MUSIC IN St Andrews

SEPTEMBER – DECEMBER 2026

University of St Andrews

Laidlaw **Music Centre**

www.st-andrews.ac.uk/music

WELCOME

Michael Downes © Cameron Malcolm

Orchestral p.4
Instrumental and Chamber p.8
Vocal and Choral p.15
Opera and Music Theatre p.21
Organ p.22
Talks, Workshops and Other Events p.25
Cultural Partnerships p.29
Lunchtime Concerts p.30

I am delighted to welcome you to the start of a new academic year of music-making: our fourth full season here in the Laidlaw Music Centre, with the wonderful performance space of the McPherson Recital Room, created for us by Flanagan Lawrence Architects and acoustician Nicholas Edwards and already being acclaimed by musicians across the world.

Our programme of celebrity concerts for the year begins on Friday 18 September with Edinburgh-based pianist and world-renowned chamber musician Susan Tomes presenting a recital of 'Music from the Night' including music by Field, Poulenc, Janáček, Grieg and both Robert and Clara Schumann. Susan's choice of programme draws on the research that she undertook for her recent book on the nocturne, which she will be discussing before the concert. It's sure to be a fascinating evening and I hope to see you there.

This is an excellent semester of concerts for anyone who loves music for the cello. On Saturday 12 September Philip Higham, much-admired principal cellist of the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, the University's Orchestra in Residence, will be playing Saint-Saëns' First Cello Concerto in the SCO's first concert of the season in Holy Trinity Church. The SCO returns on Wednesday 4 November with another of the nineteenth century's finest works for cello and orchestra: Tchaikovsky's *Rococo Variations*, played by Amalie Stalheim. And on Saturday 14 November the young Scottish cellist Hugh Mackay, who is already becoming well-known across Europe, brings two of the twentieth century's greatest masterpieces for solo cello to the McPherson Recital Room as well as leading works for multiple cellos with University musicians.

On a personal level, I am particularly looking forward to working with the Music Centre's new Honorary Professor of Singing, James Gilchrist, and recent graduate horn-player Ross Donaldson, to perform Britten's wonderful *Serenade* in Holy Trinity (Sunday 11 October); to giving the first performance of a fascinating new work by Paul Max Edlin featuring Bede Williams as trumpet soloist (McPherson Recital Room, Wednesday 11 November); and to bringing Cherubini's magnificent Requiem in C minor, so admired in the nineteenth century that it was performed at Beethoven's funeral, to the Caird Hall with St Andrews Chorus (Sunday 15 November).

Finally, may I encourage anyone who enjoys attending events at the Laidlaw Music Centre to consider becoming a member of the Laidlaw Concert Circle? This scheme offers discounts and priority booking on most of our concerts throughout the year, with highlights for next semester including the very welcome return to St Andrews of baritone Roderick Williams on Friday 5 February 2027, with a programme of Schubert and English song.

Michael Downes OBE
Director of Music

CONCERT DIARY

DATE	TIME	CONCERT	VENUE	PAGE
Saturday 12 September	19:00	Scottish Chamber Orchestra: *Autumn Classics*	Holy Trinity Church	5
Friday 18 September	13:10	Music Society lunchtime concert by Buzztet	McPherson Recital Room	30
Friday 18 September	19:30 *(pre-concert talk at 18:45)*	Celebrity piano recital by Susan Tomes: *Music of the Night*	McPherson Recital Room	8
Saturday 19 September	19:00	Magnetic North: *We Will Hear the Angels*	McPherson Recital Room	26
Tuesday 22 September	13:10	Organ concert by Sean Maxwell (Austria)	McPherson Recital Room	23
Wednesday 23 September	13:10	Lunchtime concert by Saša Gerželj (piano)	McPherson Recital Room	9
Friday 25 September	09:00-16:45	Global Wagnerism Conference	McPherson Recital Room	27
Friday 25 September	13:10	Music Society lunchtime concert: Renaissance choral music	St Leonard's Chapel	30
Friday 25 September	17:30	Global Wagnerism Conference concert by James Atkinson (baritone) and George Ireland (piano)	McPherson Recital Room	15
Tuesday 29 September	13:10	Organ concert by Calum Landon (Campbell Watterson Organ Scholar)	St Salvator's Chapel	23
Wednesday 30 September	13:10	Lunchtime concert by Inês Alves Ferreira Soares (violin) and Baichuan Hui (piano)	McPherson Recital Room	9
Friday 2 October	13:10	Music Society lunchtime concert by Mia Fish (singer-songwriter)	McPherson Recital Room	30
Tuesday 6 October	13:10	Organ concert by Calum Robertson (Old St Paul's Episcopal Church, Edinburgh)	McPherson Recital Room	23
Wednesday 7 October	13:10	Lunchtime concert by April Koyejo-Audiger (soprano) and Ailsa Aitkenhead (piano)	McPherson Recital Room	16
Friday 9 October	13:10	Music Society lunchtime concert by Since Juniper	McPherson Recital Room	30
Saturday 10 October	10:00-16:00	Music Centre Guitar Day	Laidlaw Music Centre	27
Sunday 11 October	11:00	Bach Cantata Service sung by St Salvator's Chapel Choir	St Salvator's Chapel	16
Sunday 11 October	11:00	Alexander Technique workshop	Stuart and Geraldine Mitchell Reading Room	28
Sunday 11 October	16:00	St Andrews Chamber Orchestra with James Gilchrist (tenor; Honorary Professor of Singing)	Holy Trinity Church	5
Tuesday 13 October	13:10	Organ concert by Claire Innes-Hopkins (Director of Chapel Music)	St Salvator's Chapel	23

