world of the symphony – designed both to shock and delight Viennese audiences at its 1800 premiere.

Thu 3 Feb, 7.30pm Usher Hall, Edinburgh
Fri 4 Feb, 7.30pm City Halls, Glasgow
Sat 5 Feb, 7.30pm Aberdeen Music Hall

www.sco.org.uk/Grosvenor

NEW STORIES – digital season

Three exciting new Scottish voices. Three vivid new works of musical storytelling. Electra Perivolaris, Gillian Walker and Georgina MacDonell Finlayson have each written a brand new work for a mixed SCO ensemble, inspired by the art of storytelling, and receiving their world premiere performances online to coincide with Scotland's Year of Stories.

These three exceptional emerging composers have worked closely with the SCO's Associate Composer Anna Clyne in writing these dramatic new pieces as part of the Orchestra's New Stories project, creating tales that draw on their own lives and experiences in collaboration with writer and storyteller Janis Mackay.

Electra Perivolaris' *The Blurred Lines of Archipelagos* tells a mythical tale tied to her dual island heritage between Scotland and Greece, combining traditional music from both cultures.

Gillian Walker's *White City* takes a young child's perspective on early years in a council estate nursery in Wallacetown, Ayr. Georgina MacDonell Finlayson's *Do you remember when the rain came?* tells tales of climate change and ecological collapse from the perspective of a Selkie, half-human, half-seal.

Three compelling new voices, and three compelling approaches to stories in music: be among the first to experience these new sounds and ideas.

Sponsored by Baillie Gifford Actual Investors

Electra Perivolaris *The Blurred Lines of Archipelagos*
Mon 7 Feb - Sun 6 Mar

Gillian Walker *White City*
Mon 21 Feb - Sun 20 Mar

Georgina Macdonell Finlayson *Do you remember when the rain came?*
Sat 5 Mar - Mon 4 Apr

All videos are available for 1 month from their initial broadcast date.

www.sco.org.uk/newstories

STAN AND MABEL FAMILY FESTIVAL

Chris Jarvis Presenter

Gregory Batsleer Conductor

Introduced by Aisling O’Dea

Written and illustrated by Jason Chapman

Music by Paul Rissmann

Enjoy all the fun-filled musical adventures of our favourite dog-and-cat duo – live!

When their flute-playing neighbour heads to La Scala Opera House in Milan to judge the competition for the Greatest Orchestra in the World, Stan and Mabel decide to follow – and to create their very own Animal Orchestra along the way!

Join the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, conductor Gregory Batsleer and children’s TV presenter Chris Jarvis to enjoy this fabulous musical tale, written and illustrated by Jason Chapman and set to music by Paul Rissmann. It’s purr-fect for four – to eight-year-olds and their adults. You’d be barking to miss it!

FOYER FUN (excl Perth School’s Concert)

Join us for 90 minutes of furry foyer festivities before the concert! We have music, circus, stories and crafts to entertain and engage the whole family. Create your own animal masks, explore story books, and watch some clever circus tricks while you listen to our fabulous wandering musicians.

If you’re feeling peckish after all that fun, the café is open for drinks and light snacks or you can bring your own refreshments to enjoy in the indoor picnic area.

All foyer activities free to ticketholders. Buggy park and nappy changing areas on site.

Sponsored by Baillie Gifford Actual Investors. The Perth Concert Series is supported by The Gannochy Trust

Fri 11 Feb, 1.15pm Perth Concert Hall (Schools’ Concert)

Sat 12 Feb, 12pm & 2.30pm Edinburgh International Conference Centre

Sun 13 Feb, 3pm Eden Court Theatre, Inverness

Please note: This concert is not part of Jan-May multibuy offer.

www.sco.org.uk/stanandmabel

SCHUBERT'S TROUT

Maxim Emelyanychev Piano
SCO Chamber Ensemble

Rossini Duo in D major for Cello and Double Bass
Beethoven Trio in B-flat major for Clarinet, Cello & Piano, Op 11
Schubert Piano Quintet in A major, D667, 'The Trout'

Franz Schubert conjured the carefree melodiousness of his radiant 'Trout' Quintet as a 22-year-old kicking back with companions on a countryside holiday. It's music of good times and warm friendship – just the piece for Principal Conductor Maxim Emelyanychev at the keyboard to join Orchestra colleagues in this intimate afternoon of chamber music.

