

Next Event – Anna Michels

Sunday 2nd March 2025 @3:00pm, Gibson Hall, Dollar FK14 7DU

In a change to the original published programme, Jia Ning Ng is indisposed for family reasons and Anna Michels has kindly agreed to perform in her place.

Multiple prize-winning Scottish-Dutch pianist Anna Michels performs internationally as a soloist, with orchestras and in chamber groups (including the Lark Piano Trio and Live Music Now Scotland). She is active in unearthing hidden treasures of the classical repertoire, alongside more established works. In particular Scottish composer Ronald Center.

As well as music performance, Anna also delivers lecture tours, founded the 'Ad Libitum Collective' exploring free improvisation and dance, and teaches at St Mary's Music school in Edinburgh.

Anna will play a dedicated solo piano programme for us.

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Asaka Quartet

Saturday 22nd February 2025, 7:30pm
Gibson Hall, Dollar Academy FK14 7DU



Pre-concert supporting performance, from 7:15pm.

Asaka Quartet

The prize-winning Asaka Quartet formed in 2021 at the Royal Academy of Music in London. They hold or held several fellowships (Open Academy/Wigmore Hall, Royal Academy, Quartet in Residence at Oxfords Wolfson College). Hailing from China, Hong Kong and Scotland, each member brings a distinct identity. They pride themselves on communicating their enjoyment of making music together and sharing this with their audiences, with a keen interest in music by under-represented composers.

They come to Dollar as Tunnell Trust prizewinners. Also 1st prize winners in the Wolfe Wolfensohn Quartet Competition at the Royal Academy of Music.

As close friends, growing up on opposite sides of the world to the most contrasting of cultures, they have a keen interest in learning and experiencing new things, which lead them to enjoy discovering and sharing under-represented music. Through presenting creative and innovative programmes, they invite their audiences to discover new repertoire from a fresh and exciting perspective.

Iona McDonald (violin) graduated from the Royal Academy of Music in London. Born in Dumfries, and with her early education in Moffat, is also a keen orchestral player and has been a member of the Gustav Mahler Jugendorchester since 2019. She has been a member of the National Youth Orchestra of Scotland ensembles since the age of 8. In 2022 she was invited back as a soloist to perform Bruch Violin Concerto no.1. Passionate about music education, Iona has been working with the Benedetti Foundation since 2020 and is currently Senior Lead Ambassador.

Eriol Guo Yu (violin) gained a Masters degree from Royal Academy of Music London. She is a passionate baroque violinist, as well as playing with various orchestras across Europe and Asia.

Jonathan Ho Man Fong (cello) is currently a Chamber Music Fellow at Royal Academy of Music, where he also gained a Masters with Distinction in cello performance. His undergraduate study was in his home Hong Kong, at Baptist University. As winner of the Eastern Music Festival Concerto Competition in 2019, he is very passionate in performance and combines various chamber groups with orchestral work.

Miguel Sobrinho (viola), praised for “*full sonority, tasteful musicality and virtuosity*” recently joined the Asakas, having previously played with the Piatti Quartet. He has a diverse portfolio of chamber music interests, as well as being a keen chess player.

<https://www.asakaquartet.com/>

Programme

Faroese Traditional song
arr. Danish String Quartet

Regin Smidur

Turlough O'Carolan
arr. Danish String Quartet

Captian O'Kane

Mendelssohn

String Quartet no.2 in A minor Op 13

1. Adagio (A major) – Allegro Vivace (A minor)
2. Adagio non Lento (F major)
3. Intermezzo: Allegretto con moto (A minor) – Allegro di molto (A major)
4. Presto (A minor) – Adagio non lento (A major)

Composed in 1827, aged 18, this was his first mature string quartet. One of his most passionate works, it is an early and notable example of ‘cyclic form’. Beethoven had just died, and his late quartets were a strong influence for Mendelssohn, despite being viewed with disfavour by many at the time.

Interval

Zhou Long

Chinese Folk Songs:

- No.1 - Lan Hua Hua
- No.2 - Driving the Mule Team
- No.4 - Jasmine Flower
- No.5 - A Horseherd's Mountain Song
- No.7 - A Single Bamboo Can Easily Bend

Shostakovich

String Quartet no.3 F major Op 73

Composed in 1946, in his summer home near St Petersburg, Shostakovich named the movements in the manner of a war story, possibly to avoid accusations of ‘elitism’ or ‘formalism’ by the Soviet authorities.

1. Allegretto (Blithe ignorance of the future cataclysm)
2. Moderato con moto (Rumblings of unrest and anticipation)
3. Allegro non troppo (Forces of war unleashed)
4. Adagio attacca (In memory of the dead)
5. Moderato (The eternal question: why? and for what?)