
Programme

Felix Mendelssohn (1809 - 1847) **Hebrides Overture - arr. M Howells**

In 1829, following a trip to England, Mendelssohn and a friend travelled to the Inner Hebrides where they visited Fingal's Cave, a sea cave on the island of Staffa. Mendelssohn captures the unique characteristics of this cave in the Hebrides Overture.

Malcolm Arnold (1921 - 2006) **Four Scottish Dances -** **arr. Hugh Levey**

1. Pesante; 2. Vivace
3. Allegretto; 4. Con brio

While Arnold did not title the four pieces individually, his music publisher did provide notes. The first dance, Novello observes, is "in the style of a strathspey"; the second, a "lively reel". The song-like and graceful third dance evokes a "calm summer's day in the Hebrides"; the last is "a lively fling".

Trad: My love is like a red, red, rose - **arr. M Howells**

In the final years of his short life, Robert Burns worked extensively on traditional Scottish songs, ensuring the preservation of over 300 songs, including 'Auld Lang Syne'. 'My Love is Like a Red, Red Rose' was first published in 1794 when Italian musician Pietro Urbani, having talked to Burns, included it in his anthology 'A Selection of Scots Songs'.

Peter Maxwell Davies (1934 - 2016) **Farewell to Stromness arr. M Howells**

Farewell to Stromness was written as a protest against a proposed uranium mine on the remote Orkney Islands where the composer lived. The title refers to the town of Stromness which would have been just a couple of miles from the centre of the mine. The piece is among his most immediately accessible and most enchantingly simple melodies.

Philip Wood (b1972) **Ramblings on a Yorkshire Theme**

Written by local composer, Philip Wood, the piece begins with a brief fanfare based on the 'Yorkshire' theme; the theme is then heard on solo bassoon because the piece was a birthday gift and dedicated to Kate Parry, bassoonist with the Papcastle Wind Quintet. The theme goes through many transformations – a jolly march; a sultry tango; an ostinato palendromico; a waltz (stylized and grotesque); a moderato reflection; a bittersweet romance; a corale al contrario; a finale where the main theme bursts through on the bassoon to end the piece.

Interval

Jean Françaix (1912 - 1997) **Sextet for Wind Instruments**

1. Risoluto; 2. Andante; 3. Scherzo
4. Andante; 5. Risoluto

Coming from a thoroughly musical family, Françaix was accepted at the early age of 10 by the Paris Conservatoire where he studied composition with Nadia Boulanger. The sextet

for Wind Instruments was commissioned by the Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival and given its first performance on 3rd July, 1992 in Neumünster.

Leos Janáček (1854 - 1928) Mládí

1. Allegro; 2. Andante sostenuto
3. Vivace; 4. Allegro animato

The wind sextet "Youth" was premiered on October 21, 1924. Unfortunately, the performance wasn't very successful. The oboist finally managed to repair a defect of his instrument, but the clarinetist, because of a broken key spring, only pretended to be playing. The work was performed again in Prague on November 25, 1924, this time with members of the Czech Philharmonic, and the performance was received with great success. It is now recognised as one of the classics of the wind repertoire.

(Notes by Angela Turner)

Sirocco Winds

Sirocco Winds are a dynamic wind ensemble comprising Masters graduates of the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. Based in Glasgow, its members come from all over the UK and Spain. They were formed in 2012 and Sirocco Winds are represented by Classical Musicians Scotland. They won the Governors' Recital Prize for Chamber Music at the RCS. They played live on Classic FM, BBC Radio 3 and BBC Radio Scotland. They entertained on the National Trust for Scotland's cruises in 2017/18, and performed in prestigious music festivals including the St Magnus International Festival, the Cumnock Tryst and Aberdeen International Youth Festival. They work as both a wind quintet and a wind trio

(flute, clarinet and bassoon). As a wind trio, they have been chosen as semi-finalists for the Royal Overseas League Chamber Competition and were accepted on to Live Music Now Scotland whose work includes carrying out educational workshops such as specialist sessions at Donaldson's School for hard of hearing children and the Royal Blind School, Edinburgh. Individually, members of the group have worked with orchestras and ensembles such as the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, Scottish Opera, Opera North, the BBC Philharmonic, Scottish Chamber Orchestra and the Scottish National Jazz Orchestra.

Sirocco Winds lead us through a first half full of Scottish-inspired music followed by a detour to Yorkshire. And then in the second half, we are joined by bass clarinet to play some gems of the repertoire for wind sextet

NEXT CMS CONCERT

Tuesday 11th October at 7.30pm - URC
Kosta Popović (Cello) & Luke Lally Maguire (Piano)

OTHER CONCERTS

Carlisle Music Society - Thursday 24th September - The Fraternity, Carlisle Cathedral.
Dida Condria (piano)

Keswick Music Society: Sunday 5th October at 7:30pm - St John's Church. London Handel Players

Penrith Music Society: Monday September 15th - Penrith Methodist Church.
Leon McCawley (piano)



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Cockermouth Music Society

Number2

Tuesday, 9th September 2025
7:30 pm
United Reformed Church

Sirocco Winds

Matthew Howells	Flute
Irena Klimach	Oboe
Calum Robertson	Clarinet
Victoria López	Bassoon
Peter McNeill	Horn
Robert Digney	Bass Clarinet

Admission £20.00

Free to members, students with SU cards and people 18 years old and under.

Kindly silence or switch off devices before the concert.

No photography or recording allowed.