DATE	TIME	CONCERT	VENUE	PAGE
Tuesday 13 October	15:30	Music Society and Music Centre Concerto Competition	McPherson Recital Room	10
Wednesday 14 October	13:10	Lunchtime concert by the Atelier Ensemble	McPherson Recital Room	10
Friday 16 October	13:10	Music Society lunchtime concert by The Accidentals	McPherson Recital Room	30
Tuesday 27 October	13:10	Organ concert by Chris Bragg (Head of Programming)	McPherson Recital Room	23
Tuesday 27 October	19:30	University G&S Society presents *The Pirates of Penzance*	Byre Theatre	21
Wednesday 28 October	13:10	Lunchtime concert by Sholpan Sharbakova Miller (piano) and Masha McMinn (soprano)	McPherson Recital Room	17
Wednesday 28 October	14:30	Music Talk by Sholpan Sharbakova Miller (Royal Conservatoire of Scotland): *Fairy Tales of our Lives: the music of Nikolai Medtner*	Gifford Room	25
Wednesday 28 October	19:30	University G&S Society presents *The Pirates of Penzance*	Byre Theatre	21
Thursday 29 October	19:00	University G&S Society presents *The Pirates of Penzance*	Byre Theatre	21
Friday 30 October	13:10	Music Society lunchtime concert by Folk and Trad Society	McPherson Recital Room	30
Friday 30 October	19:30	University Madrigal Group *Modern Voices: Reimagining the Past*	St Salvator's Chapel	17
Tuesday 3 November	13:10	Organ concert by Tom Wilkinson (University Organist)	St Salvator's Chapel	24
Wednesday 4 November	13:10	Lunchtime concert by Ian Watt (guitar)	McPherson Recital Room	11
Wednesday 4 November	19:00	Scottish Chamber Orchestra: *Tchaikovsky's Serenade*	Holy Trinity Church	6
Friday 6 November	13:10	Music Society lunchtime concert by Bassoonion	McPherson Recital Room	30
Tuesday 10 November	13:10	Organ concert by Andrew Macintosh (Deputy University Organist)	St Salvator's Chapel	24
Wednesday 11 November	13:10	Lunchtime concert by Bede Williams (trumpet) and and St Andrews New Music Ensemble	McPherson Recital Room	6
Friday 13 November	13:10	Music Society lunchtime concert by JazzWorks	McPherson Recital Room	30
Saturday 14 November	19:30	Celebrity cello recital by Hugh Mackay: *In Honour of Benjamin Britten*	McPherson Recital Room	11
Sunday 15 November	19:30	MUST: A Chronicle in Concert	McPherson Recital Room	21
Sunday 15 November	19:30	St Andrews Chorus presents Puccini's *Messa di Gloria*	Caird Hall, Dundee	18
Tuesday 17 November	13:10	Special Guest Organ Concert by Nathan Laube (Eastman School of Music, Rochester, USA)	McPherson Recital Room	24

DATE	TIME	CONCERT	VENUE	PAGE
Wednesday 18 November	13:10	Lunchtime concert by Melvin Chan (piano; Montfort Bursary Holder) and Ancuta Nite (piano)	McPherson Recital Room	12
Wednesday 18 November	17:30	BBC Radio 3 Choral Evensong sung by St Salvator's Chapel Choir	St Salvator's Chapel	18
Friday 20 November	13:10	Music Society lunchtime concert by student cello ensemble	McPherson Recital Room	30
Friday 20 November	19:30	University of St Andrews Music Society presents *A Night with the Bands*	Holy Trinity Church	12
Saturday 21 November	19:30	St Andrews Renaissance Singers	St Salvator's Chapel	19
Monday 23 November	19:30	University of St Andrews Music Society presents St Andrews Strings and St Andrews Chamber Choir	McPherson Recital Room	19
Tuesday 24 November	13:10	Organ concert by Henry Fairs (Honorary Professor of Organ)	St Salvator's Chapel	24
Wednesday 25 November	13:10	Lunchtime concert by the Peter Johnstone trio and Music Centre jazz scholars	McPherson Recital Room	13
Wednesday 25 November	19:00	St Andrews and Fife Community Orchestra	Holy Trinity Church	7
Friday 27 November	13:10	Music Society lunchtime concert by Kory Buckingham (harp) and Evan Weatherwax (cello)	McPherson Recital Room	30
Saturday 28 November	15:30	University of St Andrews Music Society presents St Andrews Symphony Orchestra	Holy Trinity Church	7
Sunday 29 November	10:00-16:30	StAMP Piano Day 2026	Laidlaw Music Centre	28
Monday 30 November	19:30	University of St Andrews Music Society presents Ukelear Fusion	McPherson Recital Room	13
Tuesday 1 December	19:30	University of St Andrews Music Society Christmas Concert	McPherson Recital Room	13
Friday 4 December	19:30	University Madrigal Group: *O Magnum Mysterium – Music for Christmas*	Holy Trinity Church	20
Saturday 5 December	15:00	Scottish National Jazz Orchestra: *Acoustic Duke*	McPherson Recital Room	14
Sunday 6 December	15:30	Children's Classic Concerts: *Christmas Wishes*	McPherson Recital Room	14
Saturday 12 December	19:00	StAFCO Community Christmas Concert	Holy Trinity Church	20
Sunday 13 December	11:00	University Service: Benjamin Britten's *A Ceremony of Carols*	St Salvator's Chapel	20
Sunday 13 December	16:00	Olivier Messiaen: *La Nativité du Seigneur*	St Salvator's Chapel	24
Wednesday 16 December	19:00	Scottish Chamber Orchestra: *A Baroque Christmas*	Holy Trinity Church	7

The University of St Andrews reserves the right to replace advertised performers or to amend the programme advertised in this brochure where it is found to be unavoidable.

Amalie Stahleim © Kristina Raitciz

SCOTTISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA: AUTUMN CLASSICS

SCOTTISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA ORCHESTRA IN RESIDENCE

Saturday 12 September
19:00 Holy Trinity Church

Stephanie Gonley (director)
Philip Higham (cello)

Ravel: *Le Tombeau de Couperin*
Saint-Saëns: Cello Concerto no. 1
Haydn: Symphony no. 101, 'Clock'

Philip Higham

To launch the 2026/27 SCO St Andrews Season, Stephanie Gonley directs the Orchestra in a vibrant programme.

Ravel's *Le Tombeau de Couperin* opens the evening, its Baroque elegance infused with French colour. SCO Principal Cello Philip Higham stars in Saint-Saëns' First Cello Concerto, a brilliant showcase of lyricism and flair. Haydn's Symphony No. 101 'The Clock' closes proceedings – a witty, inventive work whose irrepressible energy is sure to delight.

