

Programme



Gioacchino Rossini
Overture *'The Barber of Seville'*

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George Frideric Handel
Concerto for Harp and Orchestra in Bb Op.4 no 6
Andante allegro; Larghetto – Adagio; Allegro moderato
Soloist: *Mairi-Louise MacDonald*

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George Butterworth
The Banks of Green Willow
Idyll for Orchestra

*

Nic Bullivant
A New Companion
Scherzo
World Premiere

*

Giuseppe Verdi
Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves from the opera
Nabucco
with The Island Chorus (Dir: Chris Watkiss)

- I N T E R V A L -

Ludwig van Beethoven
Piano Concerto no 4 in G major Op.58
Allegro moderato; Andante con moto; Rondo, vivace – presto
Soloist: *Chris Watkiss*

Why not join the orchestra? We would love to see you!
Email enquiries@slo-skye.org.uk
We rehearse fortnightly (sometimes more often)
in Broadford Village Hall from 10.00 – 12.45.
Check the website for up to date news www.slo-skye.org.uk

We resume on Saturday 19 August 2017

Programme Notes



Gioacchino Rossini: Overture 'The Barber of Seville'

Despite being a crushing failure on its first night, probably as a result of sabotage by a rival composer, Rossini's *'Il Barbiere di Siviglia'* is both his best known opera and best known opera overture. Even the deaf Beethoven knew it: "So you're the composer of *The Barber of Seville*?" he wrote in his conversation book when the young Rossini came to visit. "I congratulate you. It will be played as long as Italian opera exists."

George Frideric Handel: Concerto for Harp and Orchestra in Bb Op.4 no 6

Almost all of Handel's concerti were designed as interval music for his opera and oratorio concerts, in many cases with Handel himself taking the soloist's role on the organ. Of the six concerti that were collected together as his Opus 4 however, number 6 in Bb is unique - its delicate scoring and tone shows that it was originally composed for a harp soloist and only later adapted for organ.

Mairi-Louise MacDonald (clarsach) went to school in Portree. She is the winner of many music competitions and is due to go up to Aberdeen University to study medicine in the autumn.

George Butterworth: The Banks of Green Willow, Idyll for Orchestra

Butterworth was one of the great 'what ifs' of British music. Close friend and associate of Vaughan Williams, like him a collector of old English folk tunes, and a composer of rare delicacy, he was also a decorated army officer who was killed during the first weeks of the Battle of the Somme, leaving us with a few tantalising pieces such as this Idyll written in 1913.

Nic Bullivant: A New Companion. Scherzo WORLD PREMIERE

When the SLO played Schubert's Unfinished symphony recently, Nic thought it would be nice to satisfy the usual appetite for a four-movement symphony, not by completing it, but by composing two New Companion pieces. This is the first of these pieces, an old-fashioned scherzo and trio. Although Nic has written about thirty pieces, including two full-length symphonies, this is the first of his pieces to be included in a concert programme.

Giuseppe Verdi 'Va Pensiero' ("Fly, thought, on wings of gold")

Verdi's legendary *Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves*, from his opera Nabucco, has the enslaved sons and daughters of Judah yearning for freedom and a return to their homeland on the banks of the River Jordan. Famously, the chorus became synonymous with the growing nationalism in 19th century Italy to such an extent that this was the music sung at Verdi's own funeral many years later.

Ludwig van Beethoven: Piano Concerto no 4 in G major Op. 58

"Today, Mendelssohn played the G major concerto of Beethoven with a power and a finish that transported us all. I received a pleasure from it such as I have never enjoyed and I sat in my place without moving a muscle or even breathing - afraid of making the least noise!" So wrote the composer Robert Schumann in 1836 after the second

performance of Beethoven's 4th Piano Concerto nearly 20 years after its first public performance. The first performance with Beethoven himself at the keyboard was a tour de force in concert duration (4 hours!) and comfort (a freezing hall!). However, ever since its rediscovery by Mendelssohn, we have recognised that this concerto is not just a beautiful masterpiece on its own terms, but is revolutionary when seen in its context. For whilst Beethoven's 3rd Piano Concerto seems to look back to the idea of the classical piano concerto invented and polished by Mozart, the 4th looks forward and sets the scene for the great concertos of the 19th Century romantics such as Brahms and Schumann himself. It is however best heard with the heating on.

Chris Watkiss (piano) returns to the concert platform after a brief break. His last performance was at London University when he performed Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue in 1977, whilst pretending to study Maths. He studied piano part-time at the Birmingham School with Joseph Weingarten (a Hungarian concert pianist) both before and after his time at University.

Skye and Lochalsh Orchestra Members

Musical Director: Iain Roden

Flute:

Elisabeth Watt, Satsuki Azuma Barnes, Kath Thomson, Laura Grisi (Piccolo)

Clarinet:

John Hockett, Lynne Anstice-Brown (guest)

Horn:

Nic Bullivant, David Kellas, Chris Manvell

Bassoon:

Judith Bullivant, Maggie Manvell

Trombone:

Tony Breen

Euphonium:

Hugh Morison

Piano:

Chris Watkiss (soloist)

Clarsach:

Mairi-Louise MacDonald (soloist)

Violin I:

Wendy Riva (Leader), Jo Cumine, Ilona Morison, Eilidh Scammell, Lis Philips, Catriona Bullivant, Rachael Jones, Margaret Cormack (guest), Jenny Wychrij (guest)

Violin II:

Chris Chrichton, Polly McInnes, Philippa Davies, Jenny Hey

Viola:

Alan Donald, Mike Cormack (guest)

Cello:

Bar Purser, Duncan Watt, Rosemary Bungard, Claudia Knott, Iain Bullivant (guest)

Double Bass:

David Inglis (RSNO guest)

Percussions:

Maria Pelletta, Iain Bullivant

The orchestra would also especially like to thank David Inglis (RSNO) and the memory of Dennis Briggs for their particular help with this concert.

The orchestra acknowledges the continued support of Duncan MacInnes and all the team at SEALL.

Skye is all about music and music is all about Skye!

SKYE CHAMBER MUSIC skychambermusic.org.uk **SKYE DANCE** skyedance.co.uk

THE ISLAND CHORUS islandchorus@outlook.com

www.slo-skye.org.uk



THE SKYE AND LOCHALSH ORCHESTRA

with
The Island Choir



SPRING CONCERT

SABHAL MÒR OSTAIG
SATURDAY 1 April 2017
7.30pm
www.slo-skye.org.uk

