

Scottish Ensemble with Edgar Meyer, Mischa Macpherson & Donald Grant, and Ailie Robertson

In this special performance, trailblazing string ensemble, Scottish Ensemble, collaborates with American double-bassist and composer Edgar Meyer. Hailed as “...the most remarkable virtuoso in the relatively un-chronicled history of his instrument” (The New Yorker), Meyer will perform the European premiere of his Concertino for Strings and Double Bass – a tour-de-force of both breakneck speed and sonorous lyricism.

Friends featuring in this varied evening where classical meets Celtic include Donald Grant and Mischa Macpherson for a set of Gaelic songs with Innes White, James Mackintosh and Jarlath Henderson, and harpist / composer Ailie Robertson, whose work Archetypes brings to life characters that can be found in stories from across history and the globe.

J S Bach Gamba Sonata BWV 1027

James MacMillan *Memento*

Edgar Meyer Movement 1 from Emerson Quintet

Edgar Meyer Concertino for Bass and 14 Strings – European premiere

interval

Ailie Robertson *Archetypes*

Ailie Robertson *Haar*

Traditional arr Donald Grant *Baba mo leanabh*

Traditional arr Donald Grant *Bha Mo Leannan Ann*

Mischa Macpherson / Traditional arr Donald Grant *Ailean Dubh à Lòchaidh*

Traditional arr Donald Grant *An robh thu sa beinn*

Calum Stewart arr Donald Grant *Am Monadh Ruadh*

Traditional arr Donald Grant *Dòmhnall nan Dòmhnall*

Performers

For Scottish Ensemble:

Artistic Director	Jonathan Morton
Violin 1	Cheryl Crockett, Kana Kawashima, Greta Mutlu
Violin 2	Tristan Gurney, Joanne Green, Laura Ghio
Viola	Jane Atkins, Andrew Berridge, Carol Ella
Violoncello	Alison Lawrance, Naomi Pavri, Sonia Cromarty
Double Bass	James Manson

with special guests:

Double Bass	Edgar Meyer
Harp	Ailie Robertson
Fiddle / Piano	Donald Grant
Voice	Mischa Macpherson
Guitar	Innes White
Percussion	James Mackintosh
Uilleann pipes / whistle	Jarlath Henderson

Scottish Ensemble

scottishensemble.co.uk

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For half a century, Scottish Ensemble has been shrinking the gap between listeners and musicians. From our roots in early music, we have become a versatile performing group that makes ageless art for the here and now. We resist the constraints of a home venue, a set season or a creative routine and are shaped by the changing times in which we live. After decades playing together, we have redefined what a group of twelve musicians can do. We now design each performance bespoke: a meeting of site, sound and vision that generates an atmosphere of its own. We promise to take you elsewhere for an hour, an evening or just a few minutes.

With the support of Creative Scotland, we are proud to be a beacon of Scottish creativity for the whole world, physical and digital. We promise to make you experience music differently. With us, your ears are in good hands.



ALBA | CHRUTHACHAIL

Edgar Meyer

Hailed by *The New Yorker* as "...the most remarkable virtuoso in the relatively un-chronicled history of his instrument," Mr. Meyer's uniqueness in the field was recognized when he became the only bassist to be awarded the Avery Fisher Prize in addition to a MacArthur Award. He was honored with his fifth Grammy® Award in 2015 for his "Bass & Mandolin" recording with Chris Thile, and is nominated for 3 more this year. Edgar Meyer's current projects include the new recording entitled "As We Speak" with Béla Fleck, Zakir Hussain, and Rakesh Chaurasia, released in May 2023. The first leg of the "As We Speak" tour in April and May preceded the album release, and they will go out again in November of 2023 for the second leg. Meyer recently completed a duo recording with Christian McBride, as well as a recording of his 3 concertos with The Knights, conducted by Eric Jacobsen and produced by Chris Thile.

In June of 2023, to complete the concerto project, he recorded his Concertino for Bass and 14 Strings in the UK with the Scottish Ensemble led by Jonathan Morton, who commissioned and toured the piece with Meyer in spring of 2022. Additionally, Meyer is part of a five-composer group, each composing a movement for a US premiere with Joshua Bell and the New York Philharmonic in September of 2023. In fall of 2024, his newly formed trio with violinist Tessa Lark and cellist Joshua Roman will tour the US, performing string trios he composed in the 1980's as well as a newly commissioned work. Mr. Meyer is the subject of an ongoing documentary filmed and produced by Tessa Lark, Andrew Adair, and Michael Thurber.