Schubert rose to the challenge of incorporating one of his best-loved song tunes into his charming Quintet – and the young Beethoven did something similar with a hit Viennese opera number in his sunny Trio. To open the concert, marvel at the sparkling inventiveness and vivid operatic drama Rossini creates for his bassy twosome in his duelling Duo.

Sun 20 Feb, 3pm The Queen's Hall, Edinburgh

Please note: This concert is not part of Jan-May multibuy offer.

www.sco.org.uk/trout

A FRENCH ADVENTURE WITH STEVEN ISSERLIS

Maxim Emelyanychev Conductor

Steven Isserlis Cello

Debussy Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune

Saint-Saëns Cello Concerto No 1

Françaix Dixtuor

Bartók Divertimento for String Orchestra

British cellist extraordinaire Steven Isserlis joins Principal Conductor Maxim Emelyanychev for a sophisticated soirée amid some of France's most irresistible music – and a quick trip to Hungary, too.

Isserlis brings his lustrous intensity and celebrated joie de vivre to the sparkling wit and invention of Saint-Saëns's spirited Cello Concerto No 1.

Debussy's languorous Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune provides a delicately flavoured amusebouche, while the nostalgia and musical mischief of the Dixtuor (or Dectet) by Jean Françaix provides sparkle and fizz. Bartók's Divertimento, by way of contrast, is music of earthy Hungarian passion par excellence.

Kindly supported by Claire and Mark Urquhart

Thu 24 Feb, 7.30pm The Queen's Hall, Edinburgh

Fri 25 Feb, 7.30pm City Halls, Glasgow

www.sco.org.uk/french

FRANÇOIS LELEUX

François Leleux Conductor / Oboe

Bizet L'Arlésienne, Suite No 1

Petitgirard Oboe Concerto (World Premiere) *SCO and Swedish Chamber Orchestra commission*

Beethoven Symphony No 2 in D Major, Op 36

Flamboyant French oboist and conductor François Leleux is a regular and much-loved collaborator with the Orchestra: his larger-than-life personality and breathtaking musical prowess have charmed and delighted SCO audiences across several seasons.

Leleux gives the world premiere performance of a brand new oboe concerto, written specially for him by prolific Parisian composer Laurent Petitgirard, widely admired for his evocative film scores. Entitled SOUEN WOU K'ONG, the concerto takes its inspiration from the Monkey King of Chinese legend, who embarks on an adventure-filled Buddhist pilgrimage with the monk Tripitaka and spirits Pigsy and Sandy.

Leleux opens with Bizet's stirring incidental music to L'Arlésienne, and closes with Beethoven's Second Symphony, written while the composer was reeling from the diagnosis of his on-coming deafness, but bristling with happiness, humour and all the power of a coiled spring.

Sponsored by Institut Français d'Ecosse

Thu 3 Mar, 7.30pm The Queen's Hall, Edinburgh

Fri 4 Mar, 7.30pm City Halls, Glasgow

www.sco.org.uk/leleux

PEKKA KUUSISTO RESIDENCY

Violinist, conductor and composer. Folk musician, cuttingedge contemporary player, even festival founder.

Pekka Kuusisto is a force of nature, a musical pioneer – and a much-admired friend and collaborator of the Scottish Chamber Orchestra. He brings a freshness, a conviction and a sense of vision to all of his broad musical passions – from folk tunes to classical masterpieces to the most demanding of contemporary scores.

Join Pekka to explore three contrasting facets of his music making in a special residency with the SCO this spring.

