



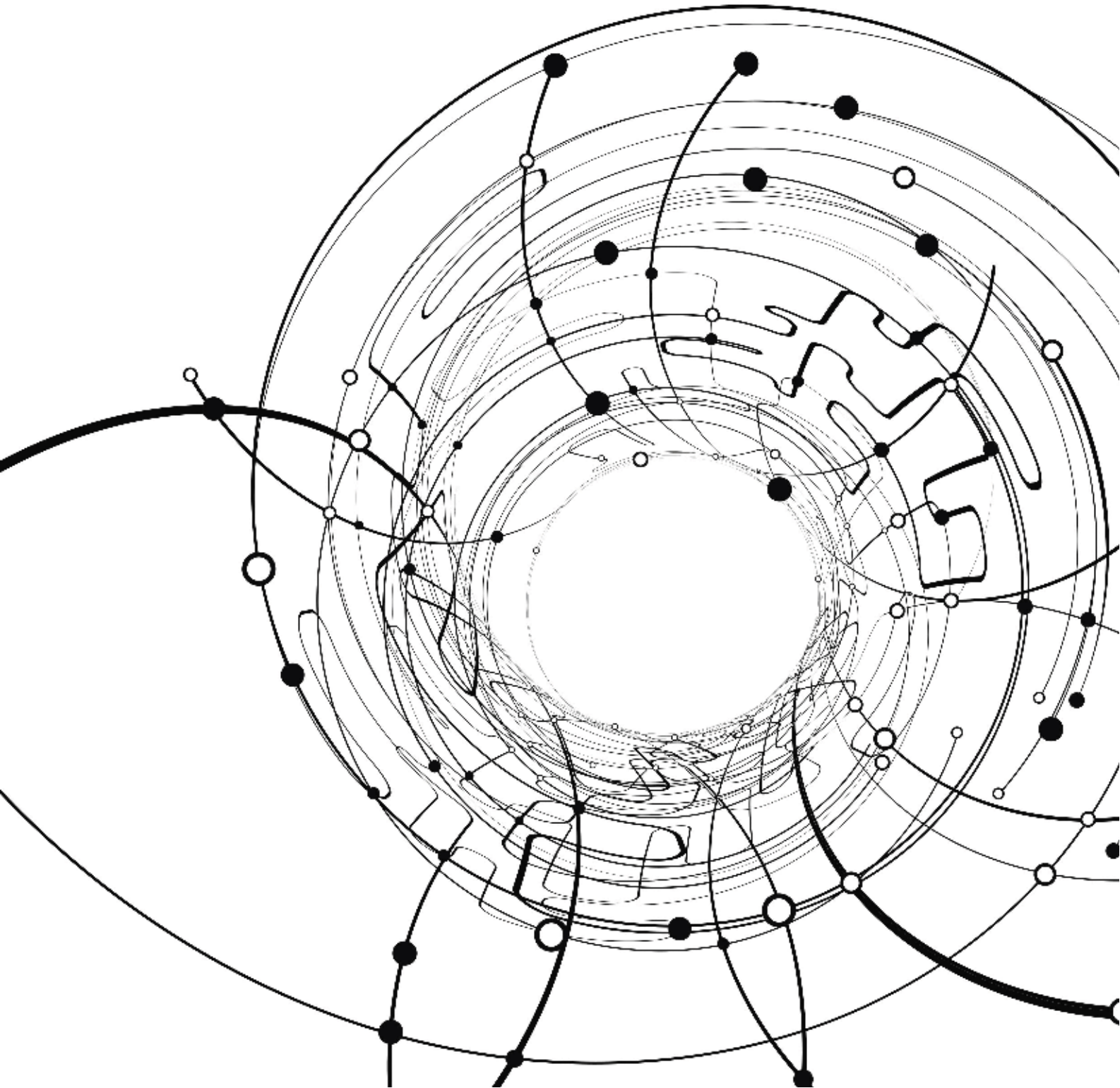
University
of Glasgow

School of Culture
& Creative Arts

School of Culture and Creative Arts presents

**McEwen Memorial Concert
of Scottish Chamber Music**

Thursday, 8 March 2018



Programme cover designed by Katy Cooper

McEwen Memorial Concert of Scottish Chamber Music

Thursday 8 March 2018
1.10pm University Concert Hall

Huw Watkins, piano

Robert Schumann
Huw Watkins
Sally Beamish
Claude Debussy

Kinderszenen
Sarabande
*Night Pieces (World Premiere)**
Preludes (selection from Book I)

**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.*

Today's concert is being recorded. Please remember to switch off all mobile phones.

