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SELO  
SOUTH EAST LONDON  
Orchestra

SUNDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> MARCH 2026

# WELCOME

**David Smith, Music Director**

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Welcome to our first concert of 2026, one with a very clear geographical centre!

We're on a tour of Scotland today, from Bruch's well-known *Scottish Fantasy* and Hamish MacCunn's greatest hit (hardly ever off the radio!) to lesser-known corners of the repertoire by Malcolm Arnold and Thea Musgrave, whose *Loch Ness* is subtitled 'a postcard from Scotland'. This is one postcard that really comes to life!

We are beyond delighted to welcome back Fenella Humphreys as our soloist. Fenella has given several memorable concerto performances with SELO in the past, and her career has gone stratospheric in the years since we last saw her! Our first performance together was in 2014 with Bruch's first *Violin Concerto*, so it's lovely to come back around to a different work by the same composer today.

On a personal note, I'm approaching my final stretch of concerts with SELO as I will step down as Music Director in summer 2026, and wanted to thank you, our audience, for all your support over the years. I always enjoy talking with you at our concerts and know that you will continue to support the orchestra and its members long into the future! In the meantime, I hope to see you in May and July for my final two concerts.

# PROGRAMME

**MacCunn, The Land of the Mountain and the Flood**

**Musgrave, Loch Ness**

**Arnold, Four Scottish Dances**

(Interval)

**Bruch, Scottish Fantasy**

- violin soloist Fenella Humphreys

# BIOGRAPHIES



**David Smith | Music Director**

David is passionate about performing contemporary music alongside great masterpieces of the classical repertoire and the 20th century. He is Music Director of South East London Orchestra, Abbots Langley Orchestra and Oxford Reunion Wind Orchestra, and Conductor of Hemel Symphony Orchestra. David has worked with many orchestras in London and the south of England as a guest conductor. As an instrumentalist, he has extensive experience as a trombonist, percussionist and timpanist, with rare forays into the world of the double bass. He read Music and a Masters in Musicology at the University of Southampton, where his tutors included David Owen Norris and Michael Finnissy. He has studied conducting with Robin Browning and Denise Ham. Away from conducting, David is Director of Assessment Services at ABRSM (the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music) and coaches junior cricket teams. In summer 2026 he will step down from his role with SELO after 14 years as its founding Music Director.

[davidsmithconductor.wordpress.com](https://davidsmithconductor.wordpress.com)



**Daniel Pukach | Leader**

Daniel is a freelance orchestral violinist, chamber musician, soloist and a sought-after teacher. He has played in top orchestras in the UK and Israel such as BBC Concert Orchestra, English Chamber Orchestra, London Philharmonic, Israel Symphony, Israeli Opera, Israel Chamber Orchestra, Israel NK orchestra and the Galilee Chamber Orchestra. He is also founding member and violinist in the Waldstein Quartet. He is a tutor at Junior Guildhall's string training program, and also taught at leading conservatories in Israel. He is currently continuing his work on implementing his one-of-a-kind teaching method and pedagogical system which has been transformative to students of all levels and will be published and distributed in the next few years. Daniel has gained his BMus at The Aaron Copland School of Music under Burton Kaplan and his MMus from Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance with Ofer Falk. He won the Vera Kanterovich Competition for solo Bach, Barbirolli competition for a classical string quartet and won second prize with the Waldstein Quartet in the Carne Trust Chamber Music Competition.



## Fenella Humphreys | Soloist

Winner of BBC Music Magazine Awards in 2025, 2023 and 2018, violinist Fenella Humphreys has gained critical admiration and audience acclaim with the grace and intensity of her remarkable performances.

Fenella performs widely as a soloist. Her recent album of Sibelius' solo works with BBC National Orchestra of Wales has been featured in BBC Radio 3's Building a Library and Gramophone Magazine's Guide to the Concerto. BBC Music Magazine wrote of the recording: "Fenella Humphreys's playing is a genuine revelation in the way it brings out the music's dark and introspective qualities, with no shortage of technical panache."

Her 2024 album, Prism on Rubicon Classics was chosen as BBC Music Magazine's Instrumental Choice Album for June 2024, and Gramophone Magazine advised "when each piece moves to the next with such an organic, spell-holding flow, you're missing out if you don't listen end to end." Also released in 2024, her Chandos recording of Adrian Sutton's Violin Concerto with BBC Philharmonic and Michael Seal won BBC Music Magazine's 2025 Premiere Award, with the Strad Magazine writing "Humphreys brings her endlessly unfurling violin lines taut, silvery weightlessness." The concerto was written for her in 2023, and premiered at the Southbank Centre with the RPO.

