



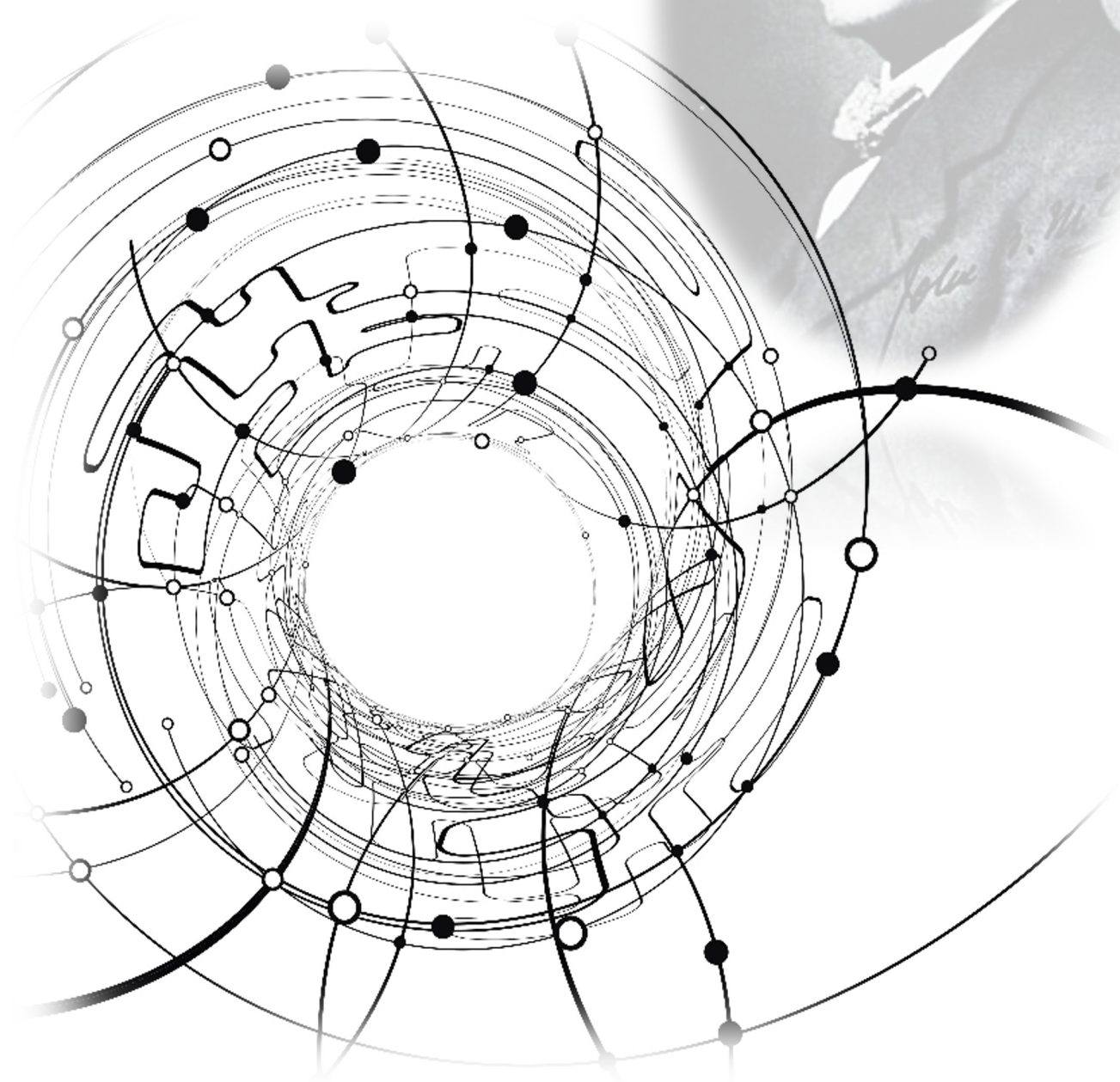
University
of Glasgow

School of Culture
& Creative Arts

School of Culture and Creative Arts presents

**McEwen Memorial Concert
of Scottish Chamber Music**

5 March 2020



McEwen Memorial Concert of Scottish Chamber Music

Thursday 5 March, 2020
1.10pm University Concert Hall

Nanghai Piano Trio
Gongbo Jiang (violin), Robert Anderson (cello),
and Gordon Bragg (piano)

