



Berwick Music Series

The Art of the String Quartet

August – November 2019





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Welcome

I am delighted to welcome you to the **Berwick Music Series**.

This is a new and unique programme of musical events, which includes concerts, lectures, a workshop and the chance for local musicians to play alongside world-famous international performers. The *Berwick Music Series 2019* is called *The Art of the String Quartet* and I am delighted that, under Mike Worboys' direction, we have put together a very strong programme with absolutely top-class performers, and one which provides a special opportunity for Berwick musicians.

This series is a new development for BEA on several fronts: Firstly, this is the first time we have organised live musical performances, and we are very grateful to Kate Stephenson for making the wonderful Watchtower available for our concerts, and to Canon Dennis Handley for allowing us the use of Berwick Parish Church.

Secondly, this is the first time that BEA has collaborated with Berwick's

schools, and this has been made possible by support from the Sir James Knott Trust and considerable help from the staff at the Music Department in those schools.

Thirdly, the research workshop will be the first of its kind in Berwick, and we thank the University of Greenwich for their support.

Finally, *Berwick Music Series 2019* involves a commitment of resources that would not have been feasible for BEA on its own. The BMS Advisory Group has given generously of their time and expertise, and we have received financial (and moral!) support from Berwick Town Council, the Coastal Communities Fund and Northumberland County Council's Cultural Fund, and from our commercial sponsor, Simpsons Malt, a long-standing and generous supporter of Berwick cultural life. We thank them all for their support.

Pam Campion
Chair of Trustees, BEA

BEA
Berwick
Educational
Association

Visitor Information

The primary venue for all our performances is the **Berwick Watchtower Gallery**. Besides having wonderful acoustic properties, the Watchtower Gallery houses a large collection of work by the English abstract artist Ian Stephenson RA.

The Community Concert will take place in the spacious and resonant **Berwick Parish Church**. Lectures and the research workshop take place in the **Berwick Parish Centre**. All venues are within a 20 minute walk of Berwick Rail station.

1 Berwick Watchtower

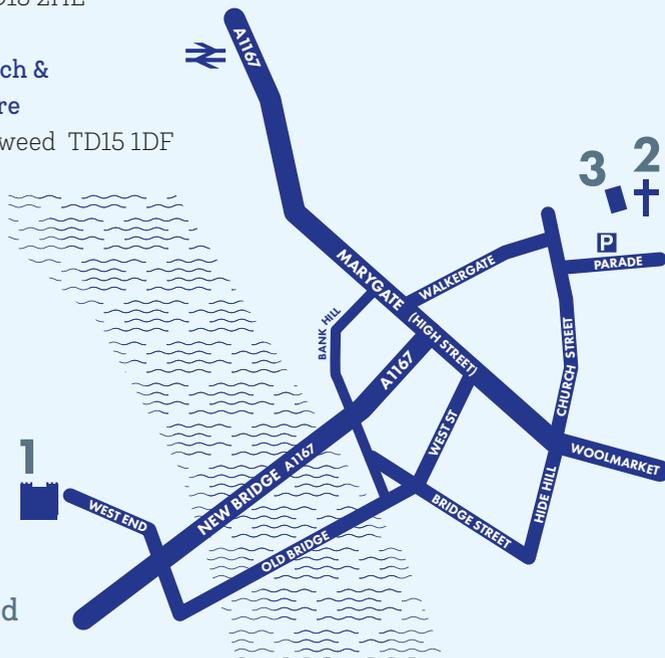
79 West End, Tweedmouth,
Berwick-upon-Tweed TD15 2HE

2 Berwick Parish Church &

3 Berwick Parish Centre

Parade, Berwick-upon-Tweed TD15 1DF

Berwick-upon-Tweed



Tickets

Each event can be booked separately or you can buy a Series Pass, which gives entrance to all eight events.

Lectures and Workshop: £6
Concerts: £10
Community Performance: Free
Series Pass: £36
Patrons Pass: £50

You can book by mail, using the enclosed form, or online at berwickmusic.org. Tickets will also be sold at the door, subject to availability.

Find full details of all events at berwickmusic.org

Introducing the Berwick Music Series 2019

“The most perfect expression of human behaviour is a string quartet.”

