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We have recently started a Friends Scheme for individuals who would
like to sponsor us.

Many thanks to the following people who have become Friends of
Classic Music Live! Falkirk

Gordon Bellingham
Cath and Richard Dyer
Margaret Mealls
June Miller
Norah Summers
Sandy Wilson

And others who choose to remain anonymous

If you would like to find out more about our Friends and Sponsors
schemes, please speak to a member of our committee

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CLASSIC MUSIC LIVE! FALKIRK

Season 2023/2024

I am very proud to present this brochure for the 2023-24 season of Classic Music Live! Falkirk. We have been through difficult times but we are optimistic that we can continue to provide chamber music, and the occasional jazz night, of a quality equal to any you can hear in Edinburgh or Glasgow.

A look through this brochure will show you a great variety of music. Close to home we have pianist Ben Eames, who is well known in Falkirk and plays for Falkirk Festival Chorus, accompanying Flautist Fiona Sweeney; also Mezzo soprano Laura Margaret Smith, who was a pupil at Braes High School but now has an international career taking in Bayreuth, Hamburg and Melbourne. Seonaid Aitken is another well-kent face in Falkirk. You will hear saxophone, accordion, a guitar duo and loads more. Because of uncertainties caused by Covid, we had been producing smaller leaflets for half of each season, but we are happy that we can now publish a full brochure complete with pictures and the programme of music to be played.

We are very grateful for our Sponsors and Friends, the welcome we receive from Falkirk Trinity Church, and thanks are due to our hard-working committee.

We could not do anything without an audience. You are vital! We are interested in your views and are always glad to receive your comments and suggestions.

Kind regards,
Richard Dyer
 Chairman CMLIF

Prices and Season Tickets Evening & Afternoon Concerts

Adults	£20.00	Adults	£20.00
Students	£10.00	Students	£10.00
Under 16	£5.00	Under 16	£5.00

Season Tickets Evening & Afternoon £160 + Free Lunchtime Concert Blue tickets

Season Tickets Evening Only £110 + Free Lunchtime Concert Red tickets

Lunchtime Concerts

Adults	£10.00
Students	£5.00

Contact details :

Name :

Address :

Telephone

Mobile

Email :

Tickets can be purchased by phone at Falkirk Stadium :
01324 506850 or
<https://www.falkirkleisureandculture.org/arts/music>
 or they may be purchased at the venue door before the concert.

NB All on-line bookings are subject to a 7% booking fee



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**25th August 2023 at 7.30pm.
Falkirk Trinity Church.
AGM and Concert**

**Paul Chamberlain
Accordion.**



Paul Chamberlain was one of the first classical accordionists to graduate from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland in Glasgow, where he studied with Djordje Gajic. Whilst studying there he was awarded the acclaimed Governors' Recital Prize for Keyboard, and was one of the keyboard section finalists in the 2011 Royal Overseas League competition. Paul is a highly accomplished player with appearances at international music festivals such as Baltica Harmonica in St. Petersburg, Russia; Sata-Häme Soi Accordion festival in Ikaalinen, Finland; The St Magnus Festival in Orkney, and the Edinburgh Fringe.

Paul has released two CDs called Classical Accordion and Accordion Sensations.

Programme: -

Khachaturian – Toccata

Rameau – L'Égyptienne

Zolotaryov – Sonata No 2

Angelis – Romance

Bach – Prelude and Fugue in C minor

Piazzolla – Adiós Nonino / Libertango

Weber – Konzertstück "Presto gioioso"

This event is free but donations are welcome to cover costs

**22nd September 2023 at 2pm.
Falkirk Trinity Church**

**Maciej Kulakowski – Cello and
Jean-Sélim Abdelmoula - piano**

Maciej was Born in Poland, to a family of classical and jazz musicians. He was just 19 when he won 1st Prize at the Lutoslawski International Cello Competition. He was a prize winner at the 2019 YCAT International Auditions in London.



Maciej Kulakowski

© Kaupo Kikkas

Highlights this season include concerts at Wigmore Hall, Berlin Konzerthaus and the Kronberg Festival. He takes part in the Cello Biennale in Amsterdam and makes his debut with the Orchestra of Opera North performing the Dvořák Concerto.

In 2022 he completed his studies at Kronberg Academy.

