

THE CUMNOCK TRYST

A meeting place for music

29 September –
2 October 2016

thecumnocktryst.com



Shortlisted for Royal Philharmonic Society Music Award 2015

The
Cumnock Tryst 

Welcome

The Cumnock Tryst is three years old and we are delighted to bring another festival of great music to Ayrshire.

Our Patron Nicola Benedetti is back! This time she performs with her trio in what is likely to be a sell-out concert in Trinity Church on Friday night. We are also excited that the great bass-baritone Sir Willard White will join our new Festival Chorus, NYOS Camerata, the RSNO Junior Chorus and Genesis Sixteen in music of Copland and McDowall in our new venue, Auchinleck Parish Church on Saturday. This concert, and the Genesis Sixteen concert immediately following, will be conducted by Eamonn Dougan, one of the great British choral trainers, who makes his third appearance at The Tryst.

Our artists-in-residence this year will be the ensembles Headspace and Pandora's Box, which centre around the amazing trombonist John Kenny. It is hard to describe in words just how innovative and inspirational this music is, so people will have to come along and hear it for themselves!

Young people from local primary and secondary schools (as well as the Riverside Centre) will be involved again as performers and creators. One project, led by our partners, Drake Music Scotland, will culminate in a narrative composition and performance on the Friday afternoon, telling the story of Cumnock's Bell Tree.

There will also be some wonderful late evening events at our Festival Club in the Dumfries Arms Hotel, involving jazz, folk and music-theatre, and local performers CAMPS are back.

The icing on the cake is, once again, our promenade chamber recitals at Dumfries House where we will hear music, ancient and modern, on instruments that we don't often encounter. John Kenny will play his carnyx, an ancient Celtic instrument from the time of Christ, and Scott Lygate will perform on contrabass clarinet. Scott is a brilliant player, as well as being a fine young composer, coming originally from Irvine. We have commissioned him to write a brand new work for this Festival, *The Barony A Frame*.

Come and join us in Cumnock, a meeting place for those who love music.

Sir James MacMillan CBE Founder and Artistic Director

I have watched James MacMillan's Cumnock Tryst grow into something magical in the three short years of its existence. I am honoured to be part of this extraordinary achievement, where first class performances combine with genuine community engagement to produce this rare and wonderful festival. It is a delight to return to perform in 2016.

Nicola Benedetti MBE Patron

Festival Diary

Book tickets

Tel: **01563 554 900**

Box office: **Cumnock Town Hall, 62 Glaisnock Street / Palace Theatre, Kilmarnock**
Open Mon – Sat, 10am – 5pm

Online: **www.thecumnocktryst.com**
(transactions are subject to Box Office booking fees)



Thursday 29 September

7.30pm Cumnock Town Hall
9.30pm Dumfries Arms Hotel

The Barony A Frame
Festival Club – CAMPS

Friday 30 September

12.30pm Cumnock Academy
5.00pm Dumfries Arms Hotel
7.30pm Trinity Church
9.30pm Dumfries Arms Hotel

The Bell Tree
The Cumnock Hour
Benedetti Elschenbroich Grynyuk Trio
Festival Club – Causeway Trio

Saturday 1 October

2.00pm Old Church
4.30pm Auchinleck Parish Church

7.30pm St John's Church
9.30pm Dumfries Arms Hotel

RCS New Music Ensemble
Festival Chorus with Sir Willard White, Genesis
Sixteen, NYOS and RSNO Junior Chorus
Genesis Sixteen with Eamonn Dougan
Jackie Oates

Sunday 2 October

11.00am Old Church
2.30pm, Dumfries House
5.00pm &
7.30pm

Festival Service
Festival Finale Promenade Concert

Under 26s and local residents * can get a discount on tickets for most concerts – please see individual listings and Ticket information for details. Proof of entitlement will be required.

*Local residents from Cumnock and Doon Valley – Cumnock, New Cumnock, Auchinleck, Bellsbank, Catrine, Coyton, Dalmellington, Dalrymple, Dronagan, Hollybush, Logan, Lugar, Mauchline, Muirkirk, Ochiltree, Patna, Rankinston, Smallburn, Sorn, Tarbolton and Waterside with the following postcodes: KA5 5... / KA5 6... / KA6 6... / KA6 7... / KA18 1... / KA18 2... / KA18 3... / KA18 4...

