



The Friends of St Cecilia's Hall
present the Sounds of St Cecilia's

Saturday 15th August 2026 at *3.00 p.m.*



In Conversations: Baroque, Blues and Beyond

Hilary Michael & Richard Michael



Baroque Blues and Beyond

Duo Hilary Michael (violin/sax) and Richard Michael (piano) present a unique, thoughtful and inspirational dialogue between musical eras. Whilst remaining faithful to the authentic styles of different genres they shine a light on what unites, rather than separates, the geniuses of the likes of J.S. Bach and Duke Ellington.

At the heart of the show lies the art of improvisation, where the duo engages in real-time musical ‘conversations,’ inviting the audience into their creative process, presenting a masterclass in versatility, creativity and collaborative spirit.

We have pleasure in welcoming you to a concert with a difference. With improvisation being the order of the day what we can say is the programme will include works by J.S. Bach, Duke Ellington, Henry Purcell and Chick Corea.

Our grateful thanks go to Jonathan Santa Maria Bouquet for all the hard work preparing the instruments, and to Jenny Nex and the staff of St Cecilia's Hall for facilitating these Fringe Festival Concerts.

Audience members are kindly requested not to climb on to the stage before, during or after the performance

Hilary Michael Scottish violinist and saxophonist, Hilary studied with Richard Deakin (violin) and Martin Speake (saxophone) at the Royal Academy of Music (RAM), graduating in 2006 with First Class Honours. She returned to the RAM for a two-year Postgraduate Diploma in Historical Performance, studying Baroque violin with Pavlo Beznosiuk. She won the Mica Comberti Bach Prize, performed Mendelssohn's Concerto in D minor for Violin and Strings with the Becket Ensemble and David Watkin, led the RAM Baroque Ensemble and was the winner of their 2008 Early Music Prize.

Hilary now enjoys a busy freelance career, performing and recording all over the world with groups such as Dunedin Consort, Academy of Ancient Music, Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, Orchestre Romantique et Revolutionnaire, Avison Ensemble, Gabrieli Consort, La

Serenissima and Scottish Chamber Orchestra (SCO). She has also been the Leader/Director of the Kellie Consort, a group set up by Tom Wilkinson to give music students and recent graduates experience in period instrument performance. Hilary also works in jazz education, most notably as the String Tutor on the Richard Michael Summer Jazz Course since 2002. She is a regular visiting tutor to the Fife Youth Jazz Orchestra, has taught on improvisation workshops for Making Music and was the Woodwind Tutor for the Glasgow Schools Jazz Orchestra for seven years.

An alumna of St Mary's Music School, Hilary has been a coach on their Chamber Music Programme since 2015, with a focus on historical performance practice. She also directs the School's Early Music Group, teaching jazz violin as part of their Jazz Programme, and teaches both aural and improvisation classes to senior pupils as part of the School's Musicianship Skills training.

Richard Michael-BEM Richard Michael is recognised as one of the UK's leading educators in the field of jazz improvisation, a pianist who can improvise a fugue as easily as he can play be-bop, and a composer who has written for orchestras, chamber groups and big bands. His presentation skills have been recognised through many years as BBC Radio Scotland's "Jazz Jargonbuster", analysing instrumental solos and songs to audiences on "Jazz Nights" and also "Classics Unwrapped".

He was awarded the BEM for services to music in the Queen's Birthday Honors list in 2012, and given a lifetime achievement award from Jazz Scotland in 2021. He is the author of "Jazz Piano for Kids" (published by Hal Leonard in 2022) "Creative Jazz Education" (Stainer and Bell) and many instrumental pieces for the ABRSM.

Through his work as Honorary Professor of Jazz Piano at St Andrews University, Richard has led both Jazz and Baroque workshops and improvised on the theme of Bach's Goldberg Variations in a concert in the Laidlaw Centre in April 2023 with Claire Innes-Hopkin.

He has been a member of the Benedetti Foundation since it began before lockdown, teaching improvisation in all styles to hundreds of youngsters and teachers in person and through Zoom.

In November 2025, 75 past and present members of Fife Youth Jazz Orchestra came together in the Adam Centre, Kirkcaldy for a special concert celebrating Richard's 50 years as leader. "Last month Richard was awarded an honorary Doctorate by the University of St Andrews, in recognition of his services to music education over the last 50 years.

The Friends of St Cecilia's Hall and Museum

St Cecilia's Hall, Edinburgh, the oldest purpose-built concert hall in Scotland, houses the University of Edinburgh's Musical Instrument Collection, including the Anne Macaulay Collection of plucked stringed instruments, the Shackleton Collection of wind instruments, and the Raymond Russell and Rodger Mirrey Collections which illustrate the development of keyboard instruments from the sixteenth century onwards.

The Friends

- *Sponsor bursaries and a scholarship to music students*
- *Enjoy exclusive Friends concerts and events*
- *Publish Soundboard an award-winning journal*
- *Organise a concert series during the Fringe*
- *Publish historical books and instrument plans*
- *Help to buy instruments for the Museum*
- *Volunteer at concerts and other events*

The Friends of St Cecilia's Hall warmly invite you to join their association. *Benefits of being a Friend include: Social events and volunteering opportunities, reduced prices for FoSCHM Fringe concerts, copies of 'Soundboard' magazine, and reduced prices on selected publications and recordings.*

The FoSCHM have been a registered charity since 1971.

