



Scottish
Chamber
Orchestra

MEDIA RELEASE

The Scottish Chamber Orchestra take up a two-day residency in Kilmarnock.

The Scottish Chamber Orchestra is delighted to take up a two-day residency in and around Kilmarnock at the end of May 2015. Culminating in an SCO concert in Kilmarnock's Grand Hall on Sunday 31 May, this residency also incorporates several community events for all ages within Ayrshire.

SCO Connect, the Orchestra's creative learning department, will present a fun and action-packed couple of days' workshops, masterclasses and performances with professional SCO musicians. On Friday 29 May, local residents will have the chance to experience the



popular **Big Ears, Little Ears**¹ concerts for babies and toddlers, featuring SCO wind players at Kilmarnock Children's Library, as well as **Music On Your Doorstep** concerts – string quartet performances in Stewarton Area Centre and Hurlford Community Centre – and a **CI@six** string quartet performance at 6pm in the beautiful surroundings of The Dick Institute Gallery. On the same day, people of all ages and abilities will have the opportunity to take part in a relaxed and enjoyable **Vocal Workshop** led by SCO Viola player and Director of Music at Heriot-Watt University Steve King.



Young musicians from local schools and music groups such as Fenwick Primary School, Stewarton Academy Concert Band, Cumnock and Auchinleck Brass Groups and West of Scotland Schools Symphony Orchestra will also receive **conducting and performance masterclasses and**

workshops² throughout the day, providing participants with valuable opportunities to work with professional musicians and conductors.

Director of SCO Connect, Kirsteen Davidson-Kelly, says:

Working with young musicians, we see their enthusiasm for music grow and their confidence and self-esteem flourish. Young musicians learn a lot about how to communicate and build relationships in small groups and it is a pleasure to watch this in action.

At the **SCO Family Day** on Sunday 31 May, participants from Friday's activities will give performances of their work in Kilmarnock's Grand Hall for family, friends and members of the community to enjoy. There will also be opportunities for families to try any instruments they want to from the **SCO Instrument Armoury**³ and to **Meet the Musicians**, before hearing **the SCO in concert** at 4pm that day.



The programme for the concert showcases the magnificent virtuosity of the SCO clarinet players, Maximiliano Martín and William Stafford, in Mendelssohn's Concert Pieces. Acclaimed British conductor James Lowe leads the Orchestra in Bartók's fiery folk-inspired Romanian Folk Dances and Dvořák's Czech Suite, as well as Schubert's youthful Third Symphony.

-ENDS-

Notes for Editors

¹ Big Ears, Little Ears is a popular series of SCO concerts for babies, toddlers, parents and carers. Thanks to the SCO's recent partnership with the National Galleries of Scotland who provide beautiful, intimate venues, Edinburgh audiences continue to grow. Big Ears, Little Ears has also recently toured to highly appreciative audiences in Dingwall, Tain and Balintore.

² SCO will be running activities with schools and youth ensembles in and around Kilmarnock, giving them the opportunity to work with professional musicians and conductors. Stewarton Academy Concert Band will participate in a conducting masterclass with James Lowe; players from Cumnock and Auchinleck Brass Group and West of Scotland Schools Symphony Orchestra will rehearse and perform alongside players from the SCO; young people receiving music tuition through East Ayrshire Instrumental Service will take part in a brass masterclass with SCO Principal Trumpet player, Peter Franks; and 20 beginner violinists and cellists from Fenwick Primary School will participate in a workshop with string players from the SCO. All participants will perform their work at the SCO Family Day on Sunday 31 May at 12 noon.

³ The SCO Instrument Armoury is a colourful collection of child-friendly orchestral instruments, designed to give children the chance to enjoy trying out a range of instruments and experiment with the sounds they make under the guidance of SCO Musicians.

Friday 29 May

The Base, Kilmarnock	0930-1630	Vocal Workshop
Children's Library, The Dick Institute	1030-1115	Big Ears, Little Ears
Children's Library, The Dick Institute	1145-1230	Big Ears, Little Ears
Stewarton Area Centre	1130-1230	Music On Your Doorstep
Hurlford Community Centre	1400-1500	Music On Your Doorstep
The Dick Institute gallery	1800-1900	Cl@six

Sunday 31 May

Kilmarnock Grand Hall	1000-1200	SCO Family Day drop-in events
Kilmarnock Grand Hall	12 noon	Showcase Performance
Kilmarnock Grand Hall	1600	SCO concert

Dvorak Czech Suite (23')

Mendelssohn Concert Pieces (18') No 1 in F minor op 113 and No 2 in D minor op 114

Bartók Romanian Folk Dances (6')

Schubert Symphony No 3 (26')

James Lowe – Conductor

Maximiliano Martín – Clarinet

William Stafford – Clarinet

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Tickets

SCO Concert Tickets: £16 / £14 (65+/disabled) / £5 (U26/student/unemployed) / Free (U16)

Available from: RGM Music, 24 Nelson Street, Kilmarnock, KA1 1BA or www.sco.org.uk

Community Events Tickets: **Free of charge** www.sco.org.uk or 0131 478 8342

For further information or for press tickets, please contact Jess Conway at jessica.conway@sco.org.uk or on 0131 478 8340.

Biographies

[James Lowe](#)

[Maximiliano Martín](#)

[William Stafford](#)