The Festival's name, The Cumnock Tryst, was inspired by a piece of music James MacMillan wrote in the 1980s when he was still living in Ayrshire. This was a setting of William Soutar's love poem, The Tryst. Tryst is an old Scots word which means a meeting place, or a romantic rendezvous. The town of Cumnock itself ties into this sense of coming together as its Gaelic name, comunn achadh, means place of the confluence, as the town sits where the Glaisnock River and the Lugar Water meet. For four packed days and nights The Cumnock Tryst is a meeting place for music-lovers.

Ticket Information

Book now online at www.thecumnocktryst.com call **01563 554 900** or in person at **Cumnock Town Hall** or the **Palace Theatre, Kilmarnock**.

Booking periods

1 - 12 June	Patrons (max 4 tickets per concert) and Festival Pass Buyers
13 - 22 June	Friends (max 4 tickets per concert)
23 June	General public booking opens

The Box Office is open Tuesday - Saturday, 10am - 4.30pm, with longer hours on performance evenings; Cumnock Town Hall is sometimes closed on Saturdays. Online booking is available at all times. Most major credit and debit cards accepted, no cheques. There is a £1.50 charge per transaction on all card payments. Full terms and conditions are available at the Box Office and online.

Any remaining tickets will be available on the door at the venue, 45 minutes before each event. Cash only sales at venues. Seating is unreserved for all concerts; for the Trio concert there will be two ticket bands, and seating is unreserved within the bands. Doors open 30 minutes before each event. The Box Office will operate an advance waiting list for sold out concerts.

Festival Pass – Priority Booking and a 20% discount

The Festival Pass includes priority booking before Friends and General Booking opens, a 20% discount on tickets and a premium Band A seat for the Benedetti Elschenbroich Grynyuk concert. A Festival Pass costs £112, (afternoon Festival Finale Concert), or £132 (evening Festival Finale Concert) and includes a ticket for all paid for Festival events.

Accessibility

All venues are accessible with level or ramped entrances, except Dumfries House, which has a chair lift and assistance to carry a wheelchair separately up the stairs. There are accessible toilets in all venues except Auchinleck Parish Church. Please inform the Box Office at the time of booking if you require space for a wheelchair or have other accessibility requirements. There is blue badge parking at all venues except Cumnock Old Church and Trinity Church, which have parking nearby. Due to the nature and experience of the Festival Finale Concerts at Dumfries House, the audience will stand during part of the concert, however seating can be provided if necessary. Please inform the Box Office at the time of booking if any member of your party requires a seat, which will be placed at the sides of the performing space and may result in a limited view. For more venue details please check thecumnocktryst.com

For full terms and conditions of sale, please visit thecumnocktryst.com

Support us

There are a number of ways to support The Cumnock Tryst and ensure that the Festival continues to be a meeting place for music lovers.



Festival Friends and Patrons

You can support The Cumnock Tryst from only £20. Joining us as a Friend or Patron gives you access to a range of benefits, including priority booking and exclusive event invitations. Find out more at thecumnocktryst.com or email friends@thecumnocktryst.com

Volunteer

We are delighted to have the support of a wonderful team of volunteers, who are an essential part of the Festival, helping us before and during the Festival weekend. We aim to offer a rewarding and fun experience and there's a range of tasks and hours. If you're interested, please contact us at info@thecumnocktryst.com

Festival Chorus

Following the successful inaugural Festival Chorus concert in 2015, we are recruiting singers to take part this year. The Chorus will spend three days rehearsing during the summer, leading to a Festival performance. If you're interested in taking part or finding out more, please go to thecumnocktryst.com/festival-chorus

Info

For more information about travel, car parking, accommodation, eating and drinking and other things to do in the area, please visit thecumnocktryst.com

Getting here

Cumnock is in East Ayrshire, situated approximately 40 miles south of Glasgow, 40 miles north of Dumfries, 15 miles east of Ayr.

