

Music in West Kilbride presents Clyde Duo

Chevalier de Saint-Georges (1745-1799) - Sonata for flute & harp in Eb Major

Jacques Ibert (1890-1962) – Entr'acte

Lili Boulanger (1893-1918) - Nocturne

Helen Grimes (b. 1981) – Dance for Flute & Harp

Nino Rota (1911-1979) – Sonata for flute and harp

- - - Interval - - -

Princess Anna Amalia of Prussia (1723-1787) - Sonate F-Dur fur Flute

Ravi Shankar (1920-2012) - L'aube enchantee sur le Raga Todi

Joseph Jongen (1873-1953) - Danse Lente

Gamal Abdel-Rahim (1924-1988) - Dance of Isis

Hamilton Harty (1879-1941) - In Ireland

Chevalier de Saint-Georges (1745-1799) - Sonata for flute & harp in Eb Major

A sonata for the harp, with flute obligato, from pre-revolutionary France, written by Afro-French composer, Joseph Bologne, Chevalier de Saint-Georges, rather patronisingly titled 'The Black Mozart'. Aside from being a champion fencer and a virtuoso violinist and conductor, Saint-Georges has the distinction of being the first classical composer of African ancestry. His parents were a wealthy slave owner on a plantation in the West Indies and his mother was a slave. During the French Revolution, he was Colonel of a legion of Black volunteers and fought heroically.

Jacques Ibert (1890-1962) – Entr'acte

Jacques Ibert studied at the Paris Conservatoire before embarking upon a successful composing career. He was a unique composer who did not associate himself with any particular style. Ibert's music is generally lighthearted, often reflecting the composer's wit and humour and Entr'acte (composed in 1935) is typically representative of this.

Lili Boulanger (1893-1918) - Nocturne

As a Parisian-born child prodigy, Boulanger's talent was apparent at the age of two when Gabriel Faure, a friend of the family discovered she had perfect pitch. Boulanger accompanied her ten-year-old sister Nadia to classes at the Paris Conservatoire before she was five, studying organ with Louis Verne and harp with Mattel Tournier and Alphonse Hasselmans. At 19, Lili was the first woman to receive the prestigious Grand Prix de Rome for musical composition. It was a massive achievement for any young composer and an important turning point for women in the field. Lili died at the early age of 24 from Crohn's disease.

Helen Grimes (b. 1981) -Danse from Fantasia, Danse, Ceremonie for Flute & Harp

This work by Scottish Contemporary composer, Helen Grime, was commissioned by Enterprise Music Scotland. The first performance took place on 28 October 2010 by Hoot (Emma Wilkins, Flute/Helen MacLeod, Harp) in Fraserburgh, Scotland. We will play the 2nd movement of the 3 movements – 'Danse' which sets out to create a single unified line. The tempo is fast, and there is much virtuosic passagework for both instruments.

This performance will be in honour of our friend, the late harpist, Helen MacLeod.

Nino Rota (1911-1979) – Sonata for flute and harp

Allegro molto moderato - Andante sostenuto - Allegro festoso

Italian composer Nino Rota left a large legacy of film scores, many of which endure internationally in such classics as the first two parts of Coppola's 'The Godfather'. A prolific composer, with a thirty-year association with Federico Fellini, Rota scored music for more than 150 movies in all. Many of them are said to draw on an equally large output of music for the theatre and concert hall. This includes a dozen operatic works, many ballets and much incidental music, a large quantity of symphonies, concertos, vocal works and chamber music.

The Sonata for flute and harp dates from 1937. Its opening movement is based largely on a pastoral, gently fluid theme with occasional modal colouring. A quicker moving episode adds dynamic contrast. The slow movement has a similar serenity. "If I could make everyone around me have a moment of serenity, I would do all I can," Rota once said. "Basically, this is the sentiment that animates my music." The finale has a distinctly neo-classical feel, following the tripartite structure of the opening movement, with a broad, slow-moving central section framed by lively, good-humoured outer sections.

----- Interval -----

Princess Anna Amalia of Prussia (1723-1787) - Sonate F-Dur fur Flute

Female composer and abbess – the multifaceted life of Princess Anna Amalia of Prussia characterizes the passionate musician and notation collector. Only a few of her own compositions have survived. Probably a large part of her work, which includes cantatas, chorales, chamber music and military marches, was destroyed by Anna Amalia herself. Her most famous composition today is probably this flute sonata in F major.

Ravi Shankar (1920-2012) - L'aube enchantee sur le Raga Todi

Ravi Shankar KBE, whose name is often preceded by the title Pandit, was an Indian sitar virtuoso and a composer. He became the world's best-known exponent of North Indian classical music, in the second half of the 20th century, and influenced many other musicians throughout the world. Shankar was, in turn, just as interested in Western music. He composed two concertos for sitar and orchestra, collaborated with Yehudi Menuhin and Jean- Pierre Rampal, and sought to create a fusion of Indian and Western music. One of the results of this was his L'aube enchantée (The Enchanted Dawn), scored for two Western instruments yet it makes use of some of the techniques of Indian music.

Joseph Jongen (1873-1953) - Danse Lente

Belgian born, Joseph Jongen was a great organist and composer of his era, considered second only to the Belgian Composer, Cesar Frank. Jongen composed prolifically in virtually every genre and produced a significant body of chamber music, but he is best known as the composer of such organ music as the Sonata eroïca and the Symphonie concertante.

His work is deeply rooted in his own country, disciplined in structure and showing a certain freshness and clear spontaneity with a keen sense for the blending of sounds. The short Danse Lente for flute and harp, written at the end of the Great War, during which Jongen was in exile in London, is of noble character, deeply felt and melancholic.

Gamal Abdel-Rahim (1924-1988) - Dance of Isis

Known as the Bartok Of Egypt, Abdel-Rahim's music contains many beautiful ornamented solo lines and exotic non-Western harmonies based on Arabic modes.

The ensemble of flute and harp work perfectly in this unusual and beautiful music that evokes the sounds of ancient Egypt with Abdel-Rahim's exotic harmonies based on the magamat. A technically challenging piece by Egypt's leading art music composer of the 20th Century.

Hamilton Harty (1879-1941) - In Ireland

Harty was born in 1879 in County Down, Ireland and grew up in a musical family. Harty was an organist in Belfast and Dublin before going to London where he gained a reputation as an accompanist and composer. He became known as a conductor in concerts with the London Symphony Orchestra. From 1920 to 1933 he was conductor of the Hallé Orchestra in Manchester. His compositions include a violin concerto, tone poem 'With the Wild Geese', and the Irish Symphony. In Ireland, composed for flute and piano in 1915 and written for the well-known flutist Albert Fransella. He later arranged it for Flute, Harp and Orchestra and the flute and piano version is popular as a flute and harp duo. Harty adds a descriptive title addition at the beginning: "In a Dublin street at dusk, two wandering street musicians are playing".