David Horne
*Reflecting Instruments**

**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.*

While I have a large number of chamber works including four string quartets, a piano quartet and two piano quintets, this is the first work I have composed for Piano Trio. It is fair to say that the wonderful Piano Trio by Maurice Ravel has always been inspirational to me, including as a pianist when I performed the work many times. While there are no direct allusions to that great work, I was motivated to explore a wide range of colour and textures in my own piece, with the trio frequently coalescing and separating texturally. As the title suggests, there is a great deal of interplay between the timbres of the various instruments and how they interplay, indeed reflect each other. From the outset the piano seems to echo and even resonate the sounds of the strings, though as the work progresses this relationship often reverses, with the strings emulating the harmonics of the piano, its pedalling and resonance. There is another aspect of the music's language which will not be apparent to the listener but is worth noting. In much of my work I am fascinated by the nature of instruments and how their own idioms often inspire and lead musical ideas. This is beyond the notion of just writing idiomatically per se, but instead allowing the affordances of the medium being composed for to suggest content, including harmony and melody. One of my recent works is a chamber concerto for cimbalom and ensemble. This is an instrument that is impossible to write for unless you have a very good understanding of the layout of its strings, which is idiosyncratic to say the least. This can however yield fascinating harmonic results, and I wished to transpose the 'template' of the cimbalom's layout onto the musical gestures of the current ensemble, while still retaining as natural an approach as possible to

the ideas played by the trio. The result I intend, therefore, is a piece of music which works naturally for the piano trio but manages to nevertheless evoke something outside itself.

David Horne 2020

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770 – 1827)
Piano Trio - Op. 1, No.1 in Eb Major (1795)

1. Allegro
2. Adagio cantabile
3. Scherzo. Allegro assai
4. Finale. Presto

Op. 1, no. 1, 1795. This is the young Beethoven, years before the relationship with Prince Lichnowsky, the dedicatee of three trios in Op. 1, had deteriorated under the pressures of French invasion. Lichnowsky had been a most generous patron in the years prior to 1806, with dedications from Beethoven on a number of pieces, including the “Pathétique” sonata (1798), and his second symphony (1802). Despite the designation, these are not his first published scores. But Beethoven was rapidly rising in Austrian aristocratic influence, and his first Viennese publication was intended to make an impact. And so it did, not only in terms of their continued influence through his early career, but also financially through the sale by subscription of 241 copies to the well-heeled Viennese public.

Here we find all the exuberance one might expect of a young, idealistic man, but with little of the naiveté heard in the early works of so many other composers. All the skill and wit of a mature voice can be found in this music, even if it lacks some of the great profundity of his later works. Of course, Beethoven in his twenties would have been dedicating himself to the study of composition and performance for many years, having come from Bonn to Vienna to study with the great Franz Joseph Haydn. Whilst listening here today, there can be little surprise at what Beethoven managed to produce over those first three decades of the 19th century.

Drew Hammond 2020

**Today’s concert may be recorded -
Please remember to switch off all mobile phones.**

David Horne has written over a 100 works, receiving commissions from major soloists, orchestras and ensembles including Evelyn Glennie, Scottish Opera, BBC Symphony Orchestra, London Sinfonietta, Nash Ensemble and the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra. His music is frequently commissioned and performed abroad, including recently at festivals in Berlin, Paris, Rome, Singapore and Strasbourg. He is active as a pianist and won the piano section of BBC Young Musician of the Year while a teenager. David is highly sought after as an educator and leads projects and workshops for major organisations across the UK. Boosey and Hawkes publish his work and he has been recorded on BMG and NMC labels among others. He is Professor of Music and Head of the Graduate School at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester, UK, where he supervises research students in composition and performance, while teaching a wide range of topics at undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

Based in Glasgow, the **Nanhai Piano Trio** consists of three of Scotland's leading chamber musicians, who have performed chamber music across Europe at renowned venues and festivals, and recorded on the Nimbus and Delphian labels and for BBC Radio 3 and BBC Scotland. They are recipients of 1st prizes and audience prizes at chamber music competitions including the St Martin in the Fields Competition in London, and Chamonix-Mont-Blanc Competition in France. Their chamber music teachers included members of the Alban Berg, Mosaïques, and Takacs Quartets, in Paris, London and Italy.