Bus / Stagecoach services 42, 43, 46, 246 and X76 serve Cumnock from Ayr, Kilmarnock, Dumfries and Glasgow – please see www.stagecoachbus.com for details.

Train / There are two train stations nearby, Auchinleck Station and New Cumnock Station. They connect to many lines in Scotland with a direct line from Glasgow Central via Barrhead and Kilmarnock. From Carlisle, the train stops at Gretna Green, Annan, Dumfries, Sanquhar and Kirkconnel. Please see www.scotrail.co.uk for details.

Taxi / You can book a taxi in advance with Cumnock Taxis: **01290 423 440** or Glaisnock Taxis: **01290 423 669**.

Car / There is ample free parking in Cumnock and Auchinleck and car parks are signposted; however parking at each venue is limited, and there is no parking at Cumnock Old Church or Trinity Church, so you may have to park nearby and walk. Please leave plenty of time as concerts will start at the advertised time and latecomers may not be admitted until a suitable break.

Approximate driving times

From Glasgow 50 minutes

From Dumfries 1 hour 20 minutes

From Perth 1 hour 40 minutes

From Edinburgh 1 hour 50 minutes

From Dundee 2 hours 10 minutes

From Carlisle 1 hour 40 minutes

Accommodation

There is a range of accommodation in the local area, including The Dumfries Arms Hotel, Dumfries House Lodge, The Railway Hotel, Lochside House Hotel, Royal Hotel, The Fairburn, Mauchline and several B&Bs.

Eating and Drinking

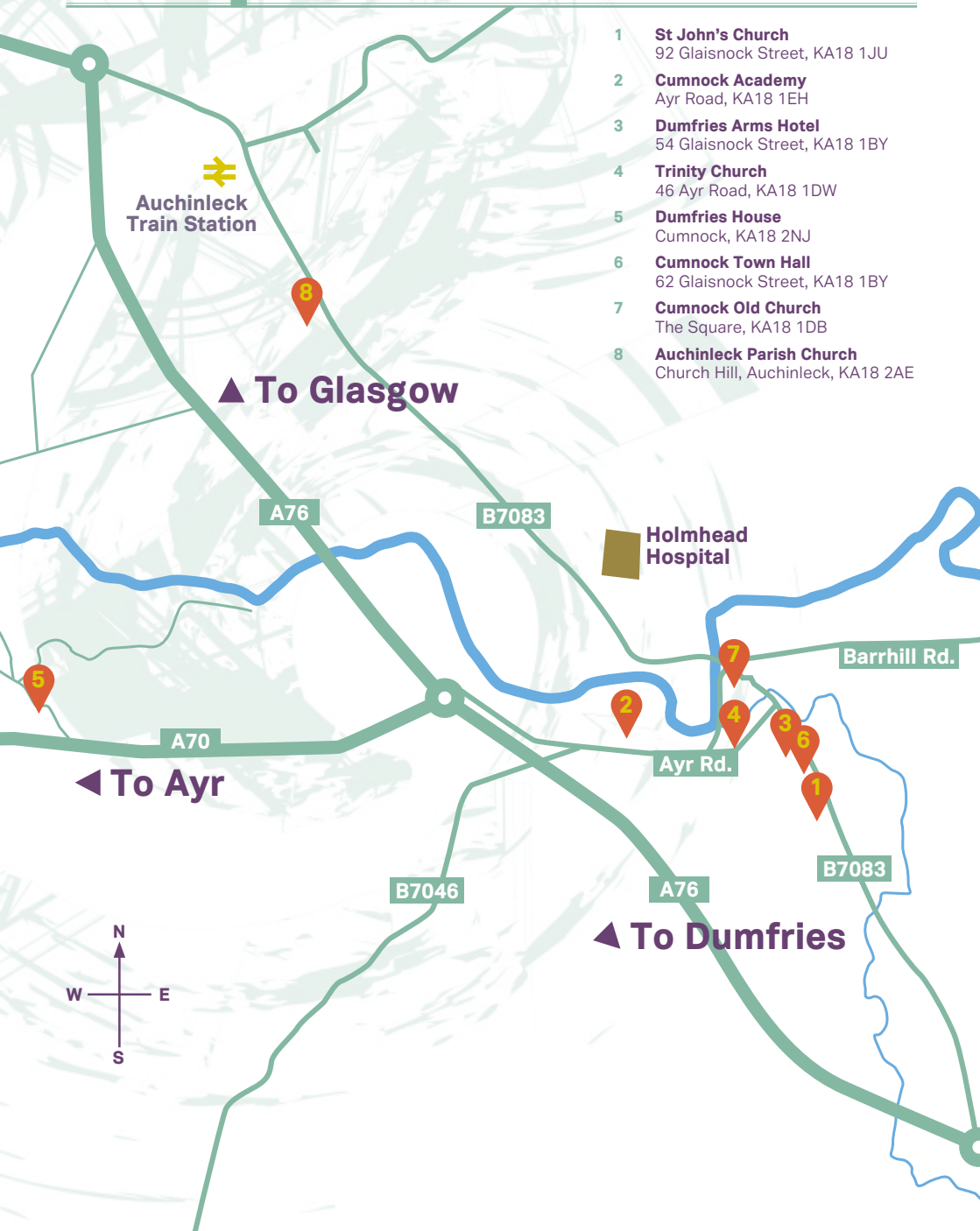
The Festival Club, the Dumfries Arms Hotel, is open seven days a week, with extended food service during the festival and special menus for festival-goers, including pre- and post-concert meals and Sunday lunch. We advise booking a table in advance by contacting **01290 429230** or reception@dumfriesarms.co.uk