Ailie Robertson

Ailie Robertson is a multi-award winning composer, and harpist from Scotland. She has been commissioned by some of the world's most prestigious cultural institutions including the BBC Proms, the London Philharmonic Orchestra, Scottish Ensemble, Red Note, Bang on a Can, The RSNO, Cappella Nova, Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival, The Scottish Chamber Choir and the Riot Ensemble. She was composer-in-residence with Sound Festival 2019-2022 and composer-in residence with Glyndebourne Opera from 2020-2022. She was awarded the 'Achievement in New Music' prize at the inaugural Scottish Awards for New Music and has also won prizes for 'Best Chamber work' and 'Innovation in New Music'.

She holds a PhD in composition from Trinity Laban Conservatoire. Her work ranges from composing concert music to film scores, working with traditional choirs through to collaborating with other artists on abstract, site-specific installations. As well as more conventional concert hall music, she has a passion of writing for amateurs, for young people, for the theatre and, also, devising unusual and site-specific works.

Donald Grant

Donald Grant is a violinist, fiddle player, collaborator and composer based in Glasgow. At an early age he was immersed in the folk tradition of the Highlands of Scotland, learning Gaelic songs from his father who was a singer and teacher. He has since followed a path that defies one musical genre, travelling the globe collaborating with many artists and organisations.

He founded the Elias String Quartet in 1998. As one of Europe's leading Chamber ensembles they have toured extensively, regularly playing in concert halls including Carnegie Hall (New York), Recital Centre (Melbourne), Wigmore Hall (London), Southbank Centre (London), Musikverein (Vienna), Concertgebouw (Amsterdam) Konzerthaus (Berlin) and Suntory Hall (Tokyo). They also

have an extensive and acclaimed recording catalogue including the Complete Beethoven Quartets for the Wigmore Hall's "Live" label.

A passionate advocate for the music of his native home, Donald's recent solo performances include the Wigmore Hall, Southwell Festival, Cucagnan Festival, RNCM Festival and the Weesp Festival. He writes and arranges music for himself and for others and can be heard on his solo album "The Way Home". In 2024 he looks forward to new collaborations and commissions from The Aurora Orchestra, Manchester Collective and Manchester Camerata.

Mischa Macpherson

Winner of the 'BBC Radio 2 Young Folk Award' and 'MG Alba Scots Trad Music Award' for Gaelic Singer of the Year, Mischa Macpherson is 'one of the most exciting and fully rounded talents to emerge from the Scottish scene in many a year' (Mark Radcliffe, BBC Radio 2). Having grown up immersed in the distinctive culture of the Outer Hebrides, she unearthed her love for music and Gaelic at a very early age, and it is these influences that the singer now presents with clarity and tenderness to audiences around the world. Her career has seen her tour across Europe, Australia, Canada, India and the UK, and collaborate with renowned musicians including: Carloz Nunez (Galicia); the GRIT Orchestra (Scotland); and Sourendro Mullick & Soumyojit Das (India).

Innes White

Growing up in the Highlands of Scotland, Innes White has been immersed in traditional music from a young age. As well as being a native Gaelic speaker, his early experiences of music through his strong family heritage and the Fèis movement provided the bedrock for his professional career to flourish. White is one of the most sought-after multi-instrumentalists in the UK, having recorded on over 30 albums and toured extensively throughout the UK and abroad playing guitar and mandolin, with occasional appearances on piano, bouzouki and vocals.

James Mackintosh

Hailing from the Scottish Highlands, James's first forays into percussion were distinctly improvised. Fearing for the integrity of her pots and pans, his mother eventually bought him a drumkit for his 15th birthday.

Some 30 years later James is widely recognised as one of Scotland's most innovative drummers, and he is responsible for the deliriously danceable grooves underpinning Shooglenifty's sound. The Shooglenifty drummer is much in demand elsewhere: with Capercaillie, Grit Orchestra, The Transatlantic Sessions and Michael McGoldrick to name a few.

Jarlath Henderson

The youngest ever winner of the BBC Young Folk Award, back in 2003, Tyrone-born multi-instrumentalist and singer Jarlath Henderson has since won further acclaim in his firebrand partnership with Scottish piper and whistle player Ross Ainslie. Renowned primarily for his extraordinary prowess on uilleann pipes and whistles, while fast emerging as an equally gifted vocalist, Henderson has performed and recorded in such illustrious company as The Transatlantic Sessions, Jack Bruce, Lau, Capercaillie, Paddy Keenan, Salsa Celtica, Phil Cunningham, and Michael McGoldrick.