Admission: £6-£26, FREE to Under 18s

Tickets available in advance from the Byre Theatre Box Office on 01334 475000, in person at the Byre, and at byretheatre.com/upcoming. Tickets may also be available on the door at the venue before the performance begins (subject to availability).

www.sco.org.uk

ST ANDREWS CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Sunday 11 October
16:00

Holy Trinity Church

James Gilchrist (tenor)
Ross Donaldson (French horn)
Bede Williams and Michael Downes (conductors)

James Gilchrist © Lightbox

Dvořák: Serenade for Wind Instruments in D minor, op. 44
Schubert: Symphony no. 8 in B minor, D 759, 'Unfinished'
Britten: Serenade for Tenor, Horn and Strings, op. 31

Honorary Professor of Singing James Gilchrist joins recent St Andrews alumnus Ross Donaldson in a performance of Benjamin Britten's haunting war-time evocations of night. Dvořák's magnificent Serenade harks back to the graceful wind music of the rococo whilst Franz Schubert's enigmatic 'Unfinished' Symphony broods with unresolved tension.

Admission: £16, £13 (Music Centre members), £6 (students)

www.jamesgilchrist.co.uk

SCOTTISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA: TCHAIKOVSKY'S SERENADE

Wednesday 4 November
19:00

Holy Trinity Church

Andrew Manze (conductor)
Amalie Stalheim (cello)

Larsson: *Lyric Fantasy*
Anders Hillborg: Cello Concerto
Tchaikovsky: *Rococo Variations*
Tchaikovsky: Serenade

Principal Guest Conductor Andrew Manze leads the SCO in an eloquent programme that spans centuries and styles, from Nordic refinement to Russian Romanticism.

We begin with Lars-Erik Larsson's *Lyric Fantasy*, a graceful and atmospheric work that complements Anders Hillborg's bold and imaginative Cello Concerto. The soloist is the brilliant Amalie Stalheim, whose virtuosity brings out the work's striking contrasts as well as moments of delicate intimacy and dazzling flair.

Stalheim then returns for Tchaikovsky's elegant *Rococo Variations*, a sparkling tribute to 18th-century style and to close, Andrew Manze conducts Tchaikovsky's beloved Serenade, a masterpiece of soaring melodies and lyrical depth.

Admission: £6-£26, FREE to Under 18s

Tickets available in advance from the Byre Theatre Box Office on 01334 475000, in person at the Byre, and at byretheatre.com/upcoming. Tickets may also be available on the door at the venue before the performance begins (subject to availability).

www.sco.org.uk

SCOTTISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA ORCHESTRA IN RESIDENCE

Bede Williams

LUNCHTIME CONCERT BY BEDE WILLIAMS (TRUMPET) AND THE ST ANDREWS NEW MUSIC ENSEMBLE

Wednesday 11 November
13:10

McPherson Recital Room

Michael Downes and **Bede Williams** (directors)

Recasting the Renaissance

A contemporary journey through Shakespearean imagination and Elizabethan soundworlds, with composers Sally Beamish, Rory Boyle and Paul Max Edlin re-shaping the magic, melodies and instruments of the past. Each work offers a fresh perspective on historical material – from Prospero's sorcery to the inventive dances of Farnaby and Byrd, and the ancient voice of the natural trumpet. The programme highlights how these influences animate today's music with clarity, colour and a renewed sense of character.

Admission: £5, FREE to Music Centre members

www.bedewilliams.com

ST ANDREWS AND FIFE COMMUNITY ORCHESTRA

Wednesday 25 November
19:00

Holy Trinity Church

Ben Shute (conductor)

St Andrews and Fife Community Orchestra (StAFCO) are joined by their new conductor Ben Shute in a festive programme including excerpts from Handel's *Music for the Royal Fireworks*, Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker Suite* and Howard Blake's *The Snowman*.

Admission: FREE with retiring collection in aid of Rotary Charities

UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS MUSIC SOCIETY PRESENTS ST ANDREWS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Saturday 28 November
15:30

Holy Trinity Church

Iain McLarty (conductor)

The Music Society's flagship orchestra presents an exciting programme of symphonic repertoire, including Jean Sibelius' heartbreaking and dramatic Symphony no. 2 and Claude Debussy's mystical *Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune*.

Admission: £12, £6 (students), £3 (MusSoc members)

Music Society Est. 1876 — St Andrews Symphony Orchestra

St Andrews Symphony Orchestra

StAFCO © Lightbox Creative

SCOTTISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA: A BAROQUE CHRISTMAS

Wednesday 16 December
19:00

Holy Trinity Church

SCOTTISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA ORCHESTRA IN RESIDENCE

Rachel Podger (violin/director)

Handel: Concerto a due Cori no. 2
Locatelli: Concerto Grosso in F minor, op. 1 no. 8 'Christmas Concerto'
Muffat: Sonata V from *Armonico Tributo* (Salzburg 1682)
Corelli: Concerto Grosso in G minor, op. 6 no. 8 'fatto per la notte di Natale'
Vivaldi: Violin Concerto in E 'Il riposo per il Santissimo Natale'
J.S. Bach: Orchestral Suite no. 4, BWV 1069

Celebrate the season in true Baroque splendour as Rachel Podger returns, this time leading an evening of festive music. From the grandeur of Handel to the intimate charm of Corelli and the brilliance of Bach, this glittering programme is brimming with warmth and festive spirit. Expect moments of jubilation, serenity and virtuosity – a perfect pre-Christmas treat.

Admission: £6-£26, FREE to Under 18s

Tickets available in advance from the Byre Theatre Box Office on 01334 475000, in person at the Byre, and at byretheatre.com/upcoming. Tickets may also be available on the door at the venue before the performance begins (subject to availability).

www.sco.org.uk

Susan Tomes

CELEBRITY PIANO RECITAL BY SUSAN TOMES

Friday 18 September
19:30

McPherson Recital Room

Music of the Night

Winner of several Gramophone awards, an RPO award with the Florestan Trio, and author of eight acclaimed books, Susan Tomes returns to St Andrews with a programme celebrating the Nocturne. A colourful array of nocturnal music by composers including John Field, Clara Schumann, Poulenc, Janáček and Grieg prefaces a complete performance of Robert Schumann's turbulent tribute to the writing of E.T.A. Hoffmann, *Kreisleriana*.

Pre-concert talk: Susan Tomes discusses her new book 'Nocturnes and the Fascination of Night Music' with Robert Philip at 18:45. Free to concert ticket holders.