From an intimate journey through the state-of-the-art sounds from his friends and colleagues in New York and closer to home, Pekka unveils a new collaboration with Karine Polwart and Pippa Murphy celebrating the wonders of nature, and invites you on a classic American road trip through time and vivid musical landscapes.

Expect some music that's well known and much loved, some that's fresh and new – but all of it as rewarding as it is provocative in Pekka's expert hands.

NEW YORK COUNTERPOINT

Pekka Kuusisto Director / Violin
 SCO Chamber Ensemble
 DJs xivro and Rowan McIlvride (EHFM)

Muhly It Goes Without Saying – Clarinet and Tape
 Dessner Aheym

Haarla Barcarole
 Zinovjev Double Trouble

Bacewicz Four Duos for Two Violins

Shaw Entr'acte Reich New York Counterpoint – Clarinet and Tape
 The city that never sleeps – and whose music dazzles and inspires.

Crack Finnish violinist Pekka Kuusisto launches his three-concert SCO residency in typically unconventional style. He joins a hand-picked group of SCO musicians to weave together some of the most exciting music by his friends and colleagues in America's most vibrant city – and from closer to home.

Nico Muhly melds recorded sounds with acoustic clarinet in his witty, perky It Goes Without Saying, while Bryce Dessner – guitarist in indie rock band The National – draws on his Jewish heritage in his vibrant string quartet Aheym.

Following the folk-inspired grittiness of Polish composer Grażyna Bacewicz's violin duos, Caroline Shaw plays delicate games with Haydn in her gleaming string quartet Entr'acte, and Steve Reich provides a fitting urban celebration with the pulsating beauty of his multi-clarinet New York Counterpoint.

In association with The Skinny and EHFM

Sun 6 Mar, 3pm The Queen's Hall, Edinburgh

www.sco.org.uk/counterpoint

Please note: This concert will have cabaret seating in the stalls area. It is not part of the Jan-May multibuy offer.

SEEK THE LIGHT

Pekka Kuusisto Violin / Director
Karine Polwart Singer-Songwriter
Pippa Murphy Sound Design

Beethoven Romance No 1 in G Major, Op 40
Tarrodi Birds of Paradise
Polwart / Murphy Seek The Light (SCO commission: World Premiere)
Tüür Insula Deserta
Vasks Violin Concerto 'Distant Light'

The uncanny glow of fireflies; the vast migrations of birds; the aeons-long life cycles of stars. The wonders of nature form the inspiration behind Seek the Light, a brand new work by singer-songwriter Karine Polwart and composer/sound designer Pippa Murphy, which looks upwards and outwards from our recent struggles to the living planet and beyond, weaving together spoken word, song and instrumental music in a spirit of awe, reverence and solace.

Seek the Light forms the glistening thread that connects all the music in this wide-ranging concert, directed by exceptional Finnish violinist Pekka Kuusisto, who performs Beethoven's thoughtful, graceful Romance No 1 in the second of his three collaborations with the SCO this season.

Swedish composer Andrea Tarrodi captures the flight, the colours and the song of one of nature's most exquisite creations in her Birds of Paradise, while Erkki-Sven Tüür summons tectonic movements in his primal Insula Deserta, and Peteris Vasks' contemplative violin concerto 'Distant Light' is music of loss and hope, despair and ecstasy.

Sponsored by insider.co.uk and match-funded by Culture and Business Fund Scotland.

Thu 10 Mar, 7.30pm The Queen's Hall, Edinburgh
Fri 11 Mar, 7.30pm City Halls, Glasgow

www.sco.org.uk/seek

AMERICA, THE BEAUTIFUL

Pekka Kuusisto Director / Violin

Stravinsky Concerto in E flat 'Dumbarton Oaks'

Muhly Violin Concerto, 'Shrink' (UK Premiere) Co-commissioned by Australian Chamber Orchestra, Melbourne Recital Centre, Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, Norwegian Chamber Orchestra, Mahler Chamber Orchestra with the kind support of the MCO Foundation and Scottish Chamber Orchestra

Mazzoli Dissolve, Oh my Heart

Barber Adagio for Strings

Copland Appalachian Spring: Suite

Take a classic American road trip through a travelogue of unforgettable musical landscapes and eras, with brilliant violinist Pekka Kuusisto as your expert guide.