Maciej plays a Giovanni Battista Ruggeri Cello made in Cremona in 1700, on loan from a Charitable Trust.

Maciej is accompanied by Jean-Sélim Abdelmoula. Jean-Sélim enjoys a busy and varied musical life both as a pianist and composer. During the 2021/22 season he gave concerts across Europe, highlights including the Essen Philharmonie, Wigmore Hall and Perth Concert Hall (broadcast by BBC Radio 3). After a concert in Perth Concert Hall in 2017, the Perth Courier review said “... A formidable pianist ... The Andante [of Schubert’s Sonata in B Flat] had tragedy and consolation with warm confidence at its centre. With faultless articulation the spinning Scherzo was repose and delight.”

Programme: -

BEETHOVEN: *7 Variations on Bei Mannern, welche Liebe fühlen*

BEETHOVEN: *Sonata for cello and piano No. 4*

FAURÉ: *Après un reve*

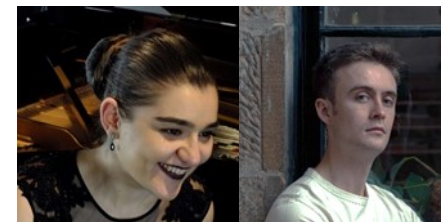
JANACEK: *Pohádka (Fairy tale)*

Interval

BRAHMS: *Cello Sonata No.1*

**29th March 2024 at 7.30pm.
Falkirk Trinity Church**

**Lewis Banks Duo –
Saxophone and Piano**



Lewis Banks is a Scottish saxophonist praised by the Herald for his ‘virtuosity and blinding characterisation’. He enjoys adventurous concert programming and crossing the lines between genres. He studied at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, graduating with The Principal’s Prize for Excellence in 2018.

Winner of the Sussex Prize at the Royal Overseas League Music Competition, Lewis released his debut album, *Chrysalis* in 2021. He appeared as concerto soloist with the RSNO in 2016, performing Ibert’s *Concertino da Camera*. He regularly does freelance work with the major Scottish orchestras.

Armenian pianist Marianna Abrahamyan started playing at the age of five, taught by her mother. She continued her studies in a specialised music school and then the Yerevan State Conservatoire in Armenia. She is now studying on the Doctor of Performance Programme at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, as well as lecturing in piano at the Junior Conservatoire.

Programme: -

Prelude a l’après midi d’un Faun - Claude Debussy

Adagio from the Easter Oratorio - Johann Sebastian Bach

So my Tears Flow - Jay Capperault

Gate - Graham Fitkin

Interval

La Muerte Del Angel - Astor Piazzolla

Hot Sonate - Erwin Schulhoff

Piece en forme de Habanera - Maurice Ravel

L’Arlesienne Fantasy (Intermezzo & Farandole) - Santiago Baez

15th March 2024 at 7.30pm.

Falkirk Trinity Church

Laura Margaret Smith and Liivi Arder
Mezzo soprano Piano



Scottish singer Laura Margaret Smith was described as “a spirited young mezzo with a full, fearless voice. A name to watch” by Gramophone magazine. Her international career has taken her to the Bayreuth Festival, Hamburg State Opera, Scottish Opera, Melbourne Recital centre, Wigmore Hall, Dunedin Consort and Scottish voices.

Laura went to Braes High School, and won the Young Musician of the Year Award in the Forth Valley Music Festival. She graduated from Edinburgh University and the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. She has a busy teaching schedule with NYCOS Falkirk, RSNO Junior Conservatoire.

Pianist Liivi Arder comes from Estonia. She graduated from the Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre and then studied accompaniment at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. She has worked as an accompanist at the RCS and the RSNO. She has performed at the Edinburgh Fringe and Glasgow West End Festival with the ensemble Daniel’s Beard.

Laura and Liivi have been duo partners since they worked together in Lieder Class at the Royal Conservatoire.

They will perform a programme of Lieder and include songs by:
Schubert, Schumann, Mahler, Strauss.
Wagner - Wesendonck Lieder.
And a selection of English and Scots songs.

13th October 2023 at 7.30pm

Falkirk Trinity Church



Jia Ning Ng – Piano

Pianist Jia Ning Ng, from Singapore, has recently graduated with first Class Honours from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. She graduated top of her class in 2022 and was awarded the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland Performance Prize for Keyboard as well as First prize for Governor’s Recital Prize for Keyboard.

