

Welcome from the Trustees

Thank you to everyone on Bute for your support of the last Season of Concerts. You packed out the summer Gala performances and supported the nine season concerts throughout Autumn & Winter 2025/26.

Living on an island we have exceptional costs for all concerts, such as travel, ferries, overnight accommodation and meals and often longer visits due to the winter weather, all of which add to normal concert promotion costs. Only a few years ago we had just six Winter concerts. Despite difficult financial times, we are delighted to offer 22 performances in Season 2026/27.

We have 3 Summer Galas, Die Fledermaus, the Pirates of Penzance and a Jazz Weekend with 11 performances, then followed by 10 Season concerts in the Isle of Bute Parish Church, which houses our new Yamaha Grand Piano purchased through an Appeal last year.

We thank our Appeal Donors, our statutory funders, Chamber Music Scotland, our concert sponsors, including Bute BID, Visit Bute, local Bute trusts, island business advertisers, plus our Patrons, Friends and Season ticket holders and the many private supporters who have made the 2026/27 season possible, but especially to 'For Bute', without who's support there would be no expanding Arts programme on the Island.

We believe we have something for everyone to enjoy and look forward to welcoming you to our many and varied concerts. It is only with your support we can continue to make Bute a better place to live.

The Trustees: Chair Fiona Shaw BEM,
Treasurer Douglas Lindsay Secretary John Blue,
Janet Bentley, Peter Lingard, John Angus MacDonald,
Shona Prosser, Colin Sharp.

Information & Acknowledgements


Financial Assistance is acknowledged from:

Advertising from eighteen local Businesses
Bute BID
Bute Island Charity 'For Bute'
Chamber Music Scotland
D'Oyly Carte Trust
Dr J N Marshall (Island of Bute) Memorial Trust
Patrons & Friends of Bute Arts Society
Rothesay Common Good Fund
Syson Foundation
Visit Bute

Chamber Music Scotland: works to support Scottish based promoters and performers of Chamber Music. Bute Arts Society is subsidised by CMS with funds provided by Creative Scotland.



Sponsorship - thank you to our Sponsors for support which is acknowledged in our Season Brochure and in all our Programmes.

Tickets: £15 at the door for Season concerts: Purchase online at www.wegotickets.com use the search facility inserting the Venue Name, Rothesay or Bute. 
School Children attend all our performances Free of Charge thanks to the support of the D'Oyly Carte Trust and the charity 'For Bute'.

Contact Bute Arts Society at:

www.buteartssociety.co.uk
or find us on Facebook

Hon Secretary: John Blue
8 Craignethan, Mountstuart Road
Rothesay Isle of Bute PA20 9LF
E: john.blue1@btopenworld.com
T: 01700 504889

Bute Arts Society is a Scottish Charity SC020555

Season extended to 22 Performances

Summer Galas

Die Fledermaus

Johann Strauss II, Opera Bohemia

Pirates of Penzance

Gilbert & Sullivan, illyria Theatre

Jazz Weekend

Eleven Varied Jazz Sessions

Season Concerts

Ten Performances

from varied Artists and Ensembles

Venues

Isle of Bute Parish Church

Rothesay Joint Campus

Glenburn Hotel

Winter Garden

ALL WELCOME

Sponsors

assist in making the Arts available for all



We acknowledge the generous support of the Bute Island Trusts, Charities and Businesses below which allows Bute Arts Society to present this full summer & winter concert season.

We are especially indebted to 'For Bute' for their continuing performance support and in particular for establishing our now complete Piano Appeal for £35,000, to which they were major contributors. 'For the continuing support of **Bute Bid & Visit Bute**, our **18 Bute Business Advertisers** and the **St Ebba** and **Glenburn Hotels** for artist accommodation. We also thank our **Patrons, Friends** and Season Ticket Holders for their generous and loyal support.

Patrons

assist in enabling the Arts for all on Bute



Patrons are individuals who support the Arts on Bute. Established in 2022 we enjoy support from over forty Patrons who raise £2,000 to enable prestigious artists, special Gala performances and larger events.

Patron benefits include invitations to season receptions and special events. Patrons are also listed in all our concert Programmes. Membership is open to all from £50 annually, please contact the Secretary at john.blue1@btopenworld.com

Gift Aid Your Donation are you a UK taxpayer? By completing a simple form, we can reclaim a further 25% from HMRC. Forms available at all concerts and from the Secretary & Treasurer.