Copland looked far back to the wide open spaces and earliest US settlers for the rural idyll of his captivating Appalachian Spring, while Barber summoned dignity in the face of tragedy in his deeply moving Adagio, famously heard at the funerals of FDR and JFK. Stravinsky, on the other hand, took the title of his mischievous chamber concerto 'Dumbarton Oaks' from an opulent country estate in Washington, DC.

Kuusisto brings things bang up to date with fruits from his close musical relationships with two of the hippest, most exciting young US voices, both straddling the worlds of rock and classical. Bryce Dessner plays with indie rock band The National, while Nico Muhly has collaborated with musicians from Philip Glass to Björk, as well as writing operas and concertos: his 'Shrink' is a dazzling violin workout composed specially for Kuusisto.

Kindly supported by SCO American Development Fund

Wed 16 Mar, 7.30pm Holy Trinity Church, St Andrews

Thu 17 Mar, 7.30pm The Queen's Hall, Edinburgh

Fri 18 Mar, 7.30pm City Halls, Glasgow

www.sco.org.uk/america

MAXIM'S MOZART

Maxim Emelyanychev Conductor / Piano

Mozart Serenade No 6, K.239, 'Serenata notturna'

Mozart Piano Concerto No 20 in D minor, K.466

Mozart Symphony No 39 in E-flat Major, K.543

Principal Conductor Maxim Emelyanychev and the SCO raised the roof on the Royal Albert Hall last summer with a vivid, gripping BBC Prom exploring Mozart's final three symphonies, hailed for its brilliant insights and boundless energy.

Join Emelyanychev and the SCO as they continue their visionary Mozart explorations with a trio of pieces as delectable as they are different. The 'Serenata notturna' is music for high-class entertainment, sophisticated and elegant, while the Symphony No 39 displays Mozart, the pioneer, pushing music ever further into intense expression. In between these works, Emelyanychev fires up his explosive keyboard skills for the turbulent drama of the dark and stormy Piano Concerto No 20.

Discover this much-loved music afresh with one of the world's brightest and most exciting Mozart partnerships.

Kindly supported by Donald and Louise MacDonald

Thu 24 Mar, 7.30pm The Queen's Hall, Edinburgh

Fri 25 Mar, 7.30pm City Halls, Glasgow

Sat 26 Mar, 7.30pm Aberdeen Music Hall

www.sco.org.uk/maximsmozart

HANDEL'S MESSIAH

Maxim Emelyanychev Conductor / Harpsichord

Anna Dennis Soprano

Xavier Sabata Countertenor

Andrew Staples Tenor

Matthew Brook Bass Baritone

SCO Chorus

Gregory Batsleer Chorus Director

Handel Messiah HWV 56

From the rousing rejoicing of its famous 'Hallelujah' chorus to visionary serenity and brooding fury, it's no wonder that Handel's Messiah has been an iconic work of choral music for nearly three centuries. Charting the life of Christ in some of the composer's most compelling musical storytelling, it's a moving spiritual experience for everyone.

Expect a fresh new vision of this muchloved work, as Principal Conductor Maxim Emelyanychev directs from the harpsichord, alongside a stunning quartet of international vocal soloists. And with the SCO and SCO Chorus reuniting for the first time since 2019, this is truly an occasion for celebration.

Thu 31 Mar, 7.30pm Usher Hall, Edinburgh

Fri 1 Apr, 7.30pm City Halls, Glasgow

www.sco.org.uk/messiah

CURRIE PLAYS GRIME

Clemens Schuldt Conductor
Colin Currie Percussion

Eberl Overture, Die Königin der schwarzen Inseln
Grime Percussion Concerto
Haydn Overture, L'isola disabitata
Beethoven Symphony No 4

Edinburgh's own percussion ace Colin Currie charms and galvanises with his exuberant playing, as SCO audiences well know from his regular and much-admired collaborations with the Orchestra.