Admission: £20, £16 (Music Centre members) £6 (students and children)

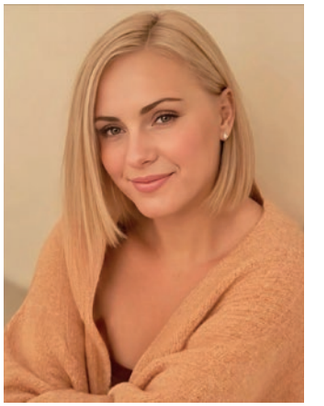
Tickets available in advance from the Byre Theatre Box Office on 01334 475000, in person at the Byre, and at byretheatre.com/upcoming. Tickets may also be available on the door at the venue before the performance begins (subject to availability).

www.susantomes.com

LUNCHTIME CONCERT BY SAŠA GERŽELJ (PIANO)

Wednesday 23 September
13:10

McPherson Recital Room


Saša Gerželj

Slovenian pianist Saša Gerželj studied in Austria and Canada and is now on the keyboard staff at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. Her lunchtime concert at the Laidlaw Music Centre features a complete performance of Schubert's Four Impromptus, op. 90 and Frédéric Chopin's Ballade, op. 52.

Admission: £5, FREE to Music Centre members

www.sasagerzeljdonaldson.com

LUNCHTIME CONCERT BY INÊS SOARES (VIOLIN) AND BAICHUAN HUI (PIANO)

Wednesday 30 September
13:10

McPherson Recital Room

United by a shared passion for contemporary music and close collaboration with living composers, Portuguese violinist Inês Soares and Chinese pianist Baichuan Hui formed their duo through a mutual artistic vision and distinctive approach to repertoire. Virtuosic, multiple award-winning graduates of the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, Soares and Hui will perform music by Sir James MacMillan, the irreverent dance pastiches of American Paul Schoenfield and the world premiere of a new piece by J. Simon van der Walt.

Admission: £5, FREE to Music Centre members

Inês Soares and Baichuan Hui

MUSIC SOCIETY AND MUSIC CENTRE CONCERTO COMPETITION

Tuesday 13 October
15:30

McPherson Recital Room

St Andrews Music Society and the Laidlaw Music Centre are thrilled to once again host the St Andrews Concerto Competition during which some of the University's most gifted student musicians compete for the opportunity to perform as a soloist with the St Andrews Symphony Orchestra and for future performance opportunities in the Music Centre.

Admission: Pay what you can (minimum £1, suggested £5/£3/£1)

Tickets available in advance from www.fixr.co/organiser/stamusicsociety/events

LUNCHTIME CONCERT BY THE ATELIER ENSEMBLE

Wednesday 14 October
13:10

McPherson Recital Room

Elizabeth Gange (violin)
Rebekah Woodier (cello)
Sinae Sung (piano)

The Atelier Ensemble performs a programme of stylistic contrasts: from the sultry rhythms of Piazzolla's *Verano Porteñ* – his dazzling reimagining of Vivaldi's seasonal world through the lens of Buenos Aires' nuevo tango – to Britten's youthful Introduction and Allegro, whose sparkling interplay pays tribute to the great English string tradition. The concert concludes with Paul Schoenfield's exuberant *Café Music*, inspired by the composer's experiences performing in American jazz clubs.

Admission:
£5, FREE to Music Centre members

Atelier Ensemble

LUNCHTIME CONCERT BY IAN WATT (GUITAR)

Wednesday 4 November
13:10

McPherson Recital Room

Recently appointed to the faculty of the Royal Academy of Music, the brilliant Scottish guitarist Ian Watt returns to St Andrews for a lunchtime concert including Sir Michael Tippett's *The Blue Guitar* and Emilio Pujol's *Trois Morceaux Espagnols*.

Admission: £5, FREE to Music Centre members

Ian Watt

"…exceptional range of timbre…"
BBC Music Magazine

"…dazzlingly virtuosic…"
The Herald

www.ianwattguitar.com

Hugh Mackay

CELEBRITY CELLO CONCERT BY HUGH MACKAY WITH MUSIC CENTRE SCHOLARSHIP CELLISTS

Saturday 14 November
19:30

McPherson Recital Room

Kodály: Sonata for solo cello, op. 8
Britten: Suite no. 1 for solo cello, op. 72
Arvo Pärt: *Fratres* (version for eight cellos)
Popper: *Polonaise de Concert* for eight cellos

With appearances at Wigmore Hall, the Hamburg Elbphilharmonie and the Palace of Versailles to his name, the young Scottish cellist Hugh Mackay makes his St Andrews debut in a solo recital marking the 50th anniversary of Benjamin Britten's passing. Britten's first suite for solo cello is juxtaposed with Zoltán Kodály's herculean, and rarely heard, Sonata for solo cello op. 8, before Mackay is joined by a coterie of the Music Centre's most talented student cellists in music by Arvo Pärt and the great 19th century Czech cellist David Popper.

Admission: £20, £16 (Music Centre members) £6 (students and children)

Tickets available in advance from the Byre Theatre Box Office on 01334 475000, in person at the Byre, and at byretheatre.com/upcoming. Tickets may also be available on the door at the venue before the performance begins (subject to availability).

www.hughmackaycellist.com

Melvin Chan

LUNCHTIME CONCERT BY MELVIN CHAN (PIANO; MONTFORT BURSARY HOLDER) AND ANCUTA NITE (PIANO)

Wednesday 18 November
13:10

McPherson Recital Room

A spectacular two-piano lunchtime concert with Music Centre piano co-ordinator Ancuta Nite accompanying Montfort Bursary-holder Melvin Chan in Johannes Brahms' Piano Concerto no. 1 in D minor, op. 15.

Please note that this concert will last around 60 minutes.

Admission £5, FREE to Music Centre members

UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS MUSIC SOCIETY PRESENTS A NIGHT WITH THE BANDS

Friday 20 November
19:30

Holy Trinity Church

The Music Society's Big Band and Wind Band are excited to present this semester's concert, 'A Night With The Bands', featuring a wide range of styles and genres from popular film music to classic swing. Wind Band is the Music Society's only unauditioned ensemble, led and conducted entirely by its talented members. This year, Wind Band invites the audience to join them on a musical journey, exploring energetic, expressive and atmospheric pieces all brought to life by the band's trademark enthusiasm. The University of St Andrews Big Band (AKA Big BUStA) presents a varied setlist, ranging from classic swing tunes to debut arrangements by band members! The core band, comprising around twenty of St Andrews' finest jazz musicians, performs a repertoire especially chosen to profile their talents.

