Edinburgh University

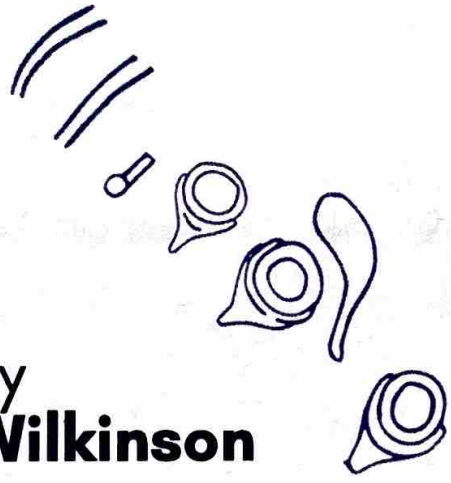
EUCO 40th Anniversary

Spring concert

Tuesday 19th March 2024

Reid Concert Hall

7.30pm

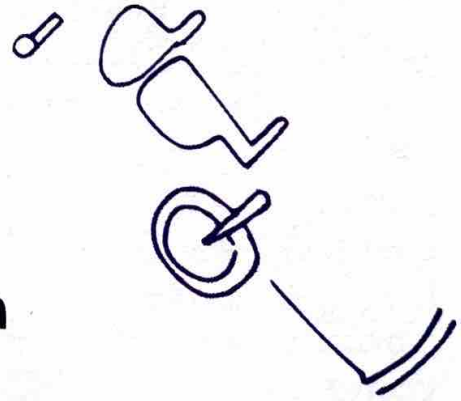




Led by
Eva Wilkinson

Conducted by
Will Conway

Featuring soloist
Serenna MacLellan



Chamber Orchestra

Welcome!

Hello and welcome to our second concert in our 40th Anniversary Year. Tonight, we will be performing an exciting repotoire, of Die schöne Melusine, Beethoven 8, and, of course, with our concerto competition winner, Serenna MacLellan, the Ibert Flute Concerto. Hopefully this broad array of music has something for everyone, with my personal favourite bit being the cello and horn section in the Beethoven, which I have played for years as part of an orchestral excerpt for auditions, and now am getting an opportunity to perform with real horns, which is very exciting!

Alex Frost
EUCO President 2022-24

Programme

Mendelssohn

Overture to Die Schöne Melusine

Ibert

Flute concerto
Soloist: Serenna MacLellan

Beethoven

Symphony 8

EUCO 2024

Conductor

Will Conway



Will Conway is a distinguished Glasgow-born conductor and cellist, celebrated for his leadership of the Hebrides Ensemble and his innovative contributions to contemporary music. With a career highlighted by collaborations with major orchestras and composers, Conway has made significant impacts both as a performer and educator. His work encompasses a broad repertoire, from principal positions with prominent orchestras to conducting roles worldwide, and teaching at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. Conway's recordings, particularly of contemporary music, have received critical acclaim and high chart rankings, underscoring his influence in the classical music world.

Alex Frost



This concert is my final as President of EUCO and I look forward to passing the organisational baton to Marzia Golini and the rest of the new committee for next year. Running the orchestra for the past two years has been a great experience and I have thoroughly enjoyed the experiences I have had and the friends I have made along the way. I hope that you enjoy the concert!

EUCO President

Serenna MacLellan



Soloist

Serenna MacLellan is a flautist and third year music student at the University of Edinburgh, where she studies flute with Sarah Newbold and baroque flute with Georgia Browne, alongside teaching music part-time. She achieved the Tovey Memorial Prize and The Sir Thomas Beecham Scholarship for Instrumentalists in 2022/23, for her high level of solo performance and won the Woodwind Recital Class at the Edinburgh Music Competition Festival in 2023. She is involved in solo and orchestral performance, as well as community music projects and is passionate about the role of music in society. As a sought-after flautist, Serenna currently plays as part of many orchestras and ensembles, including being principle for Edinburgh City Orchestra and flautist in the 'Gals trio', for flute and two violins.