He brings the kaleidoscopic Percussion Concerto by Aberdeenshire-raised Helen Grime, a beguiling mix of exquisite colours and breathtaking virtuosity on metal and wood that exploits Currie's gifts for magical melody and sonic seduction.

Exciting young German conductor Clemens Schuldt complements Grime's lyrical Concerto with two exotic desert-island opera overtures by Haydn and Eberl, and the taut power of Beethoven's Fourth Symphony.

Thu 7 Apr, 7.30pm The Queen's Hall, Edinburgh
Fri 8 Apr, 7.30pm City Halls, Glasgow

www.sco.org.uk/currie

PULCINELLA – digital season

Maxim Emelyanychev Conductor

Claire Booth Soprano

Andrew Staples Tenor

Roderick Williams Baritone

Experience Stravinsky at his most unashamedly entertaining, in the company of Principal Conductor Maxim Emelyanychev and a starry trio of exceptional vocalists.

Pulcinella was one of Stravinsky's biggest hits in his long career – and with its quirky humour and catchy tunes, you can immediately see why. The composer raided effervescent Italian music from earlier centuries for this extravagant ballet score, which tells a farcical commedia dell'arte tale of love, disguise and magic.

Maxim Emelyanychev is joined by three of Britain's most vibrant singers for a fresh take on Stravinsky's sunny, funny masterpiece. He continues the high spirits in Haydn's grand 'Drum Roll' Symphony, written to delight discerning London audiences, and certainly among the composer's most opulent symphonic creations.

Sat 9 Apr, 7.30pm (Available online for 1 month after initial broadcast date)

www.sco.org.uk/pulcinella

BEETHOVEN'S SIXTH

Joana Carneiro Conductor
Benjamin Grosvenor Piano

Mozart Symphony No 32
Chopin Piano Concerto No 2
Beethoven Symphony No 6 'Pastoral'

With its chirruping birdsong, its babbling brook and the cataclysmic drama of its all-consuming thunderstorm, Beethoven's 'Pastoral' Symphony is a hymn of wonder and gratitude to the natural world – and all the more powerful in the face of today's environmental concerns.

Dazzling Portuguese-born conductor Joana Carneiro makes a welcome return for Beethoven's moving tribute to the joys of nature. Beforehand, brilliant British pianist Benjamin Grosvenor makes the second of his two visits this spring for Chopin's deeply poetic, thrillingly dramatic Second Piano Concerto, considered by many to be one of the composer's most beautiful creations.

Carneiro opens the concert with Mozart's merry, miniature Symphony No 32, which compresses all the emotion and reflection of a longer symphony into barely ten minutes.

Sponsored by Pulsant

Thu 28 Apr, 7.30pm Usher Hall, Edinburgh

Fri 29 Apr, 7.30pm City Halls, Glasgow

www.sco.org.uk/sixth

A VERY BRITISH ADVENTURE

Andrew Manze Conductor
Timothy Ridout Viola
SCO Chorus
Gregory Batsleer Chorus Director

Grace Williams Sea Sketches
Clyne The Years* (SCO commission: World Premiere)
Dowland (arr. Manze) If My Complaints Could Passions Move
Britten Lachrymae
Vaughan Williams Flos Campi

From Renaissance passion to modern mysticism, discover the richness of some lesser-known British music in this wide-ranging concert conducted by eminent English music expert Andrew Manze.

The visionary sensuousness of Vaughan Williams' Flos Campi brings together the SCO and SCO Chorus, alongside remarkable young viola player Timothy Ridout - currently a BBC New Generation Artist – who's also the soloist in the flickering emotions of Britten's Lachrymae, a heartfelt fantasy on music by John Dowland.