Artist in Residence at Wigmore Hall for 2025/6, Fenella is looking forward to premieres of new works by Sally Beamish, Tom Coult, Stephen McNeff and Anna Berg as well as performances with orchestras including CBSO, London Mozart Players and SELO.

Fenella plays on a beautiful G.B. Guadagnini violin kindly on loan from Jonathan Sparey.

## HAMISH MACCUNN (1868-1916)

Land of the Mountain and the Flood, Op. 3 (1887)



Hamish MacCunn, born in Greenock, Scotland had a successful career as composer, conductor and educator following a scholarship to the Royal College of Music aged 15. Although his compositions – including two Scottish-themed operas – are rarely performed today, this concert overture stands out as a long-lasting exception, composed when he was aged only 19. It was praised at its

1887 Crystal Palace premiere and has since become a favourite of the orchestral repertoire, gaining wide recognition as the theme tune for the television programme *Sutherland's Way*. Named for a line in Walter Scott's *The Lay of the Last Minstrel*, its brilliant orchestration and melodic richness evoke a dramatic Scottish landscape, drawing comparison with Mendelssohn's Scottish-inspired compositions.

## THEA MUSGRAVE (BORN 1928)

Loch Ness – A Postcard from Scotland, Op. 59 (2012)

Born in Edinburgh, Musgrave studied with Nadia Boulanger at the Paris Conservatoire and Aaron Copland at the Tanglewood Festival in Massachusetts. She met her future husband, Peter Mark, a renowned conductor and violist, while teaching at the University of California, Santa Barbara, and has been resident in the US since 1972. Her seminal opera, *Mary, Queen of Scots*, was composed in 1977, and she has written over 160 works for the choir, orchestra, chamber ensemble and stage. Musgrave was awarded a CBE in 2002 and the Queen's Medal for Music in 2017.

*Loch Ness* was commissioned for 2012 BBC Proms season and received its Scottish premier in 2022. Musgrave wrote this programme note for the piece<sup>1</sup>:

This Scottish loch is famous for its monster – only very occasionally seen.

In this light-hearted work he, the monster (a TUBA), emerges from the depths (E flat) to find the sun (A major) coming out from a thick mist (string clusters, comprised of an octatonic<sup>2</sup> scale built from the triads of E flat and A major and minor). As he plays he is warmed by the sparkling sun (trumpets) and by the strains of an ancient Scottish melody.

As the sun descends, he dives back into the deep waters with a big splash. Then a cool moon rises, a light breeze ruffles the surface, and all is at peace.

<sup>1</sup>© Thea Musgrave (2012)

<sup>2</sup>An octatonic scale is an eight-note musical scale with alternating tones and semitones.

## MALCOLM ARNOLD (1921 - 2006)

Four Scottish Dances (1957)

- I Pesante
- II Vivace
- III Allegretto
- IV Con brio

Sir Malcolm Arnold studied trumpet with Ernest Hall and composition with Gordon Jacob at the Royal College of Music before becoming principal trumpet of the London Philharmonic Orchestra in 1941. He turned to composing full-time in 1948 and became one of the most renowned composers of the time, together with Benjamin Britten and William Walton. Major works include nine symphonies, two operas, 132 film scores and over 20 concertos. Arnold won an Academy Award for the soundtrack to *The Bridge on the River Kwai* in 1958 and received a knighthood for services to music in 1993.

The dances were written for the 1957 BBC Light Music Festival in London. The powerful opening dance is reminiscent of a strathspey, characterised by a “Scottish snap” rhythm (very short accented note followed by a longer note). Arnold used a reel by Robert Burns for the lively second dance, which showcases the woodwind, in particular the bassoon in the comedic slower section. The gentle third dance evokes Hebridean scenery on a calm summer's day. The final dance is a vigorous Highland fling, with Arnold's orchestration creating a distinctively Scottish musical landscape.

# MAX BRUCH (1838 - 1920)

## Scottish Fantasy, Op. 46 (1880)

– soloist Fenella Humphreys

I Introduction: Grave – Adagio cantabile

II Scherzo: Allegro

III Andante sostenuto

IV Finale: Allegro guerriero

Born in Cologne, Max Bruch showed early musical promise and after musical training went on to a successful career in Germany, including conducting, teaching, and composing in a conservative style influenced by Mendelssohn and Schumann. He was appointed conductor of the Liverpool Philharmonic Society in 1880; finding the role ill-suited to his temperament, he returned to Germany in 1883 where his choral compositions earned especial acclaim. Today Bruch is best known internationally for his *Violin Concerto*

*No 1, Kol Nidrei* for cello and orchestra, and his *Scottish Fantasy*.