Season Tickets - Jazz & Winter

Winter Season (10) Jazz Season (11) concerts



Winter Season Tickets: enjoy the **Ten** 2026/27 Winter Season concerts for £115 saving £35 on individual tickets.



Jazz Weekend Season Tickets: enjoy the **Eleven** Jazz weekend concerts for £75 saving £35 on individual tickets.

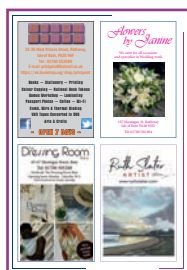
N.B. our first concert is common to both Seasons

Season: purchase in person at Print Point (cash only) or at the first performance. Also available online at WeGotTickets & via Bank Transfer (contact the secretary at john.blue1@btopenworld.com for payment details). Online Season Tickets can be collected at the first concert. Your name, unless advised otherwise, will be acknowledged in the Programme. Unable to attend? No problem - Your ticket can be transferred to family and friends.

Why not bring a friend!

Advertisers & Programmes

and especially Print Point for all Printing



We acknowledge the financial support of the 18 Bute businesses listed below, which allows the Arts Society to provide informative programmes at all concerts and events. Our thanks go to the following:

Bussey's Carpets & Beds, Bute Signs & Graphics, Castle Gallery, Dressing Room, W & J Duncan Garage, Gather Deli, Sarah Jane Hemsley, Flowers by Janine, Kettle Drum Cafe, Island Treasures - Afro Celtic Art, MDS Michael Sweeney Plumbing Carol Nunan - Artist John Murray Plumbing & Heating, Just Menswear, MacQueens of Rothesay Butchers, Print Point, Rothesay Motor Services, Ruth Slater - Artist.

Friends

join to show their support



Friends are key supporters of the Society, with Membership open to all at £20 Annually. We currently have over 50 Friends and this enables

us to demonstrate support when making funding applications. Members are acknowledged in all concert Programmes. To join us please contact the Secretary at john.blue1@btopenworld.com

Lend a Hand - How would you like to help?

Our volunteers assist with event administration and at concerts, receptions and with artists hospitality. Just get in contact with the Secretary or Trustees at concerts, in person or by email, to find out more and discuss how you can lend a hand.'

Single Event Tickets

online, at ticket outlets, at the door



Tickets for All Performances for the 2026/27 Season can be bought using the online WeGotTickets site.

Enter the Venue name, Rothesay or Bute in the search box. Payment is by Credit /Debit Card.

For in person purchases go to Print Point for all concerts & Fraser Gillies (Summer Galas only) They will need payment in cash for tickets.

There will normally be tickets available at the door. We can now take cash or card payments at all concerts. Of course, this is all subject to the vagaries of island mobile telephone signals.

Single tickets for all Season & Gala concerts: £15
Session (5) at Jazz Weekend: £10

School Children attend Free at all performances

Thanks to support from the D'Oyly Carte Trust & 'For Bute'

SUMMER GALA (1) Rothesay Joint Campus
Saturday 11 April 2026 - 14:00



Opera Bohemia
Die Fledermaus

by John Strauss II

Join us for a riotous afternoon of mischief, mistaken identities, and irresistible melodies.

Director John Wilkie and

designer Alisa Kalyanova transport this hilarious tale of revenge at a lavish party from Austria to Scotland! A star-studded cast includes Scottish favourite Catriona Clark, former Scottish Opera Emerging Artists Laura Margaret Smith and Ross Cumming, and American baritone Whitaker Mills, who recently made his debut at New York's Metropolitan Opera. Featuring the Opera Bohemia Ensemble conducted by Alistair Digges and performed in English, this is operetta at its most entertaining - fast-paced, funny, and full of charm.