Welsh composer Grace Williams offers a British answer to Debussy's La mer in her vivacious, colourful Sea Sketches, and SCO Associate Composer Anna Clyne unveils her brand-new choral piece with its specially-written text by Stephanie Fleischmann.

*Text by Stephanie Fleischmann

'The Years' was generously supported with funds from RVW Trust

Thu 5 May, 7.30pm The Queen's Hall, Edinburgh

Fri 6 May, 7.30pm City Halls, Glasgow

www.sco.org.uk/British

MAXIM'S FIREBIRD

Maxim Emelyanychev Conductor
Alina Ibragimova Violin

Beethoven Leonore Overture No 3
Prokofiev Violin Concerto No 1 in D Major
Stravinsky The Firebird Suite [1945]

Join the Orchestra for a resplendent close to the spring live concert season as Principal Conductor Maxim Emelyanychev directs Stravinsky at his most lavish and opulent.

The Firebird is the ballet score that made Stravinsky's name, with music of glittering colours and enormous emotional power telling a magical Russian fairytale. Expect fresh new perspectives on the music as Emelyanychev conducts a specially expanded SCO for this celebratory occasion.

Beforehand, dazzling Russian-born British violinist Alina Ibragimova is the soloist in Prokofiev's bracingly energetic First Violin Concerto, and Emelyanychev kicks off the evening of spectacle and wonder with Beethoven's intensely powerful Overture.

Wed 11 May, 7.30pm Perth Concert Hall
Thu 12 May, 7.30pm Usher Hall, Edinburgh
Fri 13 May, 7.30pm City Halls, Glasgow

www.sco.org.uk/firebird

MENDELSSOHN WEEKEND – digital season

Kristian Bezuidenhout Director / Piano

Nicola Benedetti Director / Violin

Stephanie Gonley Director / Violin

1. Mendelssohn Violin and Piano Concerto in D minor – Stephanie Gonley, Kristian Bezuidenhout
2. Mendelssohn String Symphony No 12 in G minor
3. Mendelssohn String Octet in E-Flat Major
4. Mendelssohn Violin Concerto – Nicola Benedetti

Child genius, master melodist, and musical pioneer: Felix Mendelssohn was a remarkable figure who wrote some of the most charming, captivating music that still entertains and stimulates us today.

Get a little closer to Mendelssohn the man (and boy), as well as to his sublime musical achievements, with a mini-festival of music and film, specially recorded at Perth Concert Hall, and featuring two of the SCO's best-loved musical collaborators.

Mendelssohn was a child prodigy to rival Mozart, though the music he wrote as a teenager lacks nothing in lyricism or maturity. Brilliant pianist Kristian Bezuidenhout and the SCO's Leader Stephanie Gonley are the soloists in his dramatic Concerto for Violin and Piano, written when he was just 14. His String Symphonies date from even earlier, though their radiant melodies combine effervescent entertainment with astonishing sophistication.

The composer single-handedly established an entirely new musical genre with his soaring string Octet, performed by eight of the SCO's exceptional string players, creating one of the enduring masterpieces of the chamber repertoire – all at the age of 16.

To mark the Festival's climax, Nicola Benedetti brings her remarkable prowess and insights to Mendelssohn's exquisite Violin Concerto, from its melancholy opening to the sparkling elfin energy of its finale.

Sat 21 May, 11am (Part 1) / 7.30pm (Part 2)

Sun 22 May, 11am (Part 3) / 7.30pm (Part 4)

Parts 1-4 are all available to view online for free for 1 month after initial broadcast date.

www.sco.org.uk/mendelssohn

SCO IN CRAIGMILLAR

SCO in Craigmillar was launched in August 2021 and is a fiveyear programme of music and cross-artform workshops and performances for residents of all ages in Greater Craigmillar, Edinburgh. Building on the area's extraordinary history of Community Arts, the SCO is proud to be part of a community-wide journey to re-energise creative, intergenerational activity with and for diverse groups, and to connect the community with a national cultural resource in the form of the Scottish Chamber Orchestra.