Admission: £12, £6 (students), £3 (Music Society members)

Tickets available in advance from www.fixr.co/organiser/stamusicsociety/events

Big BUStA

LUNCHTIME CONCERT BY THE PETER JOHNSTONE TRIO AND THE MUSIC CENTRE JAZZ SCHOLARS

Wednesday 25 November
13:10

McPherson Recital Room

Peter Johnstone (piano)
Brodie Jarvie (double bass)
Stephen Henderson (drums)

Peter Johnstone Trio

Peter Johnstone is a Scottish jazz pianist, organist, composer and educator, and a distinctive voice on the UK jazz scene. As both bandleader and sideman, he has performed with leading international artists including Kurt Elling, Joe Locke and Will Vinson, as well as many prominent Scottish and UK musicians. In this lunchtime concert, he explores material from his doctoral project, 'The New Romantic' (examining Rachmaninoff through jazz composition and harmonic language), alongside his original music and the talents of the Music Centre's jazz scholars.

Admission: £5, FREE to Music Centre members

Ukelear Fusion

UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS MUSIC SOCIETY PRESENTS UKELEAR FUSION

Monday 30 November
19:30

McPherson Recital Room

Ukelear Fusion, St Andrews' beloved student ukulele band, is back with some fresh faces for our end-of-semester concert! Come enjoy some fun songs and wholesome vibes with the group.

Admission: £8, £4 (students), £2 (MusSoc members)

Tickets available in advance from www.fixr.co/organiser/stamusicsociety/events

UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS MUSIC SOCIETY CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Tuesday 1 December
19:30

McPherson Recital Room

The University of St Andrews Music Society presents their third annual Christmas concert. Join our incredible bands for an enchanting evening of carols, bells and winter wonders. This will be the jingliest concert yet!

Admission: Pay-what-you-can (min. £1, suggested £5/£3/£1)

SCOTTISH NATIONAL JAZZ ORCHESTRA PRESENTS ACOUSTIC DUKE

Saturday 5 December
15:00

McPherson Recital Room

Scottish National Jazz Orchestra
Directed by Calum Gourlay

One of the greatest composers in jazz, Duke Ellington continues to inspire the Scottish National Jazz Orchestra. With music spanning his fifty years as a bandleader, performed with vitality, swing and meticulous attention to detail, this concert showcases this titan's depth and diversity.

The SNJO looks forward to reinvigorating Ellington classics and rarities, following its internationally acclaimed album *In the Spirit of Duke*. Embracing the natural acoustics of the McPherson Recital Room, the orchestra honours Ellington's masterpieces with the warmth, balance and dynamic range that lie at the heart of the big band tradition.

Admission: £27, £23 (Music Centre members), £14 (unwaged, students, U30s), £6 (SNJO Youth Card Holder, 16-25), FREE (Under 16s)*

*Under 16s must be accompanied by an adult

Tickets available in advance from www.snjo.co.uk/concerts

CHILDREN'S CLASSIC CONCERTS: CHRISTMAS WISHES

Sunday 6 December
15:30

McPherson Recital Room

What are your Christmas Wishes? Whizzing through a winter wonderland on your sledge, building the world's best snowman with all your friends, or warming up with a hot chocolate by a crackling fire after a frosty walk?

Join us as we create a musical soundscape celebrating the wonders of the Christmas season. With music from *The Nutcracker*, seasonal singalongs, stories by the fire and, of course... snowball fights! This is sure to have the whole family wrapped up in festive cheer!

Featuring CCC's Brass Ensemble along with the award-winning vocalist and violinist, Seonaid Aitken, and of course our very own Christmas percussion-playing Elf, Owen.

Join us for activities before the concert to create nature-inspired festive decorations and bird feeders. It's a chance for you to bring the seasonal magic of the outdoors into your home.

Admission: £12.50, £9.50 (children)

Tickets available in advance from the Byre Theatre Box Office: www.byretheatre.com/upcoming

www.childrensclassicconcerts.co.uk

GLOBAL WAGNERISM CONFERENCE CONCERT BY JAMES ATKINSON (BARITONE AND GEORGE IRELAND (PIANO)

Friday 25 September
17:30

McPherson Recital Room

Following today's Global Wagnerism Conference, recent BBC Radio 3 New Generation Artist James Atkinson performs a programme including excerpts from *Tannhäuser* and *Parsifal* and songs by Mahler, Chabrier, Fauré and Vaughan Williams.

Admission: £12, £10 (Music Centre members), £6 (students)

"The rising young baritone, making his Wigmore recital debut, has the sort of vocal timbre that seems made to sing serious repertoire – weighty yet suave and noble, with a reserve of power that is compelling when unleashed yet wisely deployed only occasionally."

Richard Morrison, The Times

www.jamesatkinsonbaritone.com

LUNCHTIME CONCERT BY APRIL KOYEJO-AUDIGER (SOPRANO) AND AILSA AITKENHEAD (PIANO)

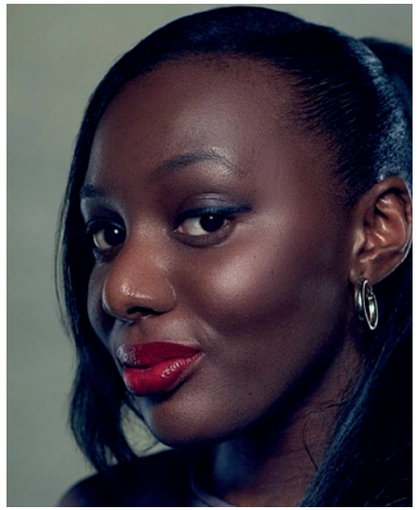
Wednesday 7 October
13:10

McPherson Recital Room

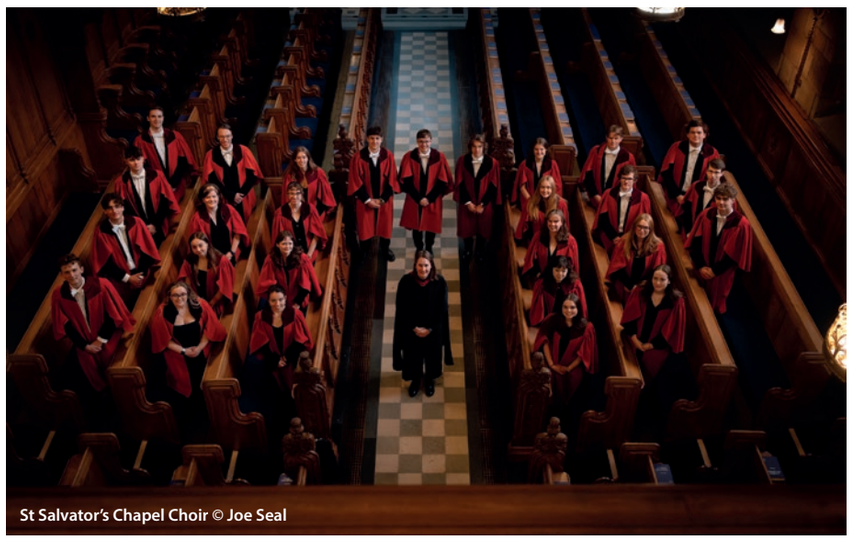
A regular performer at the Royal Opera House, prize-winning British-Nigerian soprano and opera-maker April Koyejo performs Aaron Copland's settings of poetry by Emily Dickinson, music by Florence Price and by accompanist Ailsa Aitkenhead.