Map

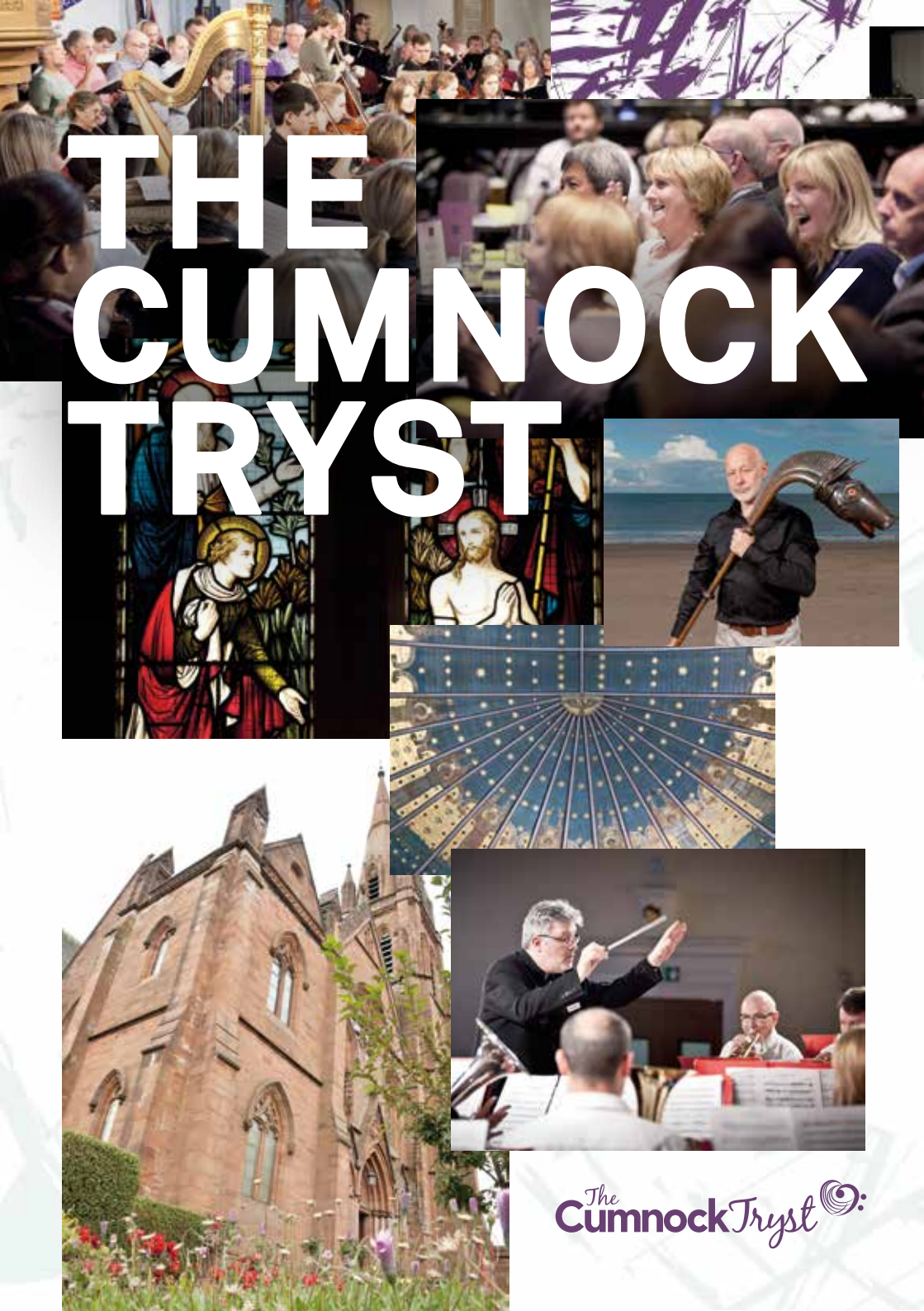


Venue Key

- 1 St John's Church**
92 Glaisnock Street, KA18 1JU
- 2 Cumnock Academy**
Ayr Road, KA18 1EH
- 3 Dumfries Arms Hotel**
54 Glaisnock Street, KA18 1BY
- 4 Trinity Church**
46 Ayr Road, KA18 1DW
- 5 Dumfries House**
Cumnock, KA18 2NJ
- 6 Cumnock Town Hall**
62 Glaisnock Street, KA18 1BY
- 7 Cumnock Old Church**
The Square, KA18 1DB
- 8 Auchinleck Parish Church**
Church Hill, Auchinleck, KA18 2AE



THE CUMNOCK TRYST



The
Cumnock Tryst 



The Barony A Frame

Thursday 29 September / 7.30pm

£16 (£10) / OFFER: BOOK BY 31 AUGUST AND GET HALF PRICE TICKETS £8 (£5)

Approx running time 1 hour 45 minutes, including interval

Venue 6 (see map) Cumnock Town Hall, 62 Glaisnock Street, KA18 1BY

Headspace and Pandora's Box

Benjamin Britten	Fanfare for St. Edmundsbury - Realisation for three trombones
Anon	Alle Psallite
Scott Lygate	The Barony A Frame <i>Festival Commission, World Premiere</i>
John Kenny	Headspace
Torbjörn Hultmark	A Fairytale
Scott Lygate	The Barony A Frame (second performance)
John Kenny	Salt Road - UK Premiere in Cumnock

Our artists in residence this year are the ensembles Headspace and Pandora's Box, both centring around the amazing trombonist John Kenny. With six performers and live electronics the musicians present a mixture of new and old, ranging from the 13th century to the present day. This year's Cumnock Tryst commission is for a brand new piece from the young multi-talented composer/instrumentalist Scott Lygate who originally comes from Irvine.

Scott has based his new piece on The Barony A Frame, which is a monumental structure from our mining past, situated between Auchinleck and Ochiltree. He visited the site and took sound recordings of the frame, which he struck percussively. He has incorporated these incredible sounds into his music, treating them in a special way and integrating them into the ensemble.

Performed twice in this concert, the new work promises to be a powerful sonic exploration of our coal mining culture, which will resonate with locals and visitors alike.

John Kenny is the lynchpin here in these two wonderful ensembles - Pandora's Box, a quartet of virtuoso trombonists, and Headspace, which mixes brass with electronics. A special computer-based instrument has been created for Clarence Adoo, a trumpeter who was paralysed in a road accident. He plays alongside his colleagues again in this amazing collection of experiment and tradition.