SCO in Craigmillar includes nine unique creative projects which will run annually in schools and community centres. These projects are designed to develop musical and practical skills, and to promote wellbeing and creativity. They will culminate in two commissioned community performances, co-created and performed by residents and SCO musicians - a collaborative community performance in 2024, and a commissioned community musical in 2026. For a video introduction and for further details about our vision, partners, projects and lead artists, go to www.sco.org.uk/craigmillar.

SCO in Craigmillar is kindly funded by the Borletti-Buitoni Trust, the Scottish Government's Youth Arts Fund through Creative Scotland, Scops Arts Trust, H R Creswick's Charitable Trust, Mrs Rowena Goffin's Charitable Trust, The Plum Trust, Cruden Foundation, The Stevenston Charitable Trust, Geraldine Kirkpatrick Charitable Trust, The Misses Barrie Charitable Trust, PF Charitable Trust, our Creative Learning Partner Baillie Gifford, and those who wish to remain anonymous.

HELP US EMBRACE THE FUTURE

The return of live music-making has been so uplifting for audiences and our musicians alike, and we have been buoyed by feedback from those who have attended our concerts or who have watched the SCO through digital performances.

Philanthropic support makes a huge difference in helping the SCO to achieve as much as it does – both on and off the concert platform. It is particularly helpful if individuals choose to donate a regular amount either monthly or annually, as this gives us the ability to plan ahead with confidence. Every donation regardless of size is greatly appreciated.

Please help secure the future of the SCO and enable us to continue enriching lives and communities through music.

Visit www.sco.org.uk/donate to donate or get in touch with Mary Clayton on 0131 478 8369 or by email mary.clayton@sco.org.uk.

HOW TO BOOK YOUR TICKETS

We have made temporary changes for the 2021/22 Season, and put our subscription procedure on hold, for the time being. For January – May, you will be able to select your seats online or over the phone.

Seating for the January to May portion of our 2021/22 season will revert to full capacity from January 2022 with no bubble seating in operation. Face masks remain mandatory for the time being and we advise that all attenders take a Covid test prior to attending concerts.

Tickets will be available via venue box offices. Pricing and Terms and Conditions vary from venue to venue, so please visit the relevant venue information / pricing pages (listed below) on the SCO website for full information.

Aberdeen

Aberdeen Concert Series (with RSNO) Multibuy tickets (4 concerts) and single tickets are on sale via Aberdeen Performing Arts box office from Wednesday 1 December, 10am.

Tel: 01224 641122

Online: www.aberdeenperformingarts.com

Opening times: 10am-6pm Tuesday-Saturday (phone)

Venue info & pricing: www.sco.org.uk/Aberdeen

Edinburgh

Multibuy tickets (3 or more concerts) and single tickets for both The Queen's Hall and Usher Hall concerts are on sale via The Queen's Hall box office (online/phone) from Wednesday 24 November, 10am.

Tel: 0131 668 2019

Online: www.thequeenshall.net

Opening times: 10am-2pm Monday-Friday (phone and counter)

Venue info & pricing: www.sco.org.uk/Edinburgh

Glasgow

Multibuy tickets (3 or more concerts) and single tickets for all City Halls concerts are on general sale via Glasgow Life (online/phone) from Wednesday 24 November, 10am.

Tel: 0141 353 8000

Online: www.glasgowconcerthalls.com

Opening times: 10am-5pm Monday-Saturday (phone)

Venue info & pricing: www.sco.org.uk/Glasgow

Inverness

Tickets are on sale via the Eden Court website from Wednesday 24 November, 10am.

Tel: 01463 234 234

Online: www.eden-court.co.uk

Opening times: 10-6pm Monday-Sunday (phone)

Venue info & pricing: www.sco.org.uk/inverness

Perth

Perth Concert Series (with BBCSSO, Horsecross and RSNO) Multibuy tickets (3 or more concerts) and single tickets are on sale from Wednesday 1 December, 10am.