Admission: £5, FREE to Music Centre members

www.aprilkoyejo.com



April Koyejo-Audiger



St Salvator's Chapel Choir © Joe Seal

BACH CANTATA SERVICE SUNG BY ST SALVATOR'S CHAPEL CHOIR

Sunday 11 October
11:00

St Salvator's Chapel

The Thairm Consort
Claire Innes-Hopkins (director)

St Salvator's Chapel Choir sing Bach's Cantata no. 47 *Wer sich selbst erhöhet* in a Bach cantata service led by the University Chaplain, the Rev. Dr Donald MacEwan.

LUNCHTIME CONCERT BY SHOLPAN SHARBAKOVA MILLER (PIANO) AND MASHA MCMINN (SOPRANO)

Wednesday 28 October
13:10

McPherson Recital Room

The Music of Nikolai Medtner (1880-1951)

The legacy of prolific Russian composer Nikolai Medtner has paled in comparison to those of contemporaries Rachmaninoff and Scriabin but his music is noble, profoundly introspective and intricately crafted. Kazakh pianist and RCS doctoral-candidate Sholpan Miller performs four of Medtner's *Fairy Tales*, op. 26 and is joined by soprano Masha McMinn in his *Eight Poems after Tyutchev and Fet*, op. 24.

Admission: £5, FREE to Music Centre members

Masha McMinn

MODERN VOICES: REIMAGINING THE PAST

Friday 30 October
19:30

St Salvator's Chapel

University of St Andrews Madrigal Group
Daniel Toombs (director)

Composers have long wrestled with a central creative dilemma: how to balance inspiration from the past with the desire to create something new. Join the St Andrews Madrigal Group for our opening concert as we explore this tension – or opportunity – through a 20th and 21st century lens. From the luminous minimalism of Arvo Pärt to the chant shaped modernism of Maurice Duruflé and the fiery neo madrigals of Morten Lauridsen, these works showcase how modern composers engage with historical traditions to create music that feels excitingly new yet grounded in familiarity.

Admission: £10, £6 (students)

Madrigal Group

ST ANDREWS CHORUS PRESENTS PUCCINI'S *MESSA DI GLORIA*

Sunday 15 November
19:30 (pre-performance talk by Michael Downes at 18:45)

Caird Hall, Dundee

Cherubini: Requiem in C minor
Puccini: *Messa di Gloria*

Stephen Chaundy (tenor)
Jonathan May (bass-baritone)
St Andrews Chorus
River Tay Sinfonia
Michael Downes (conductor)

St Andrews Chorus returns to Caird Hall for its fifth visit to present a programme with the River Tay Sinfonia and tenor and bass soloists of choral masterpieces by composers better known for their operas. Cherubini's Requiem in C minor was composed for a ceremony organised after Napoleon's defeat at Waterloo to commemorate the deaths of Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette; it was one of the most popular choral works of the nineteenth century, performed at Beethoven's funeral. Puccini's exuberant *Messa di Gloria*, meanwhile, includes melodies that he later reworked in the operas *Edgar* and *Manon Lescaut*.

Giacomo Puccini

Admission: £18, £6 (students/unemployed), FREE (accompanied schoolchildren)

Tickets available in advance from www.dundeebox.co.uk

BBC RADIO 3 CHORAL EVENSONG SUNG BY ST SALVATOR'S CHAPEL CHOIR

Wednesday 18 November
17:30

St Salvator's Chapel

Claire Innes-Hopkins (director)

St Salvator's Chapel Choir sing Choral Evensong including music by Joanna Forbes l'Estrange and Herbert Brewer. This service will be recorded by BBC Radio 3 for later broadcast.

Please note that the congregation for this service should be seated no later than 17:10.

St Andrews Renaissance Singers © Lightbox Creative

ST ANDREWS RENAISSANCE SINGERS

Saturday 21 November
19:30

St Salvator's Chapel

Giles Longstaff (director)

Join the Renaissance Singers and their new Director, Giles Longstaff, as they look towards St Andrew's Day and the start of Advent. The programme will be built around works of Renaissance greats, including Robert Carver and William Byrd.

Admission: FREE

UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS MUSIC SOCIETY PRESENTS ST ANDREWS STRINGS AND CHAMBER CHOIR

Monday 23 November
19:30

McPherson Recital Room

St Andrews Strings and Chamber Choir look forward to presenting their traditional double concert. St Andrews Strings present a widely varied programme including waltzes by Sibelius and music from Japanese animated films by Studio Ghibli. The Music Society's auditioned chamber choir performs music including *Ubi Caritas* by contemporary Norwegian composer Kim Andre Arnesen and *Earth Song* by Frank Ticheli. Join us for an evening of unexpected beauty!

Admission: £8, £4 (students),£2 (MusSoc members)

Tickets available in advance from www.fixr.co/organiser/stamusicsociety/events

O MAGNUM MYSTERIUM: MUSIC FOR CHRISTMAS

Friday 4 December
19:30

Holy Trinity Church

University Madrigal Group
Daniel Toombs (director)

Welcome to an evening of festive celebration: the St Andrews Madrigal Group annual Christmas Concert. Immerse yourself in the spirit of the season as we return to Holy Trinity with a selection of cherished carols, contemporary choral delights and seasonal treasures old and new.

Admission: £10, £6 (students)

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Saturday 12 December
19:00

Holy Trinity Church

St Andrews and Fife Community Orchestra
St Andrews Community Choir
Ben Shute (conductor)

Join the choir and orchestra for carol singing, musical Sleigh Rides and other Christmas favourites and fun.

Admission: FREE with returning collection in aid of Rotary charities.