Mendelssohn

Overture to Die Schöne Melusine

Felix Mendelssohn's "Die schöne Melusine" is a captivating overture that transports listeners into the world of the mythical water nymph, Melusine. Completed in 1833, the piece masterfully combines Romanticism with classical precision. Opening with a serene introduction, the music paints a vivid picture of Melusine's tranquil aquatic realm. As the piece progresses, Mendelssohn's orchestration dazzles with lush strings, shimmering winds, and majestic brass. Moments of tranquility give way to passages of drama, reflecting the ebb and flow of Melusine's story. The

overture reaches a triumphant climax, capturing the essence of Melusine's enchanting transformation. With its timeless beauty and captivating storytelling, "Die schöne Melusine" remains a beloved gem in the orchestral repertoire, inviting listeners on a mesmerizing journey through the realms of fantasy and imagination.

written by **Alex Frost**
EUCO President 2022-24

Ibert Flute Concerto

French composer, Jacques Ibert (1890-1962) composed music unlimited to one musical fashion or genre of the time, writing a mix of operas, ballets, films scores, orchestral, chamber and solo works. His work idiomatically demonstrates extreme contrasts in emotion, colour, and harmony, pushing boundaries by claiming all compositional systems to be 'valid', and developing a 'concise and sharply etched style marked by clarity of form and sureness of balance,' which is carried across the variety of genres he explored.

Written in 1932, The Ibert Flute Concerto was premiered in Paris, 1934, and dedicated to Marcel Moyes, an influential French flautist and teacher at the Paris Conservatoire of the time. Comprising of 3 movements, this concerto follows a typical classical structure of fast, slow, fast, but makes use of experimental harmony and rhythm within the densely textured orchestration and intricate themes. The first movement is characterised by driving and rhythmic patterns, followed by an evocative, haunting slow movement, concluding with a playful, flourishing finale, described by a commentator as 'a blast of fireworks suspended in mid-air', collectively showcasing both the virtuoso and lyrical capabilities of the flute.

written by **Serenna MacLellan**
EUCO concerto soloist 2024

Beethoven
Symphony 8

Beethoven fondly referred to the Symphony No. 8 in F major, Op. 93 as "my little Symphony in F" (to distinguish it from his Sixth Symphony, also in F). It was written in only four months between 1811 and 1812. Beethoven was growing increasingly deaf at the time of its premiere in Vienna in 1814, but nevertheless insisted on conducting. Reportedly, "the orchestra largely ignored his ungainly gestures and followed the principal violinist instead."