SUMMER GALA (2) Rothesay Joint Campus
Saturday 15 August 2026 - 19:00



Theatre illyria
Pirates of Penzance

Gilbert & Sullivan

Frederick, apprenticed to Pirates as a child, is indentured to the Pirate King until his 21st birthday. The Pirate King

learns that Frederick was born in a leap year on 29th February, checks the contract's small print - and realises he has only had four birthdays. Will Frederick be forced to serve the pirates until he is 84? And will his sweetheart, Mabel, wait for him that long? Gilbert and Sullivan's most popular operetta is performed by a 6-strong cast of actor/singers with a fully orchestrated accompaniment. Join illyria for an evening of glittering wit, with razor sharp satire and glorious music. **Running time: 120-minutes, inc. 20-minute interval. All ages.**

SUMMER GALA (3): Glenburn Hotel Friday 04 to Sunday 06 September 2026 Sessions (3 - 11)
IOB Parish Church Thursday 03 September Session (1) / Winter Garden TBC Friday 04 September Session (2)



JAZZ WEEKEND 2026 extend to 11 diverse Sessions with a **Classical Jazz** opening concert followed by **five main Jazz Sessions**, with new for this year, **three easy listening Jazz Piano Sessions**, along with a **Family Session** and a **School Performance**.

Session (1)
 Thursday 03/09
 19:30 - 21:30

Nikia Lukinov, Piano & Friends
Classical Jazz concert - IOB Parish Church
 Isle of Bute Church - Ticket £15

Session (2)
 Friday 04/09
 15:00 - 16:00

Rothesay Academy Swing Band
Young Generation Sounds
 Winter Garden TBC - Free Entry

Session (3)
 Friday 04/09
 17:00 - 19:00

Matthew McIlree, Jazz Piano
Easy Listening
 Glenburn Bar - Free Entry

Session (4)
 Friday 04/09
 19:30 - 21:30

Seonaid Aitken Quintet
'Grappelli & Ella'
 Glenburn Suite - Ticket £15

Session (5)
 Saturday 05/09
 11:00 - 12:00

Tenement Jazz Band
Box of Wonders Family Show
 Glenburn Suite - £10 Children Free

Session (6)
 Saturday 05/09
 14:00 - 16:00

Tenement Jazz Band
Traditional Acoustic Jazz Band
 Glenburn Suite - Ticket £15

All Summer Galas including the Jazz Weekend financially supported by Bute Bid, Bute Jazz Concerts and Visit Bute.



Session (7)
 Saturday 05/09
 17:00 - 19:00

Matthew McIlree, Jazz Piano
Easy Listening
 Glenburn Bar - Free Entry

Session (8)
 Saturday 05/09
 19:30 - 21:30

Brian Molley Quartet
Play the music of Henry Mancini
 Glenburn Suite - Ticket £15

Session (9)
 Sunday 06/09
 14:00 - 16:00

Caroline Scott Jazz Quartet
A new angle on Traditional Jazz
 Glenburn Suite - Ticket £15

Session (10)
 Sunday 06/09
 17:00 - 19:00

Matthew McIlree, Jazz Piano
Easy Listening
 Glenburn Bar - Free Entry

Session (11)
 Sunday 06/09
 19:30 - 21:30

Angela Duncan/Tim Saul Quintet
The American Song Book
 Glenburn Suite - Ticket £15

GALA (3) JAZZ WEEKEND
 Single Tickets: £15/£10 or save with a Season Ticket: £75 that includes the opening concert Reception (£10).
 Children Free with D'Oyly Carte Trust support.

SEASON CONCERT (1) Isle of Bute Church
Thursday 03 September 2026 - 19:30

Invitation: to all Sponsors, Patrons, Friends, Jazz Weekend & Winter Season (Season Ticket holders), to a 'Meet the Artists' at a post concert Reception, to celebrate the 2026 Jazz Weekend.



'Classical Jazz' concert to Launch the Jazz Weekend
Nikita Lukinov, Piano with Ivan Venchenko, Saxophone & Composer
& Alisa Apreleva, Jazz Vocalist, Music Scientist & Berklee Graduate

Nikita & Friends despite their classical roots, now rank highly along with our more established Jazz artists. As a classical concert we include them in our Winter Season series of concerts, with this specially curated Programme that includes composers from Mussorgsky, and a re-imagined and extemporised, 'Pictures at an Exhibition' to Chopin and Ravel in Jazz, to a Gershwin Cocktail, to then exploring Keith Jarrett and Oscar Peterson, and including Latin & Cinema and of course Shostakovich's arrangement of 'Tea for Two'. We are delighted that Nikita, Alisa and Ivan and will bring 'Classical Jazz' to add to our now established and expanded 2026 Jazz Weekend.

