
Programme

Sonata No. 62 in E flat, Hob XV1/52

Joseph Haydn (1732-1809)

1. Allegro
2. Adagio
3. Presto

The theme of tonight's recital is 'last works for the piano'. In Haydn's case it's his most magnificent sonata, one of three written during his second stay in England (1794/5) for his friend the pianist Therese Jansen. The first movement surpasses in force and brilliance anything Haydn had written before. After an adagio that makes wonderful use of both pauses and decoration, the finale is a marvel of energy and wit.

Six Bagatelles Opus 126

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)

Beethoven's farewell to the piano was this cycle of short pieces. Completed in 1823, they were written alongside work on the Ninth Symphony and the Missa Solemnis.

A 'bagatelle' for Beethoven, however, did not signify triviality and these six express a range of the composer's volatile moods. For all its brevity No. 3, for example, breathes as profound a calm as many a sonata slow movement, while No. 4 erupts in fury interrupted by something like a rustic dance. No. 6 starts and finishes with identical outbursts of manic energy, between them an 'amabile' improvisation.

Gesänge der Frühe Opus 133 No 4

Robert Schumann (1810-1856)

All of Schumann's greatest pieces for piano were written between the ages of 20 and 30. But amongst the songs, orchestral and chamber music which preoccupied him from 1840 he sometimes revisited worlds that could only be evoked through the piano. The five 'morning songs' date from late 1853, by which time

Schumann was experiencing serious mental disturbance.

Mazurka in G minor Opus 67 No 2

Fryderyk Chopin (1810-49)

Chopin's first composition (aged eight) was a polonaise and his last was this brief mazurka. Simple and poignant, it dates from 1849 when Chopin was terminally ill. An unusual feature is an eight-bar line of single notes, make of that what we may.

En rêve (1885)

Franz Liszt (1811-1886)

This nocturne, as Liszt subtitled it, was written when he was 74. Like the Chopin, it's barely two minutes long, and at one point similarly distils into a line of single notes before flowering into a long accompanied trill through which it vanishes.

Rhapsody in E flat Opus 119 No 4

Johannes Brahms (1833-97)

In his early sixties Brahms wrote four sequences of short piano pieces, many of them reflectively autumnal. For this last he recovers something like the heroic vigour of spring, but in the closing bars he seems irresistibly pulled from the major to the minor mode.

Interval

Sonata in B flat D 960

Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828)

1. Molto moderato
2. Andante sostenuto
3. Scherzo – allegro con delicatezza
4. Allegro ma non troppo

Schubert's final year was a miracle of music and this sonata (the last of three, written in the autumn of 1828) is one of the greatest miracles of all. The spacious first movement opens out on vista upon vista, a sense of mystery never far away. The slow movement seems to suspend time before singing out some tremendous assurance. The scherzo has an almost Mendelssohnian lightness, while the great journeying finale banishes any reflection that the creator of it had only two months left to live. Schumann wrote of Schubert's 'heavenly length', and nothing more deserves the phrase than this incomparable work.

{Notes by David Lindley}

Martin Roscoe

With an extraordinary career spanning over five decades, Martin Roscoe is unarguably one of the UK's best loved pianists. Renowned for his versatility at the keyboard, Martin is equally at home in concerto, recital and chamber performances. His enduring popularity and the respect in which he is universally held are built on a deeply thoughtful musicianship and his easy rapport with audiences and fellow musicians alike. Martin is Artistic Director of Ribble Valley International Piano Week and the Manchester Chamber Concerts Society, and has recently stepped down as Co-Artistic Director of the Beverley Chamber Music Festival. Martin is one of two patrons of Cockermouth Music Society

With a repertoire of over 100 concertos performed or recorded, Martin continues to work regularly with many of the UK's leading orchestras, having especially close links with the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra, BBC National Orchestra of Wales, BBC Scottish Symphony

Orchestra, Hallé Orchestra, Manchester Camerata, Northern Chamber Orchestra and the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, where he has given over ninety performances.

Having made over 600 broadcasts, including seven BBC Prom appearances, Martin is one of the most regularly played pianists on BBC Radio 3.

NEXT CMS CONCERTS

United Reformed Church, 82 Main Street
Tuesday 28th April 2026 at 7.00pm:
Young Persons' Concert
Tuesday 12th May 2026 at 7:30pm:
Members' Concert

OTHER CONCERTS

Carlisle Music Society:

Thursday, 26th March at 7:30pm:
The Fraternity, Carlisle Cathedral
Kammerphilharmonie Europa

Keswick Music Society:

Sunday 22nd March at 7:30pm:
St John's Church.
Tim Kliphuis Trio (Violin, Guitar, Double Bass)

Penrith Music Club:

Monday 16th March at 7:30pm:
Penrith Methodist Church.
London Handel Players



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Cockermouth Music Society

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Tuesday, 10 March 2026
7:30 pm
United Reformed Church

Martin Roscoe (Piano)

Admission £20.00

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

We are here, together, to listen deeply. Please take this opportunity to make sure your phone is on silent and put away.

No photography or recording allowed.