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# CONCERTS AT THE UNIVERSITY

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Spring - Summer 2016

Friday 26 February 2016

1.10pm

Playfair Library Hall

Julia Lungu · violin

Emma Lloyd · viola

Justyna Jablonska · cello

Programme of works by **WEBERN**,  
**SCHUBERT** and **SCHNITTKÉ**.



THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH  
*Edinburgh College of Art*

## String Trio Op.20

Anton Webern (1883 - 1945)

- (i) Sehr langsam
- (ii) Sehr getragen und ausdrucksvoll

Webern was an Austrian composer of the 12-tone Viennese school. His String Trio Op. 20, dating from 1927, inaugurates the third and final phase of his career, in which he applies the techniques of serialism to instrumental composition. The string trio is jagged and severe, yet strangely beautiful and lyrical.

The chamber works of Anton Webern, especially those written after his adoption of the 12-tone technique in the late 1920s, present the listener with an enigmatic combination of austere structural integrity and intense expressivity. In the Trio for Strings, which Webern began writing in 1926, completed in 1927, and premiered in 1928, the composer seems at first glance to be at his most rarefied. The piece is made of the most tenuous of musical materials. Its occasional fits of restless melodic energy are separated by veils of sustained notes and static harmonies that presage minimalist rumination. Webern's signature symmetries and palindromes unfold and spin in eccentric motivic orbits, while frequent changes in timbre and articulation add an additional plane of discourse to Webern's contrapuntal shapes.

J.J.

## String Trio in B Flat major D.471

Franz Peter Schubert (1797 - 1828)

- (i) Allegro

Schubert was an Austrian composer who died before his 32nd birthday, but was extremely prolific during his lifetime. The String Trio in B Flat Major D.471 is a fragment dated September 1816 in the autograph. Schubert finished the first movement and wrote 39 bars of a slow movement in E flat major. There is no trace of a third or fourth movement. Schubert appears to have put down his pen early in the slow movement and never taken it up again. Brian Newbould's completion of

D.471, finished in July 2000, was commissioned by the Leopold String Trio. It is nevertheless a much-loved piece of music in which we can fully hear the nineteen-year-old composer's deep admiration for the music of the Viennese masters whose legacy he inherited. The sole complete movement is an example of Classical sonata-allegro form, marked Allegro by the composer.

J.J.

## Trio

Alfred Schnittke (1934 - 1998)

- (i) Moderato
- (ii) Adagio

Schnittke's string trio was commissioned in celebration of Alban Berg's centenary and was arranged by the composer for a piano trio in 1992. The work is an excellent example of polystylism and of the Viennese influence (Schnittke was a Soviet composer of Jewish-Volga German descent who spent some of his formative years in Vienna).

The trio is written in a classical form with a strong tonal centre of G minor, but is using "common medians" (a shared third in a chord) as the main driving force behind the harmonic progressions. Schnittke found multiple uses for this technique in the trio, such as using it to re-harmonise a melody in a different key, as a sonority by stacking two chords on the top of each other and by replacing the common tonic-dominant relationship with the common median one. The second movement is essentially an extension or meditation on the first movement. The themes present earlier in the work transfigure and culminate in the last page with a return of the dissonant chorale, funeral-like march and final dance melody from the first movement.

J.L.

**Julia Lungu** is a freelance violinist based in Edinburgh. She studied at the Royal College of Music and the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, and has worked with various ensembles, among which are BBCSSO, Dunedin Consort, Scottish Opera Orchestra, Ludus Baroque Chamber Orchestra, Southbank Sinfonia and other chamber and orchestral groups in the UK. She teaches violin at the Portobello Music School and privately.

**Emma Lloyd** is a violinist, violist, performer and teacher based in Edinburgh. Her work ranges from period baroque performance to collaborations with composers on cutting-edge new music. She performs with pianist Karin Schistek, the Ison trio, and is one half of the violin/electronic duo KUBOV, with Jess Aslan. She is also an improviser, playing with Grey Area and Edimpro. She is currently working towards a PhD at the University of Edinburgh investigating indeterminacy in the performance of new music, having previously studied at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester. She is a teacher of violin, viola, and contemporary improvisation.

**Justyna Jablonska** holds an MMus in solo performance from the RNCM, where she studied with the principal cellist of the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra, Peter Dixon. In 2010 she completed a first class BMus(Hons) degree at Edinburgh Napier University, studying cello with the Edinburgh Quartet's Mark Bailey. In 2011 Justyna was awarded a prestigious scholarship from the Aldeberska Trust in Gothenburg, Sweden, which enabled her to study at the Swedish National Orchestra Academy. In summer 2015 and 2014 Justyna, after being awarded a prestigious place at the Lucerne Festival Academy, was performing with Sir Simon Rattle and working with members of Ensemble Intercontemporain. Most recently she studied with William Conway of the Hebrides Ensemble and is continuing her development with Eric-Maria Couturier from the Ensemble Intercontemporain in Paris.

#### FORTHCOMING CONCERT:

Tuesday 1 March

1.10pm

Methodist Church, Nicolson Square

Frances Cooper (soprano), John Kitchen (piano), Roanna Tait (violin)  
and Katie Johnston (cello).

A Miscellany of Scots Song

Arrangements of Burns songs by STUART MURRAY MITCHELL and other Scottish  
song arrangements by BEETHOVEN, HAYDN, LIDDELL and MacMILLAN.

Admission Free