Sir James MacMillan

The Bell Tree

Friday 30 September / 12.30pm

FREE - tickets on the door 30 minutes before start /

Approx running time 1 hour 15 minutes, no interval

🏠 **Venue 2** (see map) Cumnock Academy, Ayr Road, KA18 1EH

Drake Music Scotland, Headspace, Riverside Centre, Hillside School and Cumnock Academy with storyteller Marion Kenny

We welcome back Drake Music Scotland as our partners for a second time. Their project last year culminated in a powerful and moving performance of music specially invented by the children of Hillside School and Barshare Primary School. This year they are joined by adults from the Riverside Centre and young musicians from Cumnock Academy. Combined with our artists-in-residence, Headspace, and under the direction of the storyteller Marion Kenny, we explore the mysterious tale of Cumnock's own 'Bell Tree'.

Join us at Cumnock Academy for an astonishing performance. John Kenny's Headspace is back, featuring Clarence Adoo on a new instrument, Hi-Note, specially made for him since his paralysis in a car crash. Chris Wheeler provides sound projection.

Sir James MacMillan

The Cumnock Hour – Composers' Forum

Friday 30 September / 5pm

🎟 £5 / Approx running time 1 hour, no interval

🏠 **Venue 3** (see map) Dumfries Arms Hotel, 54 Glaisnock Street, KA18 1BY

Join us for our annual lively early evening panel discussion. The Guardian music critic and BBC presenter Tom Service will lead a conversation with Sir James MacMillan and composers taking part in this year's Cumnock Tryst – Scott Lygate, Cecilia McDowall and a young composer from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. This promises to be a fascinating session when composers get together and chat about what inspires them and what they think about writing music in the 21st century.

What do composers think about today? Why does their music sound so different, from each other's music and from earlier music? What inspires them? Come armed with the questions you have always wanted to ask composers!

Sir James MacMillan

Benedetti Elschenbroich Grynyuk Trio

Supported by MacRoberts LLP

Friday 30 September / 7.30pm

🎫 Band A (front row seats) £40 (£30), Band B £27 (£17)

Seating is unreserved within each Band / Band A ticket is included in a Festival Pass

Approx running time 2 hours including interval

🏠 **Venue 4** (see map) Trinity Church, 46 Ayr Road, KA18 1DW

Nicola Benedetti, Leonard Elschenbroich, Alexei Grynyuk

<i>Ravel</i>	Trio for piano, violin and cello in A minor
<i>Turnage</i>	Duo for cello and violin
<i>Brahms</i>	Piano Trio no 1 in B major, Op. 8

The Patron of The Cumnock Tryst Nicola Benedetti is back! This time she appears with her trio partners Leonard Elschenbroich, cello and Alexei Grynyuk, piano. In the beautiful and intimate setting of Trinity Church we will hear them in the ravishing Trio for piano, violin and cello in A minor by Ravel, one of Brahms' great early chamber works - his Op 8 Trio, and a fascinating new work by the brilliant Mark Anthony Turnage. This will be an exciting event for Cumnock as Scotland's great violinist comes home to Ayrshire!

When Nicola Benedetti won the BBC Young Musician of the Year over a decade ago, Scotland was rightly proud. She grew up in West Kilbride and has family links with East Ayrshire too. She has gone on to a stellar international career, but she has never forgotten her roots. In this concert, with her esteemed colleagues, we hear her as a brilliant chamber musician.

Sir James MacMillan

RCS New Music Ensemble

Saturday 1 October / 2pm

🎫 £10 (£7) / OFFER: HALF PRICE WHEN BOUGHT WITH A TICKET FOR ANY OTHER

SATURDAY CONCERT / Approx running time 1 hour 30 minutes, no interval

🏠 **Venue 7** (see map) Cumnock Old Church, The Square, KA18 1DB

MusicLab

We welcome musicians from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland for this afternoon concert. The RCS has built up an impressive composition department over recent years under the direction of Gordon McPherson, Ayrshire-based composer Rory Boyle and others. In conjunction with them we have organised a special composition course for six students. The results of this will be on display at this short concert, performed by MusicLab, the contemporary music ensemble of the RCS. Come and have a glimpse at the future of Scottish classical music!

The RCS (formerly the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama) is the national conservatoire of the performing arts, and has an enviable international reputation. I was a junior student way back in the 1970s and now have an honorary professorial role. Composers thrive there and it will be exciting to hear what their most gifted are writing.

