

A Grand Tour

Curated by Edward Mead

Programme

Francesco Barsanti (1690-1775)	A Collection of Old Scots Tunes	I. Dumbarton's Drums II. Corn Riggs are Bonny
Sofia Gubaidulina (1931-2025)	10 Preludes for Violoncello Solo	I. con sordino - senza sordino
Luigi Boccherini (1743-1805) <i>adap. E. Mead</i>	Musica Notturna della Strade di Madrid	Movements I - III
Marianna Martines (1744-1812) <i>arr. E. Mead</i>	Trio in A Major	I. Allegro II. Adagio III. Tempo di Minuetto
Sofia Gubaidulina	10 Preludes for Violoncello Solo	VII. al taco - da punta d'arco
Neil Gow (1727-1807) <i>arr. E. Mead</i>	Lament for the Death of his Second Wife	
Maria Szymanowska (1789-1831) <i>trans. E. Mead for string duo</i>	Minuet in D minor	
Luigi Boccherini <i>adap. E. Mead</i>	Musica Notturna della Strade di Madrid	Movements IV - VII
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)	Divertimento for String Trio	VI. Allegro

"In this programme I want to explore music that has been unjustly forgotten and overlooked, performing a collection of repertoire that ranges from eighteenth-century Scottish tunes to music composed in the 1970s. Some of the music we will present in its original form, some of it I've newly arranged for this ensemble. All the composers featured in this programme have a remarkable story I want to celebrate: Francesco Barsanti was an Italian immigrant who forged his career in Great Britain; Sofia Gubaidulina experienced the repression and eventual fall of the Soviet Union; Luigi Boccherini dedicated his career to celebrating the cello as a solo instrument; Marianna Martines mixed with the musical elite of Vienna, living in the same building as Haydn; Neil Gow expresses the grief of losing his wife; Maria Szymanowska occupied the musical salons of Europe alongside the greatest of company including Goethe and Beethoven; and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, who needs less of an introduction, transcribes pure joy into music. Beginning with Barsanti's transcriptions of Scottish folk tunes and a Prelude by Gubaidulina, we are transported to the wild night life of Madrid as depicted by Boccherini. Before the hearing the second half of Boccherini's piece, we experience the elegance of Martines, the achingly beautiful lament by Gow, and come to a short Minuet by Szymanowska, to whom Goethe dedicated his poem Atonement. Mozart, whose Divertimento we will perform an excerpt from, was a close friend of Martines and programming them together in this concert feels rather like two friends being reunited once again in the same room."

- Edward Mead

Sinfonia Cymru: Bold, brilliant and all over Wales

We are Wales' orchestra of young talent, a collective of dynamic professional musicians under 30, from Wales and beyond. Whether performing classical masterpieces, new compositions, or collaborations with artists from folk, jazz, and beyond, we play with passion, precision, and a spirit of adventure. You'll find us where music matters most: in the heart of Welsh communities. We perform in concert halls, village pubs, schools, and care homes across Wales. We support our musicians at the start of their careers, helping them curate concerts and take the lead. The result? Performances of exceptional quality, wherever we play. Every year, we collaborate with inspiring artists like Catrin Finch, Jess Gillam, and Abel Selaocoe, blending classical music with a rich mix of styles. We also run free workshops in schools and colleges, nurturing the next generation of Welsh talent. From Aberystwyth Arts Centre to Theatr Clwyd, and our annual Cymuned tour, we bring music to every corner of Wales. If you live here, we're sure to be performing near you soon.

Meet the Players

Ezo Dem Sarici (Violin)

Ezo Sarici graduated with Distinction from her Master's degree at the Royal Academy of Music, where she studied for 5 years with Roman Simović. In 2025, Ezo launched the Pererinion Ysbrydol Festival Academy (PYFA) in Wales alongside her duo partner Deniz Cengiz. Set in the historic Gregynog Hall, PYFA provides a vibrant new space for students from all over the world to explore chamber music traditions, history, and accessibility. Ezo has won awards at several competitions including first prize at the Royal Academy of Music Strings and Piano Duo Prize, Bromsgrove International Competition, Lipizer International Violin Competition and the Tunnell Trust 2023 with her trio, Trio Aristonto, consisting of violin, horn and piano. Ezo was most recently announced as the OPUSHer Composing prize winner in collaboration with Empower Women Changing Music and ABRSM. As a multi-faceted composer and player, she has performed sold-out shows at many renowned jazz venues and festivals such as Ronnie Scott's and the London Jazz Festival.

Ben Norris (Viola)

Ben Norris enjoys a busy freelance career as a violist, arranger and producer based in London. From classical to electronic, he loves to explore a wide range of styles and genres. Ben has made multiple appearances as principal viola with the BBC Concert Orchestra and has recently toured to the USA and Europe as guest co-principal of the Philharmonia Orchestra, including two performances at Carnegie Hall. As well as Sinfonia Cymru, he also freelances with many vibrant orchestras around the UK such as John Wilson's Sinfonia of London, Manchester Camerata, Manchester Collective and the English Chamber Orchestra. Ben has performed at Wigmore Hall, Cowbridge Festival and ROSL as a chamber musician and was a graduate of the RWCMD before completing his postgraduate as an ABRSM scholar at the RNCM. He studied with Alex Thorndike and Vicci Wardman and won multiple prizes for solo and chamber playing throughout his time studying.

