

Scottish Chamber Orchestra prepare for a busy month in February

✘ The month starts with the last of this Season's popular early evening **CL@SIX series** on **Tuesday 1 February** at **6pm** at St Cuthbert's Parish Church in Edinburgh, with ***Drum Roll***. The concert opens with Mozart's Overture to *The Impresario* followed by the composer's Violin Concerto No 2 in D K211. It closes in a lively fanfare with Haydn's war-time Symphony No 103 'Drum Roll'. Alexander Janiczek directs from the violin.

On **Saturday 5 February** at **3pm**, the Scottish Chamber Orchestra is joined on the **Usher Hall** stage by singers of all ages from across Edinburgh. The concert opens with Howard Blake's ***The Land of Counterpane*** – set to poems from Robert Louis Stevenson's *A Child's Garden of Verses* – sung by over 100 pupils from the **Erskine Stewart's Melville Schools**.

The Voice of a City follows, an affectionate portrait of Edinburgh by Edward Harper, including lyrics by Ron Butlin, Edinburgh's Makar. The piece features references to Edinburgh celebrities, such as the One o'Clock Gun, John Knox, Sean Connery, and Miss Jean Brodie. It is performed by a choir of 160 Edinburgh primary school children (Voice Academy) and an adult community chorus recruited from Edinburgh residents across the city. They are joined by City Organist **John Kitchen** and conductor **Garry Walker**.

Preceding the concert, the Usher Hall hosts City of Literature's **Family Day** (10:30am – 3pm); a day of fun for all the family, exploring the musical and literary aspects of *The Voice of a City* concert. Free and open to all ages, this collection of events includes storytelling, songwriting, setting poems to music, face-painting, composing and more.



Photo Chris
Christodoulou

Principal Conductor Robin Ticciati returns for the second in his series **Stravinsky: The Chamber Ballets** featuring the **world premiere** of a new arrangement of **Fauré's *Melodies***. Originally written for voice and piano, Fauré's melancholy and heartbreaking songs, with words by 19th century French poets including Paul Verlaine and Paul-Armand Silvestre, have been given a new breath of life by composer Colin Matthews, who has reworked the seven songs for voice and full orchestra.

British Soprano **Sally Matthews** joins the Orchestra for *Melodies* as well as opening the concert with Haydn's dramatic opera scena, *Scena di Berenice*. The Orchestra will also perform Stravinsky's lively neo-classical ballet *Apollon musagète* and Haydn's Symphony No 96 'Miracle' in St Andrews (9 February), Edinburgh (10 February) and Glasgow (11 February). Robin Ticciati discusses Stravinsky's chamber ballets in pre-concert talks at 6.30pm before each concert.

In late February, young Swiss pianist **Francesco Piemontesi** debuts with the Orchestra performing the grandest of Mozart's piano concertos, No 25 in C. The concerto is one of Piemontesi's favourites: "I love K503 very much. The piano and the orchestra have a constant dialogue with each other, even in comparison with Mozart's other concerti. As often is the case with his last piano compositions, we find many 'naive' melodies, immediately followed by rather chromatic moments. These contrasts still give me the shivers every time I practice the piece."

Here is a little taster of the orchestra playing under the direction of the late Charles McKerras

Prokofiev's Symphony No 1 'Classical' lends further emotion to the performance. Completing the programme is conductor **Andrew**

Manze's arrangement of Lotti's beautiful *Crucifixus* and Shostakovich's dark Chamber Symphony in C minor Op 110a (Barshai's arrangement of Quartet No 8). The concerts take place in Edinburgh (24 February), Glasgow (25 February) and Aberdeen (26 February).

Piemontesi joins the SCO Wind Principals at the end of the month for a **Chamber Concert at the Queen's Hall on Sunday 27 February at 2.30pm**. Schumann's challenging *Kriesleriana* Op 16 provides an opportunity for the pianist to display his talent, while the SCO Wind Principals perform Rasmussen's earthy Wind Quartet in F. Beethoven's dynamic Quintet in E-flat Op 16 for winds and piano closes the Romantic concert.

Edinburgh: £9-£27 (concessions available)

Queen's Hall Box Office, tel 0131 668 2019
www.thequeenshall.net

Usher Hall Box Office, tel 0131 228 1155 www.usherhall.co.uk

Edinburgh (CL@SIX and Chamber Concert): £12 (concessions available)

Queen's Hall Box Office, tel 0131 668 2019
www.thequeenshall.net

Edinburgh (Voice of a City): £10 (concessions available)

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✘ More details on booking tickets from [The SCO website](#).