Sir James MacMillan

Festival Chorus with Sir Willard White

Supported by the Genesis Foundation

Saturday 1 October / 4.30pm

£18 (£11), Family offer, under 16s £6 / Approx running time 1 hour, no interval

Venue 8 (see map) Auchinleck Parish Church, Church Hill, Auchinleck, KA18 2AE

Sir Willard White, Genesis Sixteen, NYOS and RSNO Junior Chorus

Conducted by Eamonn Dougan and Sir James MacMillan, with Christopher Bell

Copland American Songs (Book One)

Cecilia McDowall Stabat Mater *Scottish Premiere*

A wealth of musical riches is planned for our newest Tryst venue, Auchinleck Parish Church, also known as Barony Church. We welcome the great Sir Willard White to the Festival; he will sing in the Scottish premiere of Cecilia McDowall's Stabat Mater, alongside our new Festival Chorus, Genesis Sixteen, the National Youth Orchestra of Scotland Camerata and the RSNO Junior Chorus, conducted by Eamonn Dougan, assisted by Christopher Bell and Andrew MacTaggart. Sir James MacMillan will also direct Copland's American Songs with Sir Willard.

The world's great performers continue to come to Cumnock, or in this case, Auchinleck! Sir Willard White will enchant our audience with his deep and velvety voice in music by American and Scottish composers. We also give a platform for some of the country's most wonderful young performers, north and south of the border, all alongside the new Festival Chorus of The Cumnock Tryst. The brilliant Eamonn Dougan makes a welcome return.

Sir James MacMillan

Genesis Sixteen with Eamonn Dougan

Supported by the Genesis Foundation

Saturday 1 October / 7.30pm

£16 (£10) / Approx running time 1 hour 45 minutes, no interval

Venue 1 (see map) St John's Church, 92 Glaisnock Street, KA18 1JU

Genesis Sixteen is the training academy for The Sixteen, one of the world's great choirs. Some of them joined us last year for the launch concert of the new Festival Chorus. Now they are back in full strength to offer a characteristic programme on their own of Renaissance polyphony and British 20th and 21st century composers, including Rebelo, Mouton, Bertolusi, Melgas, and 20th and 21st century British repertoire, including works by Britten, Finzi, Warlock, Leighton and MacMillan.

Their conductor Eamonn Dougan, one of the best in the land, has become a great friend of The Tryst and has helped establish our new chorus. In this Genesis programme we will get a glimpse into the future of British choral singing, admired all around the world for its clarity, purity and beauty.

The first ever Cumnock Tryst concert in 2014 was given by The Sixteen in St John's, indicating the central importance of choral music to the Festival. This year The Sixteen's youngsters are back with an idiomatic programme of old and new. The Genesis Foundation is instrumental in the ongoing development of the British choral tradition, and The Tryst is delighted to be part of their plans.

Sir James MacMillan

Jackie Oates

Saturday 1 October / 9.30pm

£10 (£6) / Approx running time 1 hour

Venue 3 (see map) Dumfries Arms Hotel, 54 Glaisnock Street, KA18 1BY

Since appearing as a finalist in the BBC Radio 2 Young Folk Awards in 2003, Jackie Oates has established herself as a major presence in the folk world, performing all over the country and abroad. Her unique treatment of English ballads and songs, and her pure haunting vocal style has established her at the forefront of the new folk revival. After our success last year with the Whistlebinkies we continue our traditional music strand with Jackie and her band in this late evening concert at the Dumfries Arms Hotel.

Since my young days I have always had a special affection for traditional music. Even the title of this Festival flags up my attempt to write a folk song. The Tryst will always look outwards and present music from different traditions and styles.

Sir James MacMillan

Festival Service

Sunday 2 October / 11am

FREE, all welcome / Approx running time 1 hour

Venue 7 (see map) Cumnock Old Church, The Square, KA18 1DB

After the beautiful and uplifting liturgies at St John's (2014) and Trinity Church (2015), our Festival Service this year takes place in Cumnock Old Church. The Rev John Paterson and his congregation welcome festival-goers to join them in worship, with music provided by our Festival visitors Genesis Sixteen, conducted by the amazing Eamonn Dougan.