Born in China, **Gongbo Jiang (violin)** began playing at the age of five. At 12, he joined the Middle School of the Central Conservatory of Music, Beijing. In 2009, he was accepted to the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland (RCS) where he graduated with a Bachelor of Music (Honours); a Master of Music (distinction) and a Master of Music in Chamber Music.

Gongbo toured India in 2014 with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra and performed a duet with Nicola Benedetti MBE. He led the RCS chamber ensemble which recorded Mahler's Symphony No.4, which was released by Nimbus in December 2015. He also performed for members of the Royal Family.

Awards include the Walcer prize for solo violin (2012 and 2013), the Hilda Bailey prize for violin (2010), the audience prize at the Ian D Watt Award for string players and pianists (2010), and he was a finalist in the Postacchini International Violin Competition (2010).

He led the Aurea String Quartet from 2009 to 2015 which won joint first prize at the Cavatina Intercollegiate Quartet Competition in London (2011) and were finalists in the first International Sándor Végh String Quartet Competition in

Budapest (2012), where they were awarded a special prize for their performance of Lajtha String Quartet No.7.

Robert Anderson (cello) studied at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, Bremen Hochschule and the Menuhin Academy in Switzerland, where his teachers included David Watkin, Alexander Baillie, and Christoph Richter. As a chamber musician he has performed at festivals in the UK, Germany, Switzerland, France and Italy, recorded for BBC Radio 3 and Nimbus Records, and won 1st prize and the audience prize at Chamonix-Mont-Blanc Quartet Competition. He has performed the Haydn C major concerto in a tour of Japan with Kammerorchester Acroama Animata. Living in Glasgow with his young family, he works with Scottish Chamber Orchestra, Royal Scottish National Orchestra and other orchestras across the UK, and is a member of the Nanhai Piano Trio.

Gordon Bragg (piano) studied at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, and at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, where he gained a postgraduate diploma in repêture. He is sub-principal second violin of the Scottish Chamber Orchestra and was from 2012 to 2017 second violinist of the Edinburgh Quartet, one of Britain's foremost chamber ensembles, performing throughout the UK as well as regularly broadcasting live on BBC Radio 3 and Radio Scotland. As a member of the Edinburgh Quartet, Gordon recorded the string quartets of James MacMillan on Delphian, which was labelled 'outstanding' by International Record Review and described in Gramophone Magazine as "deliver[ing] every detail of these sometimes complex scores with total commitment, communicating them with passion and intensity." Gordon is also active as a conductor and has conducted orchestras such as Orchestre Philharmonique du Luxembourg, Scottish Chamber Orchestra, Bayerische Kammerphilharmonie, and conducted Schoenberg's Pierrot Lunaire at the 2013 Edinburgh Festival with Scottish Ballet to critical acclaim.

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>	Hafliði 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
2019	<i>String Trio II</i>	Eddy McGuire

The McEwen Memorial Concert of Scottish Chamber Music is curated by Dr. Drew Hammond.

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

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

Upcoming Music in the University events

1. Kelvin Ensemble, Conductor: John Grant

Saturday 7 March, 7.30pm, University Bute Hall

Bernstein Candide Overture, Copland 4 Dance Episodes from Rodeo, Dvorak Symphony no.9

Tickets on door and online at www.kelvin-ensemble.co.uk

2. Beethoven Anniversary Concert

Thursday 12 March, 1.10 – 2pm, University Concert Hall

Maximiliano Martin – clarinet, Christian Elliott – cello, Julian Milford – piano
Beethoven Septet Op.38 – trio version arrangement by Beethoven

3. University Choral Society & Chapel Choir, Conductor – Leon Reimer

With the McOpera Ensemble

Saturday 14 March, 7.30pm, University Memorial Chapel

Dvorak: Stabat Mater

Full details in MIU concert brochure and online at www.glasgow.ac.uk/concerts

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Events: www.gla.ac.uk/concerts Website: www.gla.ac.uk/musicintheuniversity

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