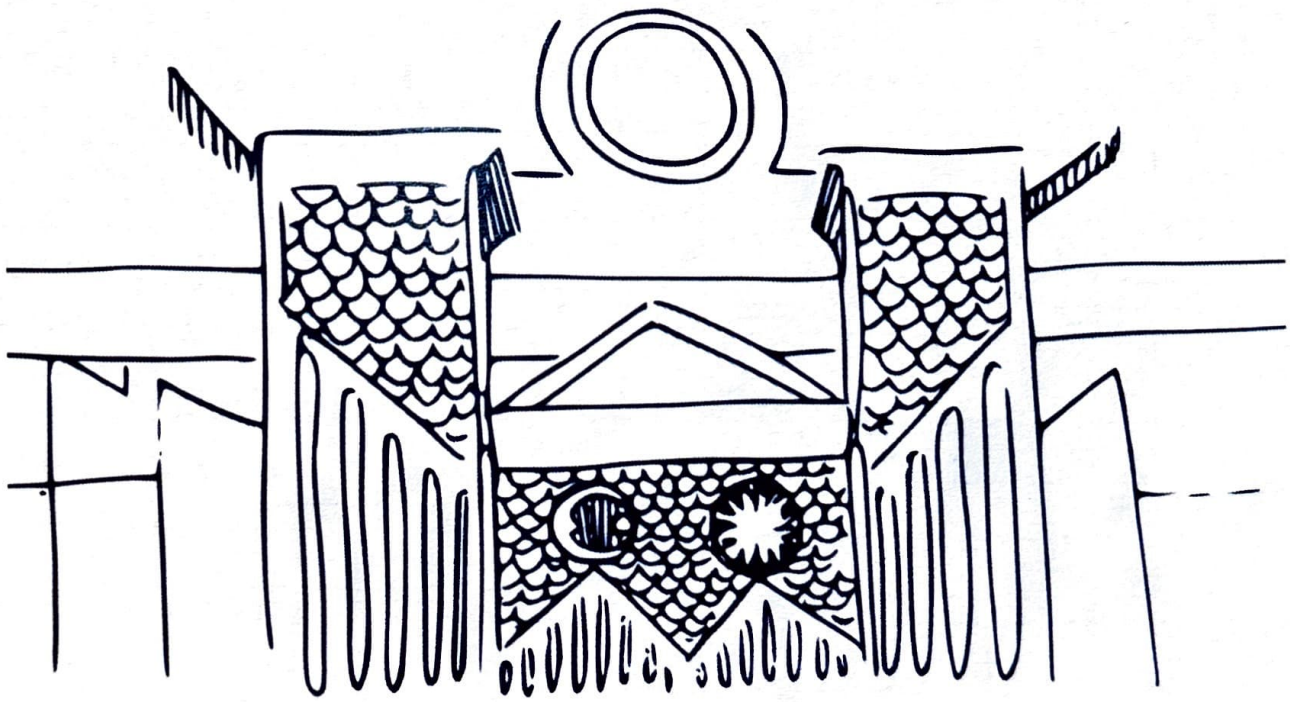
The Symphony is composed of 4 movements:
1. Allegro vivace e con brio (F major) - written in sonata form (three main sections: an exposition, a development, and a recapitulation), including a fairly substantial ending (coda);
2. Allegretto scherzando (B ♭ major) - a more lighthearted movement with the widespread belief of it being an affectionate parody of the metronome, which had only recently been invented by Beethoven's friend, Johann Maelzel;
3. Tempo di menuetto (F major) - written in ternary form (three-part musical form consisting of an opening section A, a following section B - trio, and then a repetition of the first section A). This trio section contains prized solos for horns and clarinet;
4. Allegro vivace (F major) - in sonata rondo form (sonata form with the repeated use of a theme) with a fast tempo (the metronome marking was supplied by Beethoven himself as whole note = 84 - very fast!) and a very elaborate coda.

written by **Marzia Golini**
EUCO Librarian 2023-24

Upcoming events

ESO Semele
March 24-27

EUMS Summer Concert
May 18



EUCO 2024

Violin I

Eva Wilkinson*
Anna Morris
Ruth Ou
Kong Sing Chun Herbert
Alessandra Douglas
Daniel Markhoff
Marzia Golini

Violin II

Rota Shima*
Ella Allen
Jack Mateus
Joshua Hew
Srishti Ramakrishnan
Sissi Chen
Roberto Seminara
Ainslie Rönsdorf
Lalit Mistry
Pelayo Tejuca-Calle

Viola

Saleem El-Hady*
Kevin Lo
Audrey Renner

Cello

Anna Maclean*
Matilda Sills
Alex Frost
Louisa Stiles
Michelle Campbell

Double Bass

Jake Mikulin*
Dickon Fell

Flute

Lucia Buric
Lauren Mooney

Oboe

Caterina Lue
Runda Matough

Clarinet

Katie Rawson
Deeksha Veiraiah

Bassoon

Rainer Thönnes
Bethany Gunton

Trumpet

Gavin Lee
Heather Asplet

French Horn

Arjun Nanning Ramamurthy
Sasha Del Mar

Percussion

Morgan Brougham

*denotes section leader

Programme art
by Caterina Lue