So wrote the conductor Jeffrey Tate in the *New Yorker* in 1990. The string quartet provides the perfect mix of individualism and group cooperation. The string quartet repertoire began in the mid-18th century with the works of Haydn and continues to the present day. Almost all major composers have contributed to this repertoire. Many of the most renowned musical ensembles have been string quartet ensembles.

We are very happy to be celebrating the string quartet – both in its form and its players – in a series of outstanding events. At the core we have pleasure to announce three concerts, each performed by an ensemble of international stature. Supporting these performances will be three lectures that introduce this art form to a general audience, covering general background, history, context and cultural significance, as well as taking a closer look at some key string quartets, including those to be performed in the concerts. There will also be a multi-disciplinary workshop, Sound in Space – Space in Sound, that explores relationships and connections

between music and the spaces we live in and of our imaginations. The season will be rounded off with a celebratory community performance led by the internationally renowned ensemble Quatuor Bozzini.

The works to be performed include many from the established repertoire (for example, Haydn, Mozart, Schubert, Ravel and Shostakovich) but we are delighted also to be able to showcase three works by living composers from the North East.

The quartet concerts will be performed in the wonderful Watchtower Gallery, with its spacious acoustic properties. We are especially grateful to Kate Stephenson for being so encouraging about this project and making the Watchtower available.

Finally, Berwick Music Series would not have been possible without leadership from and collaboration with the Berwick Educational Association. I would like to add my personal thanks to the BEA and sponsors and supporters who have contributed to making this year's Berwick Music Series possible.

Michael Worboys Artistic Director

Thu 15 August, 1–3pm
Berwick Parish Centre

The Art of the String Quartet Lecture I

Michael Worboys
BMS Artistic Director

This lecture is the first of three that introduce the string quartet art form to a general audience. No prior musical knowledge is assumed. The lectures will cover general background, history, context and cultural significance, as well as taking a closer look at some key string quartets, including those to be performed in the concerts. The course will be supported by audio and video examples. Attendance at the concerts, while desirable, is not essential as the course can be followed independently of the live performances.

Content of Lecture One: What is a string quartet? Instruments, general setting, structure, early examples, and focus on the works to be played on 24 August by the Dulcinea Quartet (works by Mozart, Barber and Schubert).



Dulcinea Quartet

Sat 24 August, 1pm [1hr 15]
Watchtower Gallery

Dulcinea Quartet

Minn Majoe violin
Haru Ushigusa violin
Martin Wray viola
Kirsten Jenson cello

Mozart: D minor String Quartet K421
Barber: String Quartet Op. 11
Schubert: Quartettsatz D703

The London-based Dulcinea Quartet was formed at the Royal Academy of Music in 2008. The Quartet performs regularly in Japan, and is part of ANIMA, a chamber ensemble that plays contemporary music alongside animated films. As well as working closely with up-and-coming composers and animators, the ANIMA ensemble has recorded several film scores.

Mozart's D minor quartet was composed in 1793, whilst his wife Constanze was in labour with their first child.

The American composer Samuel Barber wrote this, his only string quartet, in 1935–36. He arranged the middle movement for string orchestra as his well-known Adagio for Strings.

Schubert's quartet movement Quartettsatz was intended as the first movement of a complete string quartet but, like his Unfinished Symphony, it remained uncompleted.

Thu 5 September, 1–3pm
Berwick Parish Centre

The Art of the String Quartet Lecture II

Michael Worboys
BMS Artistic Director

This lecture is the second of three that introduce the string quartet art form to a general audience.

Lecture Two in the series will chart the historical development of the string quartet and some of its most renowned ensembles, and review the works to be performed on 11 September by the Frankland Quartet (works by Haydn, Medeksaite and Ravel).



Frankland Quartet

Wed 11 September, 1pm [1hr 15]
Watchtower Gallery

Frankland Quartet

Sophie Appleton violin
Sarah Roberts violin
James Slater viola
Daniel Hammersley cello

Haydn: String Quartet Op. 103
Egidija Medeksaite: Megh Malhar
Ravel: String Quartet in F Major

The Frankland Quartet was formed by members of the Royal Northern Sinfonia, who have played in orchestras such as the Philharmonia, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Academy of St Martins in the Field and the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House. They performed Haydn and Beethoven on BBC Radio 3 as part of the 'free thinking' festival in 2018.

