



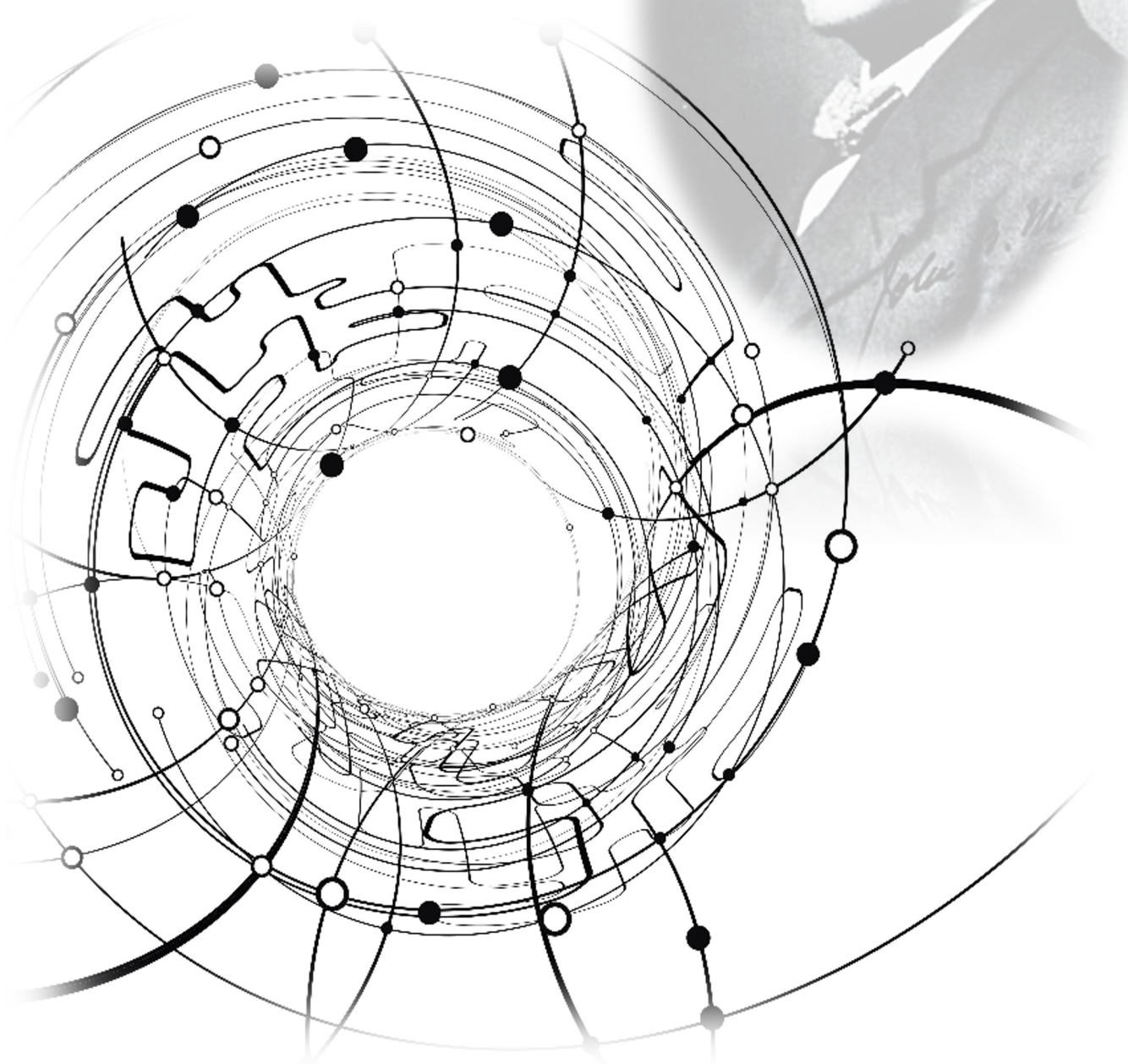
University
of Glasgow

School of Culture
& Creative Arts

School of Culture and Creative Arts presents

**McEwen Memorial Concert
of Scottish Chamber Music**

28 February 2019



McEwen Memorial Concert of Scottish Chamber Music

Thursday 28 February 2019
1.10pm University Concert Hall

**Rachel Spencer (violin), Felix Tanner (viola) and Duncan
Strachan (cello)**

String Trio II

Edward McGuire (born 1948)

1. Dramatico
2. Con brio
3. Ritmico

**Commissioned by the Court of the University of Glasgow under the terms of the McEwen Bequest. Additional funding towards today's performance has been provided by the Ferguson Bequest.*

Eddie will be around and happy to answer any questions about the work after the performance.

Divertimento for violin, viola & cello in E flat major, K. 563 (1788)

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

1. Allegro
2. Adagio
3. Menuetto & Trio. Allegro
4. Andante
6. Allegro

Given the circumstances in the life of Mozart during the latter part of the 1780s, it is remarkable that he produced a work of such depth and exuberance. Troubled by debt, faced with the premature death of his young Theresia, and in failing health, Mozart produced not only this and numerous other chamber works, but also his final three symphonies, which are among his best loved. In the *Divertimento*, we hear Mozart at the height of his expressive powers.

