

# Concerts at the University

## Spring-Summer 2024

Tuesday 19 March 2024

1.10pm

Reid Concert Hall

Students from the Reid School of Music



THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH  
*Edinburgh College of Art*

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Eoin Cumming · accordion solo

### **Ellie Goes West / Howley and Scahill's / Frank Marchand's / Acana Mlada Nevesto / Gankino Horo**

This medley of tunes navigates the rich tapestry of Celtic and Balkan musical traditions. It begins with the beautiful but haunting slow air 'Ellie Goes West', composed by the renowned Irish flute and whistle player Brian Finnegan. This medley will transition into two jigs, beginning with 'Howley and Scahill's' by the concertina player Mohsen Amini of the bands Talisk and Imar, and then going into 'Frank Marchand's' by Hayley Keenan. The melody finishes with two Balkan pieces in irregular time signatures; firstly 'Acana Mlada Nevesto, a traditional Macedonian tune, and then finishing with 'Gankino Horo', a traditional Bulgarian tune.

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Steph Humphreys · clarsach solo

### **Bookworm**

Savourna Stevenson (b.1961)

Savourna Stevenson is a well-known Clarsach player and composer living in Scotland at the moment. Her compositions often push the boundaries of what the Clarsach can do and display the instrument in a way that is contrary to expectation! Bookworm was released last year on Stevenson's album 'Wine of Life', where she plays the piece alongside saxophonist Steve Kettley.

### **The Ballad of Grey Weather**

Savourna Stevenson

This is another of Savourna's works, this time released in 2006 on her album 'Persian Knight, Celtic Dawn'. The piece is based on a poem of the same name by the famous Scottish poet John Buchan, published in 1899 in his book 'Grey Weather: Moorland Tales of My Own People'. The piece makes use of the Clarsach's ability to slide chromatically using the levers, and Savourna uses this effect to imitate the call of the birds on the moor.

### **La Fille aux Cheveux de Lin**

Claude Debussy (1862-1918) transcribed for lever harp by Steph Humphreys

'La Fille aux Cheveux de Lin', or The Girl with the Flaxen Hair, was originally composed by Debussy for solo piano in 1910, and first appeared in his first book of Preludes. The piece is named after a poem by French poet Leconte de Lisle, and was inspired by one of Debussy's own 'Chansons Ecossaïses', or 'Scottish Songs'. Familiar to many, 'La Fille aux Cheveux de Lin' is performed today on Clarsach, giving it a new sound world and bringing it back to its Scottish influences.

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The Gál Trio:

Elinor Haf Roderick & Emma Cairns · violins Serenna Maclellan · flute

### **Huyton Suite (1940) Movements 1 and 2**

Hans Gál (1890-1987)

### **The Sweetness of Mary**

Joan MacDonald Boes (d.1998)

### **Dr Flora MacAuley of Carradale**

Allan MacDonald

### **Kilmartin Glen Campsite**

Rona Wilkie

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Hailing from the small village of Laide, nestled in the Northwest Highlands, **Eoin Cumming** is a multi-talented musician proficient in accordion, guitar, and Gaelic singing. He is in his third year of studying music at the University of Edinburgh, having previously attended The National Centre of Excellence in Traditional Music between 2020 and 2021. Eoin has won accordion competitions at a national level, and various Highland music festivals. Notably, he secured finalist positions twice in the esteemed National Mòd Traditional Singing competition, in both 2021 and 2023. He has been a part of the Feis Rois Ceilidh Trail, a renowned platform nurturing emerging young traditional musicians, in 2022 and 2023, and will be again in the summer of 2024. Eoin performed as part of a collaboration between Fèis Rois and AVANC at Celtic Connections in 2022 and in large folk ensemble group, Strands, at Celtic Connections the following year. Continuing to explore new musical horizons, Eoin is currently engaged in a duo project alongside the accomplished Edinburgh-based pianist, Matthew Duncan.

**Steph Humphreys** is an Edinburgh born musician who started playing the Clarsach when she was six years old. She attended the City of Edinburgh Music School and is now studying music at the University of Edinburgh, where she studies Clarsach with Savourna Stevenson. Steph has performed at a variety of events and concerts across Edinburgh, including appearing at the Edinburgh International Harp Festival, featuring in their 'New Generations' concerts in 2020 and 2022. She also recently won the University of Edinburgh Tovey Memorial Award for the undergraduate music student showing the most promise in performance. Steph enjoys playing a variety of styles on her Clarsach, from the very traditional to the more modern, and is also particularly interested in pushing genre boundaries and the different and unusual ways the Clarsach can be utilised in music of all genres.



**The Gál Trio** is a group of talented musicians studying at the University of Edinburgh. Comprised of Emma Cairns on violin, Elinor Roderick on violin, and Serenna MacLellan on flute, they initially formed to perform the Hans Gál Trio - Huyton Suite during the Unesco Week of Sound. They have a passion for playing different genres of music, ranging from classical to folk.

**Elinor Haf Roderick** is a multi-disciplinary violinist from Wales. She is a final-year music student at the University of Edinburgh, where she studies violin with Ruth Crouch. She is passionate about live performances and is a member of several ensembles, including Edinburgh University's String Orchestra, Folk Society, and Klezmer band. Elinor is a sought-after musician and has played at several independent events, such as in the UNESCO Week of Sound with The Gál Trio, the Edinburgh Studio Opera's productions of *Die Fledermaus* and *Hansel and Gretel*. She has also performed with the Edinburgh City Orchestra, Canongait Orchestra, and the Nevis Ensemble as part of the welcoming performance of *Little Amal*. This giant puppet travelled 8,000km in support of refugees at COP26. Elinor also works as a community musician, leading community outreach programmes with the EU String Orchestra (where she is President) and a year-long Music in the Community placement at the Reid School of Music.

**Emma Cairns** is a violinist in her final year of music studies at the University of Edinburgh. Her main musical interests include ensemble playing and community music. She has played in bands for multiple five-start productions of musicals during the Fringe, most recently playing first violin in a production of *Sondheim's Sunday in the Park with George*. Emma has also been involved in orchestras performing in the Hidden Doors Festival and the Melrose Music Festival. Born in Prague but brought up in Edinburgh, she has a particularly keen interest in both classical and folk music from the Czech Republic. Emma volunteers in after-school clubs running community music classes with children aged 5-8, and hope to continue this after graduation.

**Serenna MacLellan** is a flautist and third year music student at the University of Edinburgh, where she studies flute, alongside teaching music part-time. She is involved in solo and orchestral performance, as well as community music projects and is passionate about the role of music in society and encouraging people to grow and develop in their own creative journeys. She achieved the Tovey Memorial Prize and The Sir Thomas Beecham Scholarship for Instrumentalists in 2022/23, for her high level of solo performance and won the Woodwind Recital Class at the Edinburgh Music Competition Festival (2023). As a sought-after flautist, Serenna currently plays as part of many orchestras and ensembles, including being principal flautist for the Edinburgh City Orchestra.

Forthcoming concert: Tuesday 26 March 2024. 1.10pm. Reid Concert Hall.  
Chris Baxter (piano). Works by Alistair Nicolson, Beethoven and Graham Fitkin.  
Admission Free.

For details of further concerts please check <https://www.ed.ac.uk/events>