Community Christmas Concert

Eleanor Hudson

UNIVERSITY SERVICE SUNG BY ST SALVATOR'S CHAPEL CHOIR

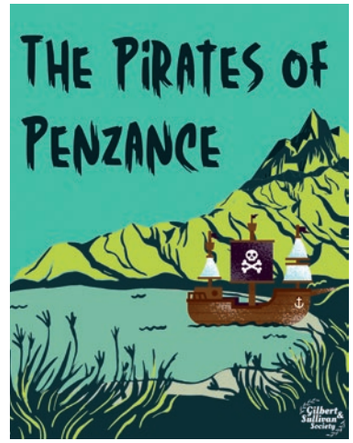
Sunday 13 December
11:00

St Salvator's Chapel

Claire Innes-Hopkins (director)
Eleanor Hudson (harp)

St Salvator's Chapel Choir performs Benjamin Britten's *A Ceremony of Carols* with harpist Eleanor Hudson during this morning's University Service, led by the University Chaplain, the Rev Dr Donald MacEwan.

UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS GILBERT & SULLIVAN SOCIETY PRESENTS *THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE*



Tuesday 27 October
Wednesday 28 October
Thursday 29 October
19:30

Byre Theatre

The Pirates of Penzance, Gilbert and Sullivan's best-known work, tells a gripping tale of swashbuckling pirates, an incompetent policeman and swooning maidens.

Frederic, a pirate's apprentice, falls head-over-heels in love with Mabel, the daughter of Major-General Stanley. Frederic is due to be released from his apprenticeship on his 21st birthday, but there's a snag. Born on 29 February, Frederic discovers that he is technically still a youngster. Although very much in love, his dedication to duty is unshakeable. Can he find a way to live happily-ever-after with Mabel? Come watch *The Pirates of Penzance* to find out!

Admission: Pay What You Can – £15/£13/£11

Tickets available in advance from the Byre Theatre Box Office on 01334 475000, in person at the Byre, and at byretheatre.com/upcoming. Tickets may also be available on the door at the venue before the performance begins (subject to availability).

MUSICAL THEATRE SOCIETY: A CHRONICLE IN CONCERT

Sunday 15 November
19:30

McPherson Recital Room

A Chronicle in Concert is the Musical Theatre Society's annual showcase featuring a collection of themed musical theatre numbers performed by our talented student musicians and singers.

Admission: £8

Tickets available in advance from www.yourunion.net/events/societies

UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS
MUSICAL THEATRE SOCIETY

ORGAN

© Chris Bragg

Come and enjoy live organ music every Tuesday in concerts featuring both University organists and visiting artists performing on the 1974 Gregor Hradetzky organ in St Salvator's Chapel and the historic 1868 T.C. Lewis organ and 1996 Goetze and Gwynn Italian Renaissance organs in the McPherson Recital Room.

Tuesdays at 13:10
Admission: £5, FREE to Music Centre members

SEAN MAXWELL

22 September
McPherson Recital Room

Benedictine Monastery São Bento da Vitória, Porto
Muffat, Reincken, Froberger, Purcell, Balbastre

www.seanmaxwellmusic.com

CALUM LANDON

29 September
St Salvator's Chapel

Campbell Watterson Organ Scholar
Reubke: Sonata on the 94th Psalm

CALUM ROBERTSON

6 October
McPherson Recital Room

Old St Paul's Episcopal Church, Edinburgh
Emma Lou Diemer, Rory Boyle, Mendelssohn

CLAIRE INNES-HOPKINS

13 October
St Salvator's Chapel

Director of Chapel Music
Bach, Whitlock

CHRIS BRAGG

27 October
McPherson Recital Room

Head of Programming
Cavazzoni, Schumann, Alain, Mendelssohn

TOM WILKINSON

3 November
St Salvator's Chapel

University Organist
Boëllmann, Franck, Guilmant

ANDREW MACINTOSH

10 November
St Salvator's Chapel

Deputy University Organist
Jackson, Peeters, Hindemith

SPECIAL GUEST RECITAL BY NATHAN LAUBE (EASTMAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC, ROCHESTER, USA)

17 November
McPherson Recital Room

One of the world's most celebrated organ performers and pedagogues joins us to perform and coach our student organists.

Byrd, Froberger, Whitlock, Saint-Saëns

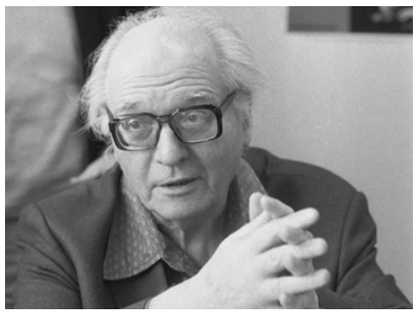
www.nathanlaube.com

HENRY FAIRS

24 November
St Salvator's Chapel

Berlin; Honorary Professor of Organ
Touche, Distler, Alain

www.henryfairs.com



OLIVIER MESSIAEN: LA NATIVITÉ DU SEIGNEUR

Sunday 13 December
16:00
St Salvator's Chapel

University organists and organ scholars offer a joint performance of Olivier Messiaen's epic cycle of nine meditations on the birth of Jesus.

Admission: £10, £5 (students and children)

TALKS, WORKSHOPS AND OTHER EVENTS

MUSIC TALKS

All are welcome to our occasional talks featuring music-related research in a wide variety of fields.

Wednesdays at 14:30
Gifford Room

Admission: FREE

SHOLPAN SHARBAKOVA MILLER (ROYAL CONSERVATOIRE OF SCOTLAND)

Fairy Tales of Our Lives: The Music of Nikolai Medtner

28 October

BYRE THEATRE PRESENTS MAGNETIC NORTH: WE WILL HEAR THE ANGELS

Saturday 19 September
19:00

McPherson Recital Room

We Will Hear the Angels

Why do we seek out sad songs when our hearts are breaking?

Featuring music by Hank Williams, Orange Juice, Etta James, Moondog and Johann Sebastian Bach and performed by five actor-musicians, *We Will Hear the Angels* is a poignant and uplifting exploration of melancholy through words, movement and music.

Stunned by the revelation of her husband's infidelity, Bea feels heartbroken and alone. If only she knew her neighbours Sonia, Van and Ian, were also trying to get over the pain in their hearts, unable to articulate how they feel. Maybe the mysterious Lou can help them?

A unique meditation on universal heartbreak, the production reflects on the strange comfort and redemptive power we find in sad music when we need it most.