Edward Mead (Cello)

Born in Porthcawl, Eddie was a pupil at Ysgol Y Ferch o'r Sgêr, before gaining a place at the prestigious Yehudi Menuhin School. He was a principal cellist of the National Youth Orchestra GB and studied at the Royal College of Music. As well as working with Sinfonia Cymru he has freelanced with groups including New London Orchestra (principal), Vauxhall Band (co-principal), London Philharmonic Orchestra and The English Concert (with which he was a Fellow). He is currently a Fellow of the Philharmonia Orchestra and is also on the OAE Experience Scheme. Eddie is a published composer whose music has been performed internationally and recorded for the BBC Radio 3 Proms website. He is currently the Jenny Ward-Clarke Scholar at the Royal Academy of Music, where he is supported by the Countess of Munster Musical Trust. Eddie plays on a baroque cello made, and generously loaned, by Clive Morris.

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Curadwyd gan Edward Mead

Rhaglen

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"Yn y rhaglen hon, dw i eisiau archwilio cerddoriaeth sydd wedi cael ei hanghofio. Byddwn ni'n canu cerddoriaeth amrywiol, o ganeuon gwerin Albanaidd i gerddoriaeth a gyfansoddwyd ym 1973. Byddwn ni'n perfformio'r gerddoriaeth hon yn ei ffurfiau gwreiddiol, yn ogystal â threfniadau newydd dw i wedi'u gwneud ar gyfer y cyngerdd hwn. Mae gan bob cyfansoddwr yn y rhaglen hon stori anhygoel dw i eisiau ei dathlu: roedd Barsanti yn fewnfudwr Eidalaidd a wnaeth ei yrfa yn y Deyrnas Unedig; profodd Sofia Gubaidulina orthrwm a chwymp yr Undeb Sofietaidd yn y pen draw; dathlodd Luigi Boccherini y sielo fel offeryn unawdydd; roedd Martines yn byw yn yr un adeilad â Haydn a'i hathro yn Fienna; mae Neil Gow yn mynegi galar ar ôl colli ei wraig; roedd Maria Szymanowska yn perfformio yn ei salonau cerddorol yng nghwmni'r bobl fwyaf rhyfeddol ac yn adnabod ffigurau fel Goethe a Beethoven. Disgrifiodd Mozart lawenydd mawr yn ei gerddoriaeth. Rydyn ni'n dechrau gyda thrawsgrifiadau o ganeuon gwerin gan Barsanti a Phrelwd gan Gubaidulina. Mae hyn yn ein harwain at bortread gwyllt gan Boccherini o fywyd nos ym Madrid. Cyn gwranddo ar ail hanner y darn hwn, rydyn ni'n cwrdd â byd cain Martines, Prelwd prydfarth gan Neil Gow a Minuet byr gan Maria Szymanowska. Ysgrifennodd Goethe *Atonement* am Szymanowska. Byddwn ni'n gorffen y cyngerdd gyda dyfyniad o Divertimento gan Mozart, ffrind mawr i Martines. Mae'n hyfryd perfformio darnau gan y ddau gyfansoddwr, ac mae'n teimlo fel pe bai'r ddau ffrind yma yn yr un ystafell, gyda'i gilydd unwaith eto."

- Edward Mead

Sinfonia Cymru: Dewr, disglair a ledled Cymru

Ni yw cerddorfa talent ifanc Cymru, cartref i gerddorion proffesiynol a deinamig o Gymru a'r byd, pob un dan 30 oed. O berfformio cerddoriaeth glasurol i gyfansoddiadau newydd a chydweithio gyda cherddorion enwog a chyffrous, beth bynnag ry'n ni'n ei wneud, byddwn ni'n chwarae gydag angerdd, cywirdeb ac ysbryd anturus. Byddwn ni'n perfformio lle mae cerddoriaeth o bwys: yng nghanol cymunedau Cymru. Byddwn ni yn y mannau ble mae'r gynulleidfa'n teimlo'n gartrefol; canolfannau celfyddydol, neuaddau cyngerdd, tafarndai, neuaddau pentref, cartrefi gofal, ysgolion a thu hwnt. Ry'n ni'n cefnogi ein cerddorion ar ddechrau eu gyrfaedd proffesiynol. Pan mae nhw'n ymuno, ry'n ni'n eu helpu i dyfu a chymryd yr awenau. Y canlyniad? Perfformiadau o ansawdd eithriadol, lle bynnag ry'n ni'n chwarae. Bob blwyddyn rydym yn cydweithio gyda artistiaid ysbrydoledig fel Catrin Finch, Jess Gillam ac Abel Selaocoe, gan gyfuno cerddoriaeth glasurol â chymysgedd cyfoethog o arddulliau. Ry'n ni hefyd yn cynnal gweithdai am ddim mewn ysgolion a cholegau, gan feithrin y genhedlaeth nesaf o dalent cerddorol yng Nghymru. O Ganolfan y Celfyddydau Aberystwyth i Theatr Clwyd, a'n taith Cymuned flynyddol, ry'n ni'n dod â cherddoriaeth i bob cwr o Gymru. Os ydych chi'n byw yma, mae'n siŵr ein bod ni'n perfformio yn rhywle lleol yn fuan.