In 1803, Haydn, in failing health, accepted a commission for six quartets from Count Moritz von Fries. What we have are two movements that may have been composed earlier in his life. Haydn added the following words to the score: "Gone is all my strength, old and weak am I."

Egidija Medeksaite lives in Durham. Megh Malhar is a Hindustani classical raga. The name derives from the Sanskrit word Megh, meaning cloud.

Maurice Ravel completed his String Quartet in 1903 at the age of 28. It is dedicated to his teacher, Gabriel Fauré.

Thu 14 November, 1-3pm
Berwick Parish Centre

The Art of the String Quartet Lecture III

Michael Worboys
BMS Artistic Director

This is the final of three lectures that introduce the string quartet art form to a general audience.

Lecture Three will select a bucket list of “unmissable” string quartets and review the works to be performed on November 21st by Quatuor Bozzini (Weeks, Worboys, Shostakovich). As always, no previous knowledge is assumed.

“
extraordinary playing.”
—Alex Ross, *The New Yorker*

“
one of the most daring
string quartets”
—*Bandcamp Daily*



Quatuor Bozzini

Thu 21 November, 12 noon [2hrs]
Watchtower Gallery

Quatuor Bozzini

Clemens Merkel violin
Alissa Cheung violin
Stéphanie Bozzini viola
Isabelle Bozzini cello

James Weeks: *Leafleocht*
Michael Worboys: Properties of
Matter: Expansion and Contraction
Shostakovich: String Quartet 15 Op. 144

Formed in Montréal, Canada in 1999, Quatuor Bozzini has been an original voice in contemporary and classical music. Alex Ross, in the *New Yorker*, has acclaimed the Quartet for their “extraordinary playing”. They have nurtured a diverse repertoire, unbiased by the currents of fashion. This has led to almost two hundred commissioned pieces, as well as over three hundred premiered works and many albums. A Quatuor Bozzini concert is an intensely shared experience, with meticulous and sensuous attention to detail.

James Weeks lives in Durham and recently won the British Composer Award. *Leafleocht* (the title means ‘leaf-light’ in Anglo-Saxon) arose from a memory-image of wind in the leaves of a hedge near the sea.

Michael Worboys lives in Berwick-upon-Tweed. His work *Properties of Matter: Expansion and Contraction* starts from the premise that sound is a material medium, involving vibrations

of matter, with the ability to affect our thoughts and emotions.

The String Quartet No. 15, completed in 1974, was Dmitri Shostakovich’s last quartet and comes from the end of his life. It has been thought of as his personal requiem. Shostakovich’s Quartet No. 15 is structured as a continuous sequence of six slow movements and is one of the most moving of all his compositions.

Thu 21 November, 2.30pm [2hrs]
Berwick Parish Centre

Sound in Space – Space in Sound A Workshop

This multi-disciplinary workshop is curated by BMS Artist Director Prof. Mike Worboys and Dr. John Stell from the University of Leeds. The aim is to explore performative, cultural and formal relationships between space and sound. Short presentations will be given by academics and other specialists in these areas. There will be opportunities for questions and discussion.

Examples of relevant topics are: Spatial structures, relationships and metaphors in musical works; Music as evocation of place; Sound in geographic spaces.

If you are curious about such matters, then this Workshop may be for you. All are welcome and no particular background or experience is required.

Thu 21 November, 6.30pm [1hr]
Berwick Parish Church

James Tenney: *In a Large, Open Space*

Quatuor Bozzini and
musicians from the community

James Tenney’s *In a Large, Open Space* is an exploration and celebration of the natural phenomenon of sound. Organised and mentored by special guests Quatuor Bozzini from Montreal, Canada, BMS presents an immersive musical experience resonating in the expansive space of Berwick Parish Church. In this performance, the audience may move around the Gallery, mingling with the musicians and the sound.

James Tenney (1934–2006) was an American composer, pianist and music theorist.

This concert is free, but places are limited, so please book at berwickmusic.org. Tickets may be available at the door if space allows.

Perform with Us!