Jia Ning is also an active chamber musician with a special interest in Lieder, performing internationally in Belgium and the Netherlands, as well as in the UK, with her duo partner soprano Karla Grant.

Jia Ning is currently freelancing in Glasgow as a piano teacher, accompanist, and solo pianist. In her free time, she enjoys working with special needs children in care homes as well as making bubble tea in a bubble tea shop!

Programme: -
Beethoven - *Piano Sonata No.17 “Tempest”*
Schumann - *Bunte Blätter (Colourful Leaves)*
Interval
Schubert—*Piano Sonata in G major*

27th October 2023 at 7.30pm
Falkirk Trinity Church

Seonaid Aitken Jazz Ensemble

Seonaid Aitken - violin & vocals
Katrina Lee - violin
Patsy Reid - viola
Alice Allen - cello
Emma Smith - bass
Helena Kay - tenor sax & flute



CHASING SAKURA

In Japan, the cherry blossom (sakura) is widely celebrated. It is symbolic of rebirth - springtime, hope, optimism - but is also a reminder of the impermanence of life. Having lived in Tokyo, Seonaid has drawn a parallel with this season to her life now in Scotland. After a serious accident, Seonaid found herself unable to walk and was forced to slow down and focus on her well-being. During a lengthy and isolated recovery due to 'lockdown' she was able to explore her local surroundings and discover the transformative and healing powers of nature. As both mind and body gradually healed, she found a new perspective. Through jazz, classical and folk idioms, Seonaid's musical suite 'Chasing Sakura' - originally commissioned by Edinburgh Jazz & Blues Festival in 2021 - was written for a hand-picked ensemble of string quintet and saxophone/flute.

WHAT IS THIS THING CALLED LOVE?

Seonaid pays homage to her favourite jazz vocalist - the iconic Ella Fitzgerald - by exploring the Great American Songbook with selections from her 2019 album 'What Is This Thing Called Love?'

Programme: -

Chasing Sakura

Interval

What Is This Thing Called Love?

23rd February 2024 at 7.30pm.
Falkirk Trinity Church.

Resol String Quartet

Maria Vila Ariza—violin
Annabel Kidd – violin
Raphael Chinn – viola
Alasdair Morton-Teng - cello



A group of friends connected by their love of chamber music formed the Resol String Quartet in the 2018 at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.

Taking their name from the Catalan word meaning 'reflection of sunlight', the members of the quartet come from a great variety of backgrounds but were brought together by their shared vision to make classical music more inclusive and accessible both in the present and for the future.

In May 2021, the quartet were awarded the First Prize, and Audience Prize in the Cavatina Competition at the Wigmore Hall, representing the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. In the same year, they made their Perth Concert Hall debut, were named as one of Chamber Music Scotland's 'One's to Watch' and were accepted to work with Live Music Now Scotland. They also appeared live on BBC Radio Scotland's 'Classics Unwrapped'.

Programme: -

Mozart String Quartet n.19 "Dissonance"

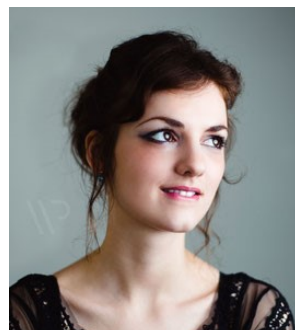
Puccini Crisantemi

Interval

Shostakovich String Quartet n.3

**2nd February 2024 at 2.00pm
Falkirk Trinity Church**

Elena Fischer-Dieskau – Piano.



The German-French pianist Elena Fischer-Dieskau is consistently praised by critics and audiences for her intensely captivating stage presence, and provokes great enthusiasm each time she performs.

She was born in Berlin to a musical family. With a French mother, Elena grew up partly in France and attended the Conservatoire de Paris as a child before moving to the Hanover University of Music, Theatre and Media. Following this, she studied in the USA at the Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore with the legendary Leon Fleisher, where she completed her Graduate Performance Diploma.

As an undergraduate, Elena played the role of pianist in the French drama film “Tout est pardonné”. She has featured in programmes on BBC Radio Scotland and Radio 3. She is mentored by Alfred Brendel.

