

Skye and Lochalsh Orchestra

Conductor: Rick Taylor

Flute: Laura Grisi (& Piccolo), Heather Strong, Elizabeth Watt
Oboe: Sam Nicolson
Clarinet: John Hockett, Brian Dodds.
Bassoon: James Merryweather, Maggie Manvell, Judith Bullivant
Horn: Chris Manvell, David Kellas, Nic Bullivant
Trumpet: Douglas Strachan, Rosie Butler,
Trombone: Tony Breen
Percussion: Shona Bird, James Merryweather
Violin I: Margaret Cormack, Jo' Cumine, Maryon Gardiner, Wendy Riva, Catriona Bullivant,
Violin II: Chris Crichton, Jenny Hay, Susan Galloway, Judith Bullivant
Viola: Mike Cormack, Alan Donald,
Cello: Bar Purser, Kate McArthur, Iain Bullivant
Double Bass: Rebecca MacKinnon

Skye & Lochalsh Schools String Orchestra

Conductor: Jenny Wychrij

Violin 1: Abi Davidson, Cori Lamond, Fiona Lamond, Jamie Treanor, Kirsty Watt
Violin 2: Megan Cartwright, Abbey Knowles, Allison MacDonald
Violin 3: Hannah Butler, Merryn Hutchings, Rachael Lee, Shadri Nel
Cello: Duncan Watt
Double Bass: Rebecca MacKinnon
Clarsach: Molly Carter
Percussion: Finlay Davidson
Piano: Pete Wychrij
With thanks to: Rebecca MacKinnon, Elizabeth Watt, Jenny Hay, Kate Biss, Deborah Smyth and Julie Davidson.

Strath Gaelic Choir

The orchestra is very grateful to Heather Harvey and the Strath Gaelic Choir for their generous support over the years. Thank you all.

Dates for next session

Rehearsals at Broadford Hall 10 - 12.45
14, 28 Jan; 4, 25 Feb; 3, 17, 24 Mar; 14 Apr.

CONCERTS

21 April, Dunvegan Village Hall
[in association with Duirinish Media & Culture Club]
28 April, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig
[in association with S.E.A.L.L.]

Skye and Lochalsh Orchestra Skye & Lochalsh Schools String Orchestra Strath Gaelic Choir



Broadford Village Hall
Saturday 3rd December 2011

PROGRAMME

Skye and Lochalsh Orchestra

Music for the Royal Fireworks G.F. Handel

Skye and Lochalsh Schools String Orchestra

Take it from Here (from 'Jazzin About Suite' for String Orchestra)
The Dark Island (From 'Celtic Suite' for String Orchestra)
The Piper of Dundee ('Celtic Suite')
Black Jack ('Jazzin About Suite')

Strath Gaelic Choir

Anns An Dubhlachd Gheamhraidh (In The Bleak Mid-Winter)
Oidhche Shamhach (Silent Night)
Deck The Halls

SLO

1st Movement (Allegro) from Symphony no 8 'The Unfinished'
F. Schubert

INTERVAL

SLO

Suite from Swan Lake P.I. Tchaikovsky

The Forty-Eighters

In A Military Garden arr. Merryweather

Strath Gaelic Choir

Mary's Boy Child
12 Days Of Christmas

All

Hark The Herald Angels Sing
O Come All Ye Faithful

SLO

Symphonic poem 'Finlandia' J. Sibelius

ABOUT THE MUSIC

George Frederic Handel composed his *Music for the Royal Fireworks* whilst employed in London by George II, to be performed along with fireworks in London's Green Park on 27 April 1749. The occasion was a celebration of the end of War in Austria and the signing of the peace Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle in 1748. For this first performance only, the music was presented by an impressive wind band consisting of 24 oboes, 12 bassoons and contrabassoon, nine trumpets, nine French horns, three pairs of kettledrums, and a veritable squadron of snare drums. In the midst of it all, one of the pavillions caught fire and burnt down! Handel was already preparing the score for subsequent indoor performance in which parts for strings were included. The movements performed tonight, by rather more modest forces, are: La Réjouissance, Menuet I, La Paix, Largo a la Siciliana, Bourrée and Menuet II.

Franz Schubert's *Symphony No. 8 in B minor* is commonly known as "The Unfinished". It was started in 1822 but only two movements were completed. Fragments and hints remain to indicate his intentions for this symphony and there has been much speculation about the reasons for its fate - one favoured option is that Schubert simply lost interest in it and moved onto other projects. The first movement is written in classical sonata form and begins with a simple tune given out by 'cellos and double bass, joined by quiet chattering upper strings and then the rest of the orchestra. 'Cellos again have the honour of presenting the beautiful second theme, before a series of quick mood changes, possibly reflecting the nervous mental state of the composer during the time he was writing this work.

Pyotr Tchaikovsky's first ballet, *Swan Lake* was written in 1875/76, based on Russian folk tales that tell the story of Odette, a princess turned into a swan by an evil sorcerer's curse. The ballet was premièred by the Bolshoi Ballet in March 1877 under the title 'The Lake of the Swans' but was not very well received. Tchaikovsky typically thought it was his music at fault, although weak coreography was the real culprit. A revised version of the ballet from 1895 is now most commonly performed. We're playing three of the most familiar movements from the orchestral suite: the opening Scène, the Dance of the Swans; and the Waltz of the young villagers.

***Finlandia*, by Jean Sibelius**, started life as 'Finland Awakes', written for a political demonstration in Helsinki in 1899 protesting against increasing censorship by the Russian Empire. Sibelius revised the piece the following year and gave it the name we know today. Finlandia is mostly a rousing and turbulent piece, evoking the struggle of the Finnish nation against its oppressive neighbour. Although it contains no original Finnish folk tunes, Finlandia became very closely associated with Finnish Nationalism - part of the piece is still played as an unofficial national anthem and the central slow tune was adopted as a hymn.

New members of both orchestras are very welcome – just contact us!

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