Cwrdd â'r Offerynwyr

Ezo Dem Sarici (Ffidil)

Enillodd Ezo Sarici radd Meistr gyda Chlod Uchel o'r Royal Academy of Music, lle bu'n astudio am 5 mlynedd gyda Roman Simović. Yn 2025, lansiodd Ezo y Pererinion Ysbrydol Festival Academy (PYFA) yng Nghymru, ar y cyd â Deniz Cengiz, ei phartner mewn deuawdau. Wedi'i leoli ar safle hanesyddol Neuadd Gregynog, mae'r PYFA yn darparu gofod newydd, bywiog, ar gyfer myfyrwyr o bob rhan o'r byd lle gallant archwilio traddodiadau, hanes a hygyrchedd cerddoriaeth siambr. Mae Ezo wedi ennill gwobrau mewn nifer o gystadlaethau, yn cynnwys y wobr gyntaf yng nghystadleuaeth y Royal Academy of Music ar gyfer Llinynnau a Deuawdau Piano, Cystadleuaeth Ryngwladol Bromsgrove, Cystadleuaeth Ryngwladol Lipiaer i'r Ffidil, a'r Tunnell Trust 2023 gyda'i thriawd, Trio Aristonto, sy'n cynnwys ffidil, corn a phiano. Yn ddiweddar, cyhoeddwyd mai hi oedd enillydd gwobr OPUSHer am gyfansoddi, mewn cydweithrediad ag Empower Women Changing Music a'r ABRSM. A hithau'n gyfansoddwr ac offerynnwr amryddawn, bu'n perfformio mewn sioeau gorlawn mewn nifer o ganolfannau jazz a gwyliau megis Ronnie Scott's a'r London Jazz Festival.

Ben Norris (Fiola)

Mae Ben Norris, sy'n byw yn Llundain, yn mwynhau gyrfa brysur fel fiolydd, trefnydd cerddoriaeth a chynhyrchydd. O'r clasurol i'r electronig, mae e wrth ei fodd yn gweithio mewn amrywiaeth o arddulliau a genres. Mae Ben wedi ymddangos sawl gwaith fel blaenwr adran y fiola gyda'r BBC Concert Orchestra, ac yn ddiweddar teithiodd i'r Unol Daleithiau ac Ewrop fel cyd-flaenwr y Philharmonia Orchestra – taith oedd yn cynnwys dau berfformiad yn y Carnegie Hall. Yn ogystal â'i waith gyda Sinfonia Cymru, mae e hefyd yn gweithio'n llawrydd gyda sawl cerddorfa adnabyddus o amgylch y DU, megis Sinfonia of London John Wilson, Manchester Camerata, Manchester Collective a'r English Chamber Orchestra. Fel cerddor siambr, mae Ben wedi perfformio yn y Wigmore Hall, Gŵyl y Bont-faen ac ROSL, a graddiodd yn Ngholeg Brenhinol Cerdd a Drama Cymru cyn cwblhau ei astudiaethau ôl-radd fel ysgolor ABRSM yn yr RNCM. Bu'n astudio gydag Alex Thorndike a Vicci Wardman, ac yn ystod ei gyfnod yn astudio enillodd lawer o wobrau am ei berfformiadau fel unawdydd ac aelod o grwpiau siambr.

Edward Mead (Sielo)

Ac yntau wedi'i eni ym Mhorthcawl, roedd Eddie'n ddisgybl yn Ysgol Y Ferch o'r Sgêr, cyn ennill lle yn ysgol enwog Yehudi Menuhin. Roedd e'n brif sielydd Cerddorfa Ieuenctid Genedlaethol y DU a bu'n astudio yn y Royal College of Music. Yn ogystal â'i waith gyda Sinfonia Cymru, bu'n gweithio'n llawrydd gyda grwpiau megis y New London Orchestra (blaenwr), Vauxhall Band (cyd-flaenwr), y London Philharmonic Orchestra a'r English Concert (lle roedd yn Gymrawd). Ar hyn o bryd mae'n Gymrawd gyda'r Philharmonia Orchestra a hefyd yn aelod o'r Cynllun Profiad OAE. Mae Eddie yn gyfansoddwr cyhoeddedig a'i gerddoriaeth wedi'i pherfformio'n rhyngwladol a'i recordio ar gyfer Gwefan y Proms ar BBC Radio 3. Ef yn awr yw'r Jenny Ward-Clarke Scholar yn y Royal Academy of Music, lle mae'n derbyn cymorth gan y Countess of Munster Musical Trust. Mae Eddie'n perfformio ar sielo baróc a wnaed gan Clive Morris, ac a roddir ar fenthg yddo trwy garedigrwydd y gwneuthurwr.