

Amateur Chamber Music Society

— CONCERT PROGRAM —

SPIKE West Highland Wander

violins Jenny Allison and Sue Butler
viola Eve Salinas cello Anne Stevens

VIVALDI Winter from the Four Seasons

violin George Carrard piano Christine Edwards

— INTERVAL —

CHRISTMAS MUSIC

ORD: Adam Lay Ybounden

ROSE: Advent

PALESTRINA: Canite Tuba

MARENZIO: Hodie Christus Natus Est

Sopranos: Sue Butler, Sophia Lauber, Glenda Woolnough

Altos: Hilary Day, Patsy Short Tenor: Peter Nickolas

Basses: Ian Butler, Joe Wolfe

— REFRESHMENTS —

Kristofer SPIKE (1959-) *West Highland Wander*

Kristofer Spike is an Australian composer/pianist now living in Chicago. Many of his compositions are inspired by his concern for environmental issues and his love of nature and the outdoors. He has recorded five CDs of his chamber music compositions and also had his music played regularly on ABC Classic FM and other fine music stations over the past 15 years.

West Highland Wander is a musical memory of a walk the composer did with his daughter in 2018 through the Scottish Highlands. The first part of the walk is along Loch Lomond and flashes of the famous folk song of the same name punctuate this section of the piece. The slower middle section is more serene and expresses the restfulness of evening camps while the third section describes the majesty of approaching Ben Nevis, the highest mountain in the British Isles. The work has been composed for four instruments: strings, winds or a mixture of both.

Antonio VIVALDI (1678-1741) “Winter” from *The Four Seasons*

Italian composer Antonio Vivaldi famously said, ‘There are no words, there is only music there.’ And yet, ironically, Vivaldi’s best-known work, *Le Quattro Stagioni* (‘The Four Seasons’), Op 8, Nos 1–4, is based upon a series of sonnets, apparently written by himself. These concerti can arguably be considered among the first truly programmatic pieces; that is, music that tells or follows a narrative. Although Vivaldi composed in a wide range of genres, his concerti endure as one of his greatest contributions to the Western classical canon.

Vivaldi lived and worked in Baroque Venice. He was an ordained Catholic priest as well as being a composer.

For nearly thirty years he taught music and composed for an orphanage in the town, named Ospedale della Pietà. Vivaldi crafted an immense oeuvre of concerti during this period, exploring the potential of conversations between soloist and orchestra. Although he did not compose *The Four Seasons* for the orphanage, the works were undoubtedly influenced by his compositions from that period.

Vivaldi composed *The Four Seasons* between 1716 and 1725. A typical Vivaldi concerto includes three movements, and there is a sonnet to accompany each season. The sonnet breaks into three sections to follow the individual movements.

Here is the sonnet for Winter:

Allegro non molto

To tremble from cold in the icy snow,
In the harsh breath of a horrid wind;
To run, stamping one’s feet every moment,
Our teeth chattering in the extreme cold

Largo

Before the fire to pass peaceful
Contented days while the rain outside pours down.

Allegro

We tread the icy path slowly and cautiously,
for fear of tripping and falling.
Then turn abruptly, slip, crash on the ground and,
rising, hasten on across the ice lest it cracks up.
We feel the chill north winds course through the home
despite the locked and bolted doors...
this is winter, which nonetheless
brings its own delights.

*Complied by Suzanne Maslen for a concert to celebrate St Cecilia's Day 2022, also
using Seattle Symphony notes.*

CHRISTMAS MUSIC

Boris ORD (1897–1961) Adam Lay Ybouden is the only published composition of Boris Ord, who was director of the choir of King's College, Cambridge for many years. He was largely responsible for expanding the repertoire of the choir to the 16th century music for which it is now famous. The text dates from about 1400 and may have been intended for use in mystery plays.

Kathryn ROSE (1980-) was born in Saskatchewan, Canada and now resides in London. She has been organist at St Andrew's Church, Leytonstone since 2010 is now studying choral composition at the University of Aberdeen. This song is a setting of a poem by Christina Rossetti (1830-1894).

Giovanni Pierluigi Da PALESTRINA (c. 1525-1594) spent most of his life in Rome. He was first a chorister and mastered the northern European style of polyphony. Among others, he was mentored by Orlando di Lasso. During his lifetime he held a number of positions as organist and choirmaster and from 1571 was at St Peter's. He wrote hundreds of compositions including masses, motets and madrigals. This is a setting of the first antiphon at Lauds and Vespers for the fourth Sunday in Advent.

Luca MARENZIO (1553–1599) is best known for his madrigals and worked in the service of several Italian families, including the Gonzaga, Este and Medici. He was a singer and lutenist and developed the late Renaissance style of vocal writing. His music was highly influential and was widely known and performed throughout Europe. The text is the antiphon to the Magnificat, sung at Vespers on Christmas Day.

concert organiser George Carrard
light refreshments (wine, juice and savouries)
\$15 admission (\$10 concession/seniors) to cover costs

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Amateur Chamber Music Society. Visit our website for more information.

The Kirribilli Centre

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Chamber Music Concert

3 pm Sunday 4 December 2022