SEASON CONCERT (2) Isle of Bute Church

Saturday 26 September 2026 - 13:00



Justyna Jablonska Solo Cello - "Unforeseen"

'Unforeseen' is a 50-minute solo performance combining cello, live electronics, voice, field recordings, and film projection. It draws on interviews with Polish, Roma and Ukrainian migrants in Scotland, weaving their stories into an immersive sonic and visual journey that explores memory, improvisation, and identity. **Ticket includes:** complimentary Tea/Coffee/Wine/Sandwich - **Doors 12:00**

SEASON CONCERT (3) Isle of Bute Church

Friday 02 October 2026 - 19:30



Bute Wind Quintet based in Wales

All former Royal Welsh Music College Students they perform a French themed, 'A Parisian Affair' Programme: from Millhaud's jousting and jugglers, to Ravel's colourful neo classicism, to the characterful and effervescent Ibert's Trois Pieces Breves. This potpourri of French Wind Quintets explores the wide variety of colours, characters & moods in the French repertoire for winds.

SEASON CONCERT (4) Isle of Bute Church

Friday 06 November 2026 - 19:30



Alba Challah "so much more than a klezmer band"

Classical Musician Scotland Artists, Alba Challah, perform not only klezmer repertoire which is a deeply expressive genre, with roots in the expressive and electrifying wedding music of Eastern European communities, but also so much more in the form of thrilling classical & operatic music arranged specifically for the band.

SEASON CONCERT (5) Isle of Bute Church

Friday 04 December 2026 - 19:30



Scozzesi Four male Singers & Piano

An exciting male vocal quartet of professional, classically trained singers plus accompanist, Scozzesi is Italian for Scottish men. The singers are all young Scottish men who are already making their mark in the singing world in their solo careers. Artists: tenors - Christian Schneeberger and Connor James Smith, baritones - Colin Murray and Jonathan Kennedy with pianist Ed Cohen.

SEASON CONCERT (6) Isle of Bute Church

Friday 22 January 2027 - 19:30

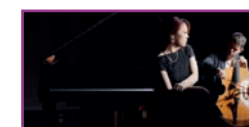


Solo Guitarist Ian Watt

CMS Artist and described by Classical Guitar Magazine as a guitarist of outstanding skill and originality; Scottish guitarist Ian Watt has performed world wide. Described by the press as 'sublime', 'astoundingly atmospheric' and 'dazzlingly virtuosic' Programme includes: Milano, Visée, Bach, Paganini, Aguado, Chopin, Albéniz, Granados, Tarrega, Falla.

SEASON CONCERT (7) Isle of Bute Church

Friday 19 February 2027 - 19:30



International Duo Hugh McKay, Cello & Junyan Chen, Piano

We welcome back to Bute, Scottish cellist Hugh Mackay who performs in solo recitals, chamber, early music and orchestral works. Performing with Shanghai-born pianist, Junyan Chen, the Duo perform recitals both here and abroad. The programme includes works by Poulenc, Simpson, Boulanger, Skalkottas and Prokofiev.

SEASON CONCERT (8) Isle of Bute Church

Friday 19 March 2027 - 19:30



CarmenCo Flute & Two Guitarists

Capitalising on the success of Carmen Co's original show on the life of Carmen, the group return to Bute with "My My My Delilah!" which is a concert/play telling Delilah's story from her point of view. What really motivated her infamous betrayal of Samson? Who was she trying to impress? Was she jealous of his hair? And why is she here now on stage playing a flute?

SEASON CONCERT (9) Isle of Bute Church

Friday 16 April 2027 - 19:30



International Recitalists Da Vinci Trio Violin, Cello & Piano

Well known for their expressive playing and their relaxed and witty audiences interaction, the international line up includes a Scottish violinist, a South African cellist and an Estonian pianist. Performing from Radio 3 to Edinburgh & Cheltenham Festivals, the programme includes Trios by Schubert, Avo Pärt and Smetana.

SEASON CONCERT (10) Isle of Bute Church

Saturday 08 May 2027 - 14:30



Choral Celebration 'A Choired Taste' & Ballianlay Choir

We are promised a special choral concert with the massed choirs of 'A Choired Taste' mixed voice choir from Kilmarnock and our local Ballianlay Choir. Our May choral concert is becoming a firm favourite in the concert calendar with visitors and locals alike as we annually showcase a visiting choir on Bute.