The churches have always been an important element in the community life of Cumnock and the surrounding villages. We are in their debt for the wonderful buildings they provide for our events, and for the great support we receive from their congregations. Music and spirituality come together for our Festival morning praise.

Sir James MacMillan



Festival Finale Promenade Concert

Sunday 2 October / 2.30pm, 5pm, 7.30pm

FP £25 (£15) / 2.30pm, 5pm

FP £50 (£40) / 7.30pm, includes post-concert champagne reception

A choice of either of the afternoon concerts or the evening concert is included in a Festival Pass

Approx running time 1 hour 30 minutes, no interval

🏠 **Venue 5** (see map) Dumfries House, Cumnock, KA18 2NJ

The Tapestry Room

Scott Lygate, Contrabass clarinet solo

Julian Anderson Lied Ohne Worte, Scott

Scelsi Maknongan

James MacMillan New Work World Premiere

Scott Lygate Live improvisation

Giorgio Taccanni Golem

The Entrance Hall

John Kenny, Carnyx with young brass players from Auchinleck and Cumnock Concert Band

James MacMillan The Company of Heaven

The Great Steward's Dining Room

Pandora's Box, Trombone trio

"When I do count the clock that tells the time..." music for sackbuts and baroque violin

For our exceptional finale we gather again for three short recitals in three different rooms of the stunning Dumfries House. We offer a very varied selection of music this year, ranging from recent music on Scott Lygate's incredible contrabass clarinet, to John Kenny's astonishing carnyx – a Bronze Age brass instrument played in Scotland at the time of the Romans, to early and contemporary music played on Renaissance instruments by Pandora's Box.

Our chamber music performances at Dumfries House have become very popular. I have written a new short piece for one of the lowest instruments in the orchestra, the contrabass clarinet, and we will be joined by players from the Auchinleck and Cumnock Concert Band who will perform my Company of Heaven with the carnyx maestro John Kenny. His wonderful trombone players bring the 2016 Tryst to a close.

Sir James MacMillan

The Festival Club

All events start around 9.30pm following that evening's main concert and everyone is welcome to attend.

FREE

🏠 **Venue 3** (see map) Dumfries Arms Hotel, 54 Glaisnock Street, KA18 1BY

Everyone is welcome to the Festival Club at the Dumfries Arms Hotel on Thursday and Friday night, whether or not you've been to one of our concerts. It's free to enter and the bar will be open until late. There's supper and snacks available from the special Festival Club menu, so relax and enjoy some great music – you never know who you'll bump into!

Thursday 29 September

CAMPS – Cumnock Area Musical Production Society

Our first Festival Club concert sees the welcome return of CAMPS – Cumnock Area Musical Production Society, a choral and music theatre troupe from the town who regularly perform for the local community.

CAMPS' performance in our first Festival in 2014 impressed our visitors with its energy and vigour. Festival-goers are in for another late evening treat!

Sir James MacMillan

Friday 30 September

Causeway Trio

With Scottish music as a starting point, and linked by a common interest in the whole range of the musical spectrum, Causeway Trio bring a unique take to Scottish traditional music. Through shades of minimalism, jazz, Brazilian and Eastern European music they create a refreshing sound world within the intimate setting of accordion, piano and guitar which is at once very new and very familiar, and was described by Alexander McCall Smith as a "burst of swelling, joyful music".

I first met these three young extraordinary musicians when they were pupils at St Mary's Music School in Edinburgh. They formed this amazing trio there and they continue now as students at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London. This is fusion music at its most exciting and innovative.

Sir James MacMillan

Thanks to our funders and supporters

Howard and Roberta Ahmanson

The Fidelio Trust



Our Festival Patrons and Friends



Photo credits

Hugh Beauchamp
Malcolm Crowthers
Elly Lucas
Robin Mitchell
Ian Watson
Simon Fowler
Jane Lawrence
Benjamin Harte

Design by Fourtentyseven

The Cumnock Tryst is a Scottish Registered Charity No SC044068 and a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation

thecumnocktryst.com

Tel: 07788 618 652

The Cumnock Tryst