Tel: 01738 621031

Online: www.horsecross.co.uk

Opening times: 10am-4pm Monday-Friday (phone and counter)

Venue info & pricing: www.sco.org.uk/perth

St Andrews

Tickets are on sale via the Byre Theatre website from Wednesday 24 November, 10am.

Tel: 01334 475000

Online: www.byretheatre.com

Opening times: 10am-4.30pm Monday-Saturday (phone and counter)

Venue info & pricing: www.sco.org.uk/standrews

TICKETS AND OFFERS

Tickets prices vary from venue to venue, and concert to concert. Please visit relevant city pages on the SCO website for detailed information on pricing and booking fees, or visit our partner venues' websites.

Multibuy ticket offers – Edinburgh and Glasgow

- Book 3, 4 or 5 concerts 10% off (senior citizens 12% off)
- Book 6, 7 or 8 concerts 15% off (senior citizens 17% off)
- Book 9, 10 or 11 concerts 20% off (senior citizens 22% off)
- Book 12 or 13 concerts 25% off (senior citizens 27% off)

Multibuy ticket offers – Aberdeen

- Book ALL 4 concerts in the Aberdeen Concert Series for 20% off

Multibuy ticket offers – Perth

- Book 3 or more concerts in the Perth Concert Series for 10% off

Senior Citizens

£2 off single full price (excludes New Year Gala Concert and Stan and Mabel – Family Festival)

People with a Disability

50% off full price tickets and, where one is required, 50% off for their companion. A limited number of free tickets are available for fulltime carers. Please enquire at the box office. Wheelchair accommodation is available in all venues and guide dogs are welcome in all venues. Please visit our website for more information or discuss your requirements with venue box office staff.

26 and Under, Unemployed People and Students

£6 per tickets for all concerts (26 and Under discount excludes Stan and Mabel – Family Festival)

18 and Under

Anyone aged 18 or under can attend SCO Jan-May 2022 concerts for free, subject to availability. Free under 18 tickets are not available for Stan and Mabel LIVE when tickets are £10 for children. Under 16s must be accompanied by an adult. Kindly supported by the Inches Carr Trust.

Group Discounts

Groups of 6 or more booking together save 20% off full price tickets (excludes Stan and Mabel – Family Festival).

Please note: Tickets and discounts are subject to availability. We regret that tickets are non-refundable. Every effort is made to ensure that all information is correct at the time of announcement, however the SCO reserves the right to change dates, artists or programmes if necessary.

Special Events

New Year Gala Concert £13 - £38.50 + booking fee

Stan and Mabel – Family Festival £17.50 (inc. £1 booking fee) standard £10 (inc. 50p booking fee) tickets to under 18's

New York Counterpoint £16.50 + booking fee

Schubert's Trout £16.50 + booking fee

Anoushka Shankar £24.20 - £29.15 (includes booking fee)

KEEP IN TOUCH WITH US

SCO E-News

Want to be first to hear about SCO concert news and tickets on sale? Well, the best way to keep in the know is by signing up to our email list. We will send you our monthly SCO E-News and occasional emails when we have special news!

www.sco.org.uk/email

Get Social

We'd love to hear from you! You'll find us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube – so if you've enjoyed a particular concert, or one of our videos, click the like button or leave a comment. #ItsPlaytime #SCO22

Facebook @scottishchamberorchestra

Twitter @SCOMusic

Instagram @scottishchamberorchestra

Youtube Scottish Chamber Orchestra

Braille and Large Print Brochures

If you would like to receive a braille or large print copy of this brochure please call 0131 557 6800 or email info@sco.org.uk.

Scottish Chamber Orchestra HRH The Prince Charles, Duke of
Rothesay Patron

Donald MacDonald CBE Life President

Colin Buchan Chairman

Gavin Reid Chief Executive

Maxim Emelyanychev Principal Conductor

Joseph Swensen Conductor Emeritus

Gregory Batsleer Chorus Director

Anna Clyne Associate Composer