She also taught at St Mary’s Music school in Edinburgh from 2018 to 2022.

Programme: -

Clara Schumann	<i>Variations on a Theme by Robert Schumann</i>
Mel Bonis	<i>Women of Legend, Seven Pieces</i>
Robert Schumann	<i>Waldszenen (Forest Scenes)</i>
Robert Schumann	<i>Sonata No 2</i>

**17th November 2023
at 2.00pm
Falkirk Trinity Church**



**Jonathan Leibovitz
Clarinet
(YCAT)**



**Jonathan Ware
Piano**

Clarinetist Jonathan Leibovitz was born in Tel-Aviv and made his debut with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra at the age of 18 performing Mozart’s Clarinet Concerto. In 2022 Jonathan was a prize-winner at the YCAT (London) and CAG (New York) International Auditions. This season Jonathan appears as soloist with the Lucerne Symphony Orchestra, London Mozart Players, and the Israel Sinfonietta.

Jonathan will be accompanied by pianist Jonathan Ware . Jonathan was born in Texas but now lives and teaches in Berlin. He has appeared as an accompanist at Wigmore Hall, Carnegie Hall, and John F. Kennedy Center. Awards include the Pianist’s Prize at both Das Lied and Wigmore Hall/Kohn Foundation International Song competitions.

Programme

CLARA SCHUMANN: *Three Romances for violin & piano*

WEBER: *Grand Duo Concertante Interval*

BRAHMS: *Sonata in E flat*

POULENC: *Clarinet Sonata*

8th December 2023 at 7.30pm.
Falkirk Trinity Church.

The Roth Guitar Duo



Emma Smith and Sam Rodwell formed their guitar duo in 2014 while studying at the Royal Northern College of music, Manchester. They perform regularly at Manchester's Bridgewater Hall as well as appearing at venues round the UK such as St-Martin-in-the Fields, Buxton Pavilion Arts Centre, Cardiff Guitar Festival, Nanpantan Festival (near Loughborough), Ribfest (Cornwall), Weston Concerts and Grimsby Concert Society. The duo's highly regarded first album "Canonica", contains music from today's programme as well as other works from the duo's extensive repertoire. Sam and Emma's popularity has attracted new compositions from prominent composers including Yvonne Bloor and Mark Houghton.

Programme: -

Farewell to Stromness - Sir Peter Maxwell Davies

Serenade in A, op.96 - Ferdinando Carulli

Bad Boy - Toru Takemitsu

Sonatina Canonica - Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco

Nagoya Guitars - Steve Reich

Balkan Express - Vojislav Ivanovic

INTERVAL

Lo Que Vendra - Astor Piazzolla

Tres piezas de otoño - Maximo Diego Pujol

Partita: I. Festival II. Heath Haven III. Waltham Chase

(for Roth Guitar Duo) - Mark Houghton

La Vida Breve - Manuel de Falla

Always Good to Me (for Roth Guitar Duo) - Yvonne Bloor

12th January 2024 at 12 Midday. Falkirk Trinity Church.

Aurras Duo



Ben Eames (piano)



Fiona Sweeney (flute)

Aurras Duo are a UK based ensemble who had their debut recital at the Oban Music Society in January 2022. Their aim is to discover lesser-known repertoire for flute and piano, and to highlight works by composers of under-represented groups,

Fiona Sweeney - Flute

Fiona received a 1st Class honours Degree from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama then completed her postgraduate training with Distinction in 2022, and was the winner of the Woodwind Prize. Fiona has performed with the London Symphony Orchestra, Royal Opera House, BBC National Orchestra of Wales London Sinfonietta.

Ben Eames - Piano

Ben has performed in venues all over the UK, such as the Queens Hall, Edinburgh; Falkirk Town Hall; Albert Halls, Stirling; Stockbridge Parish Church, Edinburgh; Macrobert Arts Centre; Haddington Parish Church Concert Series; Edinburgh Society of Musicians; The Royal Naval College Chapel, London; St Alfeges Church, London, and King Charles Court, London.

He currently accompanies Falkirk Festival Chorus.

Programme: -

Richard Bissill - *Panoply*

Aileen Sweeney - *As the Gloaming Falls*

Gabriel Fauré - *Fantasie*