Robert Schumann (1810-1856)
***Kinderszenen* op. 15 (1838)**

Kinderszenen (Scenes from Childhood) is a collection of thirteen short pieces. Despite the title being themed around childhood, the collection was created for performance by advanced pianists. Each piece has an evocative title:

1. Von fremden Ländern und Menschen - Of Strange Lands and Peoples
2. Kuriose Geschichte - Curious Story
3. Hasche-Mann - Blind Man's Bluff
4. Bittendes Kind - Pleading Child
5. Glückes genug - Contented Enough
6. Wichtige Begebenheit - Important Event
7. Träumerei - Reverie
8. Am Kamin - At the Fireside
9. Ritter vom Steckenpferd - Knight of the Hobby Horse
10. Fast zu Ernst - Almost Too Serious
11. Fürchtenmachen - Frightening
12. Kind im Einschlummern - Child Falling Asleep
13. Der Dichter spricht - The Poet Speaks

Huw Watkins (b.1976)
***Sarabande* (2014)**

I wrote my Sarabande for the pianist Piotr Anderszewski in 2014. It's a five minute long piece which explores the characteristic triple time rhythm of this baroque dance form.

(Huw Watkins)

Sally Beamish (b.1956)
***Night Dances* (2017)**

There are many reasons why a night might be sleepless. The fall of darkness can be the prelude to a night of dancing. A calm beginning to the night can be disrupted by an active mind that refuses to rest. Or the tender exploration of a lover's body may lead to feverish passion.

The piece is based on a narrative by Peter Thomson, and inspired by the playing of Keith Jarrett. A gentle, repetitive opening is followed by a series of dances which increase in intensity before reaching an abrupt climax, after which echoes of the dances gradually wind down to a recapitulation of the opening music.

(Sally Beamish)

Claude Debussy (1862-1918)
***Préludes Book I* (selection) (1909-1910)**

Debussy composed two volumes of *Préludes*, each containing twelve pieces. Today's performance features a selection of these from Book I. Each piece is associated with an evocative title (see below). These are placed in parentheses at the foot of each score rather than the top, as though to invite the pianist to foreground their own symbolic interpretation of the music they play.

La fille aux cheveux de lin – The Girl with the Flaxen Hair
Les collines d'Anacapri – The Hills of Anacapri
Des pas sur la neige – Footsteps in the Snow
Minstrels - Minstrels

Biographies

Born in London in 1956, **Sally Beamish** initially trained as a viola player at the Royal Northern College of Music before moving to Scotland in 1990 to develop her career as a composer. Her music embraces many influences, particularly jazz and Scottish traditional music, in a catalogue boasting over 200 compositions including solo, duo, chamber, orchestra, vocal, choral, ballet and opera works. Her music has been broadcast and performed extensively around the world with notable soloists including Håkan Hardenberger, John Harle, Branford Marsalis, Tabea Zimmermann, James Crabb, Dame Evelyn Glennie and Colin Currie amongst others.

Celtic themes are often present in Beamish's music. One such piece, *Reed Stanzas*, for the Elias Quartet, received its premiere at the 2011 BBC Proms and won a Royal Philharmonic Society Award. *Flodden*, written for the Scottish Chamber Orchestra to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the eponymous battle, was premiered in September 2013 and shortlisted for both a Royal Philharmonic Society and a BASCA British Composer Award. *Spinal Chords*, one of the PRS 20x12 Olympic commissions, with text by The Times Journalist Melanie Reid, toured the UK in 2014 with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment and narrator Juliet Stevenson. The composer has also appeared several times as narrator.

2016 marked Beamish's 60th birthday and included two works as part of Shakespeare 400: a full-length ballet of *The Tempest* for Birmingham Royal Ballet and Houston Ballet, with choreographer David Bintley, and *A Shakespeare Masque* with Poet Laureate, Dame Carol Ann Duffy, for Ex Cathedra. She completed three piano concertos with the first, *Hill Stanzas* for Ronald Brautigam, receiving its world premiere with the Amsterdam Sinfonietta in March 2016. The second, *Cauldron of the Speckled Seas* premiered in December 2016 with Martin Roscoe and the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra under Thomas Dausgaard. The third, *City Stanzas*, premiered in January 2017 with soloist Jonathan Biss and the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra conducted by Mischa Santora in Minnesota.