If you are a proficient string or wind player, or play any instrument capable of sustaining sounds, and would like to be part of the Community Performance, please contact Mike Worboys, BMS Artistic Director, at berwickea@gmail.com.

Other BEA events: Aug – Dec 2019

see berwickea.co.uk for more information



August 2019		
3 Aug	£8	Margaret Tait: Film Makar, Dr Sarah Neely, 4–6.30 pm
3 Aug – 5 Oct	£3 or £3.80 online	Weekly tour of Turner exhibition, Maria Chester 1–2 pm
19 Aug	£9	Paradise Lost, Elaine Oswald 10 am – 1 pm
29 Aug	£6	A Plastic Ocean, film, Sea The Change 7–9.30 pm
September 2019		
2 Sep – 21 Oct	£48 or £8 per session	Hitler and Stalin, Tony Barrow, 10 am – 12 noon, 8 sessions
3 Sep – 1 Oct	£77 per course	Intro to Figure Drawing, Gill Walton, 10 am – 12.30 pm and repeated 1–3.30 pm, 5 sessions
5 Sep	£6	Natural Wellbeing, Sea The Change 7–9 pm
6 Sep	£6	The Meaning of Myth, Richard Moore, 10 am – 12 noon
12 Sep	£6	The (Eco) House that Dick Built, Sea The Change, 7–9 pm
25 Sep – 27 Nov	£48 (£24 BFS members)	In A New Light: Film Studies, a series of six lectures and films
25 Sep	£12	Transnational Cinema: the Case of Palestinian Cinema, lecture and film, 1.30–5 pm
28 Sep – 12 Oct	£15 or £6 per session	American Culture in the Fifties and Sixties, Mike Fraser, 10am – 12 noon, 3 sessions

October 2019		
2 Oct	£12	The Art of Widescreen Cinema, lecture and film, 1.30–5 pm
4 Oct	£6	'Richard II', Richard Moore, 10 am – 12 noon
9 Oct	£12	The Art of Jeanne Moreau, lecture and film, 1.30–5 pm
23 Oct	£12	Soviet Cinema of the 1950's, lecture and film, 1.30–5 pm
26 Oct – 23 Nov	£30 or £8 per session	Intro to Astronomy, Adrian Jannetta, 10 am – 12 noon, 5 sessions
31 Oct	£30	Wilhelmina Barnes-Graham art workshop, Lynda Marwood and Maria Chester, 10 am – 3 pm
November 2019		
1 Nov	£6	Dark Side of the Moon, The Times of Jane Austen, Richard Moore, 10 am – 12 noon
4 Nov – 2 Dec	£30	Mesoamerican Civilizations part 1, Maria Chester, 10 am – 12 noon, 5 sessions
8 Nov	£30	Wilhelmina Barnes-Graham art workshop, Gill Walton and Maria Chester, 10 am – 3 pm
13 Nov	£12	From Page to Screen, lecture and film, 1.30–5 pm
27 Nov	£12	The Sound of American Cinema, lecture and film, 1.30–5 pm
29 Nov	£36 inc. materials	Prehistoric Art Workshop, Gill Walton and Maria Chester, 10 am – 3 pm
December 2019		
5 Dec	£6	Intro to Schubert Mass in A Flat, Mike Worboys, 1–3 pm
6 Dec	£6	'Persuasion', R Moore, 10 am – 12 noon
13 Dec	£42 inc. materials	Giotto/Icons workshop, Gill Walton and Maria Chester, 10 am – 3 pm

Berwick Music Series 2019

at a glance

Thu 15 Aug	1pm	The Art of the String Quartet I Berwick Parish Centre
Sat 24 Aug	1pm	Dulcinea Quartet Watchtower Gallery
Thu 5 Sep	1pm	The Art of the String Quartet II Berwick Parish Centre
Wed 11 Sep	1pm	Frankland Quartet Watchtower Gallery
Thu 14 Nov	1pm	The Art of the String Quartet III Berwick Parish Centre
Thu 21 Nov	12 noon	Quatuor Bozzini Watchtower Gallery
	2.30pm	Sound in Space - Space in Sound Workshop Berwick Parish Centre
	6.30pm	Community Performance Berwick Parish Church

Supported by



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