"A subtle and intelligent combination of words, movement and music"
The Stage

Admission: Pay what you can; £26/£23/£20

Suitable for Ages 14+

Tickets available in advance from the Byre Theatre Box Office on 01334 475000, in person at the Byre, and at byretheatre.com/upcoming. Tickets may also be available on the door at the venue before the performance begins (subject to availability).

GLOBAL WAGNERISM CONFERENCE

Friday 25 September
09:00-16:45 (with concert at 17:30, see page 15)

McPherson Recital Room

A day-long conference highlighting the enduring impact of Richard Wagner on Western and non-Western art from the late 19th century to the present. Presentations will include Bayreuth as a global centre and Wagnerism in Europe, the US, Japan, Burkina Faso and Australia, as well as theoretical reflections on Wagner's claims of universality.

The event is organised by British Academy Postdoctoral Fellows Adeline Heck of the School of Modern Languages at St Andrews and Timothy Anderson of the University of East Anglia, with contributions from Nicholas Vazsonyi (Clemson), Michael Downes (St Andrews), Kerry Murphy (Melbourne), Sasha Savannah Doster (Columbia), Emma Sutton (St Andrews), Josh Torabi (UCL), Brooke Okazaki (Carleton College), Sarah Hegenbarth (Heidelberg) and John Deathridge (KCL).

Admission: FREE
www.global-wagnerism.wp.st-andrews.ac.uk

To book in advance, please visit
www.events.st-andrews.ac.uk/events/global-wagnerism-study-day

Guitar Day

MUSIC CENTRE GUITAR DAY

Saturday 10 October
10:00-16:00

Laidlaw Music Centre

Our Guitar Day is your chance to step inside the Music Centre and discover the guitar community waiting for you here. Whether you're picking up the instrument for the first time or you've been playing for years, there's something for everyone: one-on-one trial lessons, workshops in classical guitar technique, fingerstyle, fretboard fluency and flamenco, alongside guitar ensemble, and a faculty concert to conclude the day. All levels and ages are welcome (U16s must be accompanied by an adult).

Admission: £30 (full-day pass), £20 (Music Centre members full-day pass)
Individual Workshops or the concluding concert can be accessed for £8 or £5 (Music Centre members)

To book in advance, please visit: https://linktr.ee/guitarfest

ALEXANDER TECHNIQUE WORKSHOP WITH HEATHER COATES

Sunday 11 October
11:00-13:00

Stuart and Geraldine Mitchell Reading Room

This musician-centred workshop provides a simple and practical introduction to the Alexander Technique. Through increased self-awareness the student will find improved ease and freedom of movement, balance, support, flexibility and co-ordination.

Please wear loose, comfortable clothing and bring with you a yoga mat, blanket or towel to lie on and two standard-sized paperback books.

Admission: £10, FREE (Music Centre members)

To book in advance, please visit
www.tinyurl.com/4vvxcvcd

StAMP PIANO DAY 2026

Sunday 29 November
10:00-16:30

Laidlaw Music Centre

Following the success of last year's event, we are delighted to present another StAMP Piano Day for young pianists aged 7-14 years. The day will include collaborative group playing, gentle interactive sessions on technique, improvisation and sightreading, plus movement for music. Full programme to be released by mid-September.

New for 2026: Piano taster session for total beginners, 14:30-16:30

Admission: £30 (£20 early bird fee for payment received by 9 October),
£10 (beginner taster session only)

All places are offered on a first-come, first-served basis, so early registration is recommended.

For further information, please email stamp@st-andrews.ac.uk

To register a place, or request the full programme details, please complete this form:
www.forms.cloud.microsoft/e/87q87Vx0Yh

CULTURAL PARTNERS

The University of St Andrews has a vibrant and diverse cultural offer, with opportunities for everyone from our various communities to participate.

The Music Centre works in close collaboration with the informal Cultural Partners group which includes:

- The Byre Theatre
- Museums of the University of St Andrews
- Libraries
- Special Collections
- University Sports Centre
- Public Engagement with Research
- Accommodation, Conferences and Events

There are lots of inspiring, interesting events and happenings in St Andrews, and many of them are free to attend. Simply go to byretheatre.com/university/cultural-collaborations to find links to our partners and discover a wealth of things to do at events.st-andrews.ac.uk

UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS MUSIC CENTRE STAFF

Director of Music:
Michael Downes OBE

Deputy Director of Music:
Bede Williams

Head of Programming: Chris Bragg

Music Centre Administrator:
Ruth Carr

Music Consultant: Gillian Craig

Lecturer and Coordinator of Academic Music: Michael Ferguson

Music Centre Manager:
Helen Gregory

Director of Chapel Music:
Claire Innes-Hopkins

Head of Music Technology:
Jonathan Kemp

Administrative Assistants:
Lucy Hindle and Simran Khanna

Academic Administrator:
Diane Lyons

Deputy University Organist:
Andrew Macintosh

Head of Vocal Studies: Jonathan May

Technician & Operations Coordinator: Graeme Steel

Lecturer and Adviser of Studies:
Jane Pettegree

Head of Outreach: Ellen Thomson

Lecturer and University Organist:
Tom Wilkinson

Early Career Music Outreach Fellow:
Megan Warnock

University of St Andrews

Music Society

MUSIC SOCIETY LUNCHTIME CONCERTS

Fridays at 13:10
McPherson Recital Room
Admission: FREE with retiring collection in aid of Music in Hospitals and Care

18 September
Buzztet

25 September in St Leonard's Chapel
Renaissance Choral Music

2 October
Mia Fish (singer-songwriter)

9 October
Since Juniper

16 October
The Accidentals

30 October
Folk and Trad Society

6 November
Bassoonion

13 November
JazzWorks

20 November
student cello ensemble

27 November
Kory Buckingham (harp)
Evan Weatherwax (cello)

UniversityofStAndrewsMusicCentre

laidlawmusiccentre

@standrewsmusic

Many of our concerts are livestreamed on Facebook and our YouTube channel where we also feature recorded performances from previous events.
Please follow us: **www.youtube.com/c/musicfromstandrews**

To help support our digital performances, please visit:
www.saintsfunder.st-andrews.ac.uk/p/LaidlawLiveMusicfromStAndrews

University of St Andrews
FOUNDED 1413

www.st-andrews.ac.uk/music

Front cover: Hugh Mackay
Produced by Print & Design, University of St Andrews, August 2026.
Printed by Winter and Simpson.
The University of St Andrews is a charity registered in Scotland, No: SC013532.