This is Mozart's only completed string trio, which was a slightly problematic ensemble in a time when the quartet was dominant, although Haydn and Boccherini had written for the grouping. The virtuosic violin part, and the lack of a second violin placing extra demands on the ranges and roles of the viola and cello, have contributed to the relative lack of prominence in performers and the listening public. And yet, as we listen, one is struck by the fullness of texture, the completeness of musical thought. There is simply no room for another violin in this music.

The colossal six-movement work can last upwards of three quarters of an hour. It is performed today in five-movement form, leaving out the fifth movement, a menuetto and trio (allegretto), in the interest of timing.

D. Hammond

**Today's concert may be recorded -
Please remember to switch off all mobile phones.**

Eddie McGuire

Glasgow born Edward (Eddie) McGuire studied with James Iloff (RAM 1966-70) and with Ingvar Lidholm in Stockholm. He received a British Composers Award (2003), Creative Scotland Award (2004) and has been featured composer at several international festivals. The BBCSSO Proms performance of *Calgacus* was selected for BBC Music Magazine's CD 'The Very Best of the BBC Orchestras' (1997). Commissions and broadcasts have included those from St Magnus Festival, Edinburgh International Festival, Lorient Festival, Glasgow Festival Strings, Scottish Chamber Orchestra, Ulster Orchestra, RSNO Chorus and BBC National Orchestra of Wales. Notable successes are his 3 act ballet *Peter Pan* (Scottish Ballet; Hong Kong Ballet), opera *The Loving of Etain* (with librettist Marianne Carey) and concertos for guitar, trombone, violin, viola and bass. He writes for and plays with The Whistlebinkies and Chinese group Harmony Ensemble.

Recent works include *Let the Games Begin* for Glasgow Chamber Choir, *Three Donne Lyrics* for Paisley Abbey Choir, *Dialogue* for Philip Sawyer and Andrea Kuypers and *Three Songs* for Louise MacDonald. In 2015 his *Symphonies of Galaxies* was premiered at University of St Andrews by its New Music Ensemble - a collaboration with its Department of Astronomy and Physics. 2016 saw the premiere of *Botanic Gardens* (4 players at 2 pianos) – in this concert hall at the University of Glasgow – which was repeated at the Purcell Room, London, in May 2018 by 'Piano40'. It has been one of several premieres and commissions of his music heard in this hall, starting in 1973 when James Durrant premiered his 'Martyr' for violas.

Both CD collections of his music (on Delphian Records) have achieved 'Editor's Choice' in Gramophone Magazine - *Eddie McGuire: Music for Flute, Guitar and Piano* (2006) and *Entangled Fortunes* (2015, performed by Red Note ensemble).

Rachel Spencer, Violin

Rachel lives in Glasgow and enjoys a varied freelance career as a soloist and chamber musician. Originally from Holmfirth in West Yorkshire, she studied at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland with Peter Lissauer and James Clark, and subsequently at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama with Alexander Janiczek. In addition to winning the major prizes and

scholarships during her studies, in 2011 Rachel was selected as a Young Artist in Residence at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.

As a chamber musician Rachel performs regularly with groups including the Kapten Trio, Spencer-Strachan Duo, and the Assembly Project and she has appeared with artists including Benjamin Grosvenor, David Watkin and Susan Tomes.

Passionate about music education, Rachel has been an artist for outreach scheme Live Music Now since 2011, a position which has seen her lead music projects across the UK, Denmark and the Middle East.

Felix Tanner, Viola

Felix is originally from Helensburgh and his earliest musical experience was playing the violin with local fiddle bands. He went on to attend the RSAMD Junior School and St. Mary's Music School in Edinburgh, studying the viola with James Durrant. He continued his studies at the Royal Academy of Music in London with John White, Martin Outram and Katherine McGillivray. While at the Royal Academy he was awarded the Theodore Holland Viola Prize and the John Ireland, Vivian Dunn and Herbert Craxton Prizes for Chamber Music.

A keen chamber musician, Felix was a member of the Badke Quartet before joining the Brodowski Quartet, with whom he won the Royal Overseas League Competition and Val Tidone International Chamber Music Competition in Italy. They have held residences at the Anvil Concert Hall in Basingstoke, Warwick School and Bristol University where they worked closely with the composer John Pickard.

Felix has enjoyed a varied freelance career alongside sub principal viola for the Scottish Chamber Orchestra since 2016, and being a member of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra since 2013. He has performed all over the world with various orchestras including the Aurora Orchestra, Britten Sinfonia, Philharmonia, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, Opera North and Orchestre Révolutionnaire et Romantique. He has also worked with artists such as Jools Holland, Kate Rusby, Massive Attack, Tim Minchin and is a member of Tango Siempre.