Merula Perpetua, for violist Lise Berthaud and pianist David Saudubray, was premiered in a BBC Chamber Prom in August 2016. The work was written in memory of Beamish's friend and mentor, Sir Peter Maxwell Davies. *West Wind*, a song cycle with a text by P.B. Shelley, was premiered by tenor James Gilchrist and pianist Anna Tilbrook at the Wigmore Hall in June 2016.

Beamish is currently resident composer at Ryedale and Trondheim Festivals for 2017. She co-directs the annual St. Magnus Festival Composers' Course in Orkney with composer Alasdair Nicolson, and was recently made a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh.

Her music is published by Edition Peters and Norsk Musikforlag.

Huw Watkins was born in Wales in 1976. He studied piano with Peter Lawson at Chetham's School of Music and composition with Robin Holloway, Alexander Goehr and Julian Anderson at Cambridge and the Royal College of Music. In 2001 he was awarded the Constant and Kit Lambert Junior Fellowship at the Royal College of Music, he now teaches composition at the Royal Academy of Music.

As a pianist, Huw Watkins is in great demand with orchestras and festivals including the London Sinfonietta, Britten Sinfonia, the BBC orchestras and Aldeburgh and Cheltenham Festivals. He has performed globally at concert halls including at the Barbican, the Wigmore Hall, the Library of Congress in Washington and the Smithsonian Institute. Strongly committed to the performance of new music, Huw has given premieres of works by Alexander Goehr, Tansy Davies, Michael Zev Gordon and Mark-Anthony Turnage. He recently presented a programme of Hans Werner Henze's piano works at the BBC's Total Immersion day at the Barbican. UK recent appearances include Newbury and Peasmarsh Festivals, Wigmore Hall, Eaton Square, Kettle's Yard Cambridge, Saffron Walden, Glasgow, Bath. Further afield, Ferrara, Columbus (USA) with ProMusica Chamber Orchestra, Domaine Forget and Toronto Summer Music Festival.

A favourite partner for chamber collaborations, Huw Watkins performs regularly with his brother Paul Watkins, as well as Alina Ibragimova, James Gilchrist, Daniel Hope, Nicholas Daniel, Sebastian Manz, Mark Padmore, Carolyn Sampson, and Alexandra Wood. Recently Huw has featured as both Composer in Residence and pianist at festivals including Presteigne and Lars Vogt's 'Spannungen' Festival in Heimbach, Germany, as well as with the Orchestra of the Swan (2012–14).

Huw Watkins is one of Britain's foremost composers and his music has been performed throughout Europe and North America. Huw's works have been performed and commissioned by the Nash Ensemble, Birmingham Contemporary Music Group, Belcea Quartet, Elias Quartet, BBC National Orchestra of Wales, BBC Symphony Orchestra, London Symphony Orchestra and Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra. Highlights include his acclaimed Violin Concerto premiered at the BBC Proms by Alina Ibragimova and the BBC Symphony Orchestra conducted by Edward Gardner, Piano Concerto premiered by BBC NOW, London Concerto premiered to mark the London Symphony Orchestra's centenary, Double Concerto premiered at the BBC Proms with BBC NOW conducted by Jac van Steen and *In My Craft or Sullen Art* for tenor and string quartet premiered at the Wigmore Hall by Mark Padmore and the Petersen Quartet.

For three years from the Autumn of 2015 Huw is Composer-in-Association with BBC NOW. Huw Watkins is regularly featured on BBC Radio 3, both as a performer and as a composer. His recordings include a disc of Mendelssohn's cello and piano works with his brother Paul Watkins (Chandos), British sonatas for cello and piano with Paul Watkins (Nimbus), Alexander Goehr's piano cycle 'Symmetry Disorders Reach' (Wergo), and Thomas Adès' song cycle 'The Lover in Winter' with the countertenor Robin Blaze (EMI Classics). Most recently, NMC Records have released a disc dedicated to Huw Watkins' work entitled 'In my craft of sullen art' (NMC). The disc showcases Huw's 'outstanding pianism' (Andrew Clements, *The Guardian*) and reveals him as 'one of the most rounded composer-musicians in the UK' (Andrew Clark, *Financial Times*).

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>	Haflíði 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. Jane Stanley (jane.stanley@glasgow.ac.uk)

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

The commissioned composer for 2019 is Edward McGuire.

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