Prior to his time in Liverpool, Bruch composed the *Scottish Fantasy*, drawing inspiration from Scottish folk melodies he had studied in the Munich Library. Although he never visited Scotland, he remarked that its tunes 'pulled [him] into their magical circle'. Premiered in 1881 and initially promoted as a concerto, the piece was designated by Bruch as a fantasy to reflect its free, rhapsodic character. The piece embodied his ideas that folk music

forms the foundation of musical expression and that the violin is the supreme melodic instrument. The *Scottish Fantasy* has since been championed by leading violinists and remains a favourite with audiences worldwide.

The fantasy opens mysteriously, evoking an aged bard contemplating a ruined castle. It then moves into a lyrical presentation of *Through the Wood Laddie*, the harp underscoring Scottish musical tradition. The next movement features variations

on *Dusty Miller*, with lively dance rhythms and bagpipe-like drones. A brief return of *Through the Wood* leads into the introspective third movement where the soloist reflects the poignant mood of *I'm a'Doon for Lack o' Johnnie*. The last movement introduces the martial tune *Hey Tuttie Tatie* familiar from Burns' song *Scots Wha Hae*. Slower lyrical sections and virtuosic variations on the martial theme follow, before a short reprise of *Through the Wood* leads into a final triumphant statement of *Scots Wha Hae*.

# THE ORCHESTRA

## Violin I

Daniel Pukach (Leader)  
Claire Rutland  
Mike Bradburn  
Philip Curry  
Russ Anderson  
Heather Hall  
Noura Sanatian  
Rose Bullen

## Violin II

Louise Esaias  
Penny Davies  
Keith Hide  
Wendy Albuquerque  
Geraldine Lowery  
Rosamund Sykes  
Tracey Duncan

## Viola

Maive Lynch  
Lucy Mackintosh  
Darci Sprengel  
John Hinchcliffe

## Cello

Hilary Wood  
Tony Albuquerque  
Richard Thorn  
Phillippa Bradburn  
Poppy Smith  
Sue Ardley  
Gillian Wood  
Charlotte Davidson

## Double bass

David Wright  
Stephen Davies

## Flute

Pauline Savage  
Sarah Harrington  
Hawes  
Olivia Chester

## Oboe

Catherine Smale  
Frances Slack  
Anisha Parma

## Clarinet

Charlotte Woolley  
Phil Broadey  
Alex Fleming

## Bassoon

Claire Goddard  
Val Currie  
Elizabeth Boyden

## Horn

Andy Currie  
Steph Jeffery  
Brian Newman  
Frank Cottee

## Trumpet

Ben Whalley  
Kat Mason  
Issac Thomas

## Trombone

Tom Woodcock  
Graham Winter  
Matt Gray

## Tuba

Dan Mackintosh

## Timpani

David Coronel

## Harp

Iona Heather

# WE ARE RECRUITING!

We are on the lookout for new members and have vacancies in upper strings and brass. Our core values as a group centre on Excellence, Adventurousness, Respect, Enjoyment and Friendliness. If you're interested in getting involved, we'd love to hear from you! There is no audition process, and we hold repertoire days to meet and connect with potential new members, along with inviting new members to join throughout the year. A standard around Grade 8 (even if you haven't played in a while...!) is about right. We rehearse in the 5 weeks ahead of each concert, mainly on Thursday evenings in Beckenham.



## ABOUT US

South East London Orchestra is one of South London's leading amateur orchestras with a reputation for exciting, high quality concerts and a genuine connection with our community.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

SELO wishes to extend our sincere thanks to Terry Davis and Jonathan Jeffery for the design, production and printing of the programme, flyers and season leaflets.

Programme notes by Morven Leese (MacCunn and Bruch) and Tony Albuquerque (Musgrave and Arnold).  
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### Image credits

Front Cover: Eric Welch, Unsplash  
MacCunn: MrChris89, Pixabay  
Musgrave and Arnold: K B, Unsplash  
Bruch: FrankyFromGermany, Pixabay

More details about the orchestra, our concerts, how to buy tickets and much more can be found at our website, or via our social media links.

[www.southeastlondonorchestra.com](http://www.southeastlondonorchestra.com)

 [southeastlondonorchestra](https://www.facebook.com/southeastlondonorchestra)

 [selorchestra.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/org/selorchestra)

 [southeastlondonorchestra](https://www.instagram.com/southeastlondonorchestra)

## NEXT CONCERTS

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2026, 4.30pm**

**St Michael and All Angels, Beckenham**

**Adrian Sutton**, A Fist Full of Fives

**Haydn**, Symphony No. 55

**Beethoven**, Symphony No. 5



**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2026, 4pm**

**All Saints, West Dulwich**

**Elgar**, The Music Makers, *in collaboration with the London Concert Chorus*

**Vaughan Williams**, Symphony No. 2,  
A London Symphony



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