Duncan Strachan, Cello

Born in Dundee in 1987, Duncan grew up in Lochaber, in the west highlands of Scotland, where he began learning cello with Audrey Scott at the age of 4. Duncan then went to St Mary's Music School in Edinburgh, learning with Pat Hair. He subsequently read music at St Catherine's College, Oxford where he was a Leask Music Scholar and an Academic Scholar. He studied cello with Colin Carr, before continuing his studies at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland with Robert Irvine.

Duncan was a recipient of the WCOM Busenhardt-Morgan Evans Award, and a Waddell Prize from the Edinburgh Society of Musicians. He made his debut at St John's, Smith Square in London in 2012 and has since gone on to perform as a soloist across the UK, performing concertos by Haydn, Schumann, Elgar and numerous new commissions for cello and orchestra.

As a chamber musician Duncan has worked with a wide range of ensembles prominent figures including Fidelio Trio, Red Note, Florin Trio, Lana Trotovek, Ilya Gringolts, David Watkin and Benjamin Grosvenor. He has also worked with composers including Tom David Wilson, Simon Smith, Anna Meredith, Stuart MacRae, Rory Boyle, Michael Finnissy and many more to perform new works for cello

The McEwen Bequest

Sir John Blackwood McEwen (1868-1948) bequeathed the residue of his estate to the University of Glasgow to help promote performance of chamber music by composers of Scottish birth and descent. Other composers resident in Scotland for a substantial period have also benefited from the fund. In fulfilment of the terms of the bequest the University Court commissions annually a piece of chamber music for not more than five players and every three years a work for larger forces.

1955	String Quartet No 3	Ian Whyte
1956	<i>Directions for a Map</i>	Cedric Thorpe Davie
1956	*Sonata No 2 for viola and piano	Ronald G Duncan
1956	Octet for Strings	Iain Hamilton
1957	String Quartet No 2	Robert Crawford
1958	String Quartet No 1	Thea Musgrave
1959	Sonata for cello and piano	Iain Hamilton
1959	*String Quartet No 3	Thomas Wilson
1960	String Quartet	David Gwilt
1961	Sonata for violin and piano	Thomas Wilson
1962	Chamber Concerto No 1	Thea Musgrave
1962	*Theme and Variations for clarinet quintet	Sebastian Forbes
1963	Canzona for tenor, clarinet and string trio	Buxton Orr
1964	Piano Trio	Sebastian Forbes
1966	String Quartet No 3	David Dorwarad
1967	Piano Trio	Martin Dalby
1968	String Trio op 21	John Purser
1968	*String Trio	David Gow
1968	Sinfonia for seven instruments	Thomas Wilson
1969	String Quartet	Rita McAllister
1970	<i>Quaderno a Quattro</i>	John Maxwell Geddes
1971	<i>Journeys and Places</i>	Robin Orr
1971	Piano Quintet	Frank Spedding
1972	Fantasy String Quartet	Isobel Dunlop
1973	Clarinet Quintet	John McLeod
1974	<i>Histoire</i>	David Dorward
1975	<i>Liberation</i>	Edward McGuire
1976	<i>Three Poems of Li Ch'ing-Chao</i>	Wilma Paterson
1977	<i>Almost a Madrigal</i>	Martin Dalby
1978	<i>The Ancient Pattern</i>	Morris Pert
1979	<i>Channel Firing</i>	John Hearne

1980	Wind Octet	Edward McGuire
1981	String Quartet	William Sweeney
1982	<i>Scotch Minstrelsy</i>	Judith Weir
1983	<i>Diversions</i>	John Maxwell Geddes
1984	Sonata for cello and piano	Peter Nelson
1985	<i>Strange Fruit</i>	John Lunn
1986	String Quartet	John McLeod
1987	Ricercare	Robert Crawford
1988	<i>Visions of a November Spring</i>	James MacMillan
1989	<i>El Pueblo</i>	William Sweeney
1990	<i>Dead Roses</i>	Gordon McPherson
2009	<i>Intimacy</i> for string quartet	John De Simone
2010	Piano Trio (<i>Music for the pauses in a conversation between John Cage and Morton Feldman</i>)	David Fennessy
2011	<i>Luna</i>	Helen Grime
2012	<i>Tenebrae</i>	Martin Suckling
2013	<i>Tristia II</i>	Hafliði Hallgrímsson
2014	<i>Ixion</i>	Stuart MacRae
2015	String Quartet No. 3 (<i>Slanting Rain</i>)	Alasdair Nicolson
2016	<i>Ricercari</i>	Lyell Cresswell
2018	<i>Night Dances</i>	Sally Beamish

The McEwen Memorial Concert of Scottish Chamber Music is curated by Dr. Drew Hammond (Jane Stanley is on maternity leave).

A website dedicated to the McEwen concerts, including information about its history, associated composers, commissioned pieces, and sound clips, may be accessed here: www.glasgow.ac.uk/mcewen

With thanks to Anne Cumberland, Music in the University, Neil McDermott, Calum Scott and Steve Reid.

Programme cover designed by Katy Cooper