

AURRAS DUO

Hailing from Scotland, Aurras Duo are Fiona Sweeney (Flute) and Ben Eames (Piano). Formed in 2021, they both share a passion for discovering, performing and celebrating lesser known repertoire alongside familiar favourites. The Aurras Duo have enjoyed performing to wonderful audiences all over the UK.

"With rippling piano and swirling, playful flute, combined with dark passages of turmoil and longing, brought forth strong emotions through the intricate and complex interaction of piano and flute until finally, passion spent, it resolved into the gentlest peace, sustained by a silent audience which then acknowledged a wonderful performance." - Classic Music Live! (Falkirk)

Next Concert

To be held at The Rockfield Centre

Sunday 9th March 2.30 pm Ensemble Renard (wind quintet)

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Oban Music Society
Secretary: Seymour Adams
eMail: obanmusicsociety@gmail.com
Web: www.obanmusicsociety.com

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WELCOMES

Aurras Duo



Fiona Sweeney flute & Ben Eames piano

St John's Cathedral
2.30pm

Sunday 9th February 2025

Fiona Sweeney



Fiona is originally from Glasgow and began her studies at the Junior Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, where she was awarded a scholarship, and performed as a concerto soloist with the Junior RCS Orchestra. Fiona then completed her undergraduate degree as a scholarship holder at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, and was awarded a 1st class honours degree, the Concert Recital Diploma award and the Principal's Music Prize in 2020. Fiona completed her postgraduate degree on the Orchestral Artistry course at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in July 2022, also as a scholarship holder, and was the winner of the Woodwind Prize in 2021. Fiona was also a scholarship holder and recital scheme artist for the Hattori Foundation for Music and the Arts.

Orchestrally, Fiona has worked with the London Philharmonic Orchestra, the London Symphony Orchestra and the orchestra of the Royal Ballet and Opera. She has also performed with the Scottish Opera Orchestra, the Royal Scottish National Orchestra including guest principal, the Welsh National Opera Orchestra, BBC National Orchestra of Wales including BBC Proms 2024, Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, Opera North Orchestra, Ulster Orchestra, Scottish Ballet Orchestra, London Sinfonietta and Nevill Holt Opera. Moreover, Fiona was the 2022 seat holder at the Thursford Christmas Spectacular Show. As a soloist, Fiona has recorded Richard Bissill's Flute and Piano Sonata, for his CD 'Panoply', available on Spotify and iTunes.

Ben Eames



Ben is a Scottish pianist who has performed extensively throughout the UK. He grew up, surrounded by creativity at the foot of the Ochil Hills in Clackmannanshire, the 'wee county' and discovered a passion for music and piano after his artist parents were offered an old piano 'free to a good home'. He studied initially at the Ian Tomlin School of Music in Edinburgh Napier University with a 1st class Bachelor of Music with Honours studying under Simon Coverdale. During this time, he won multiple prizes at the Edinburgh Competitions Festival including: Horace Fellowes Medal for Chamber Music (2014); Elizabeth Ritchie Medal for 15 Minute Recital (2013); Christina Pentland Medal for Classical Piano Recital (2012) and the Chopin Medal (2012). Ben completed a Masters of Music in piano performance at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance, London in 2015 studying under Douglas Finch.

Since graduating Ben has performed both as a soloist and with ensembles across Scotland and in London. While rooted in classical repertoire, Ben's musical explorations extend across a range of styles, collaborating with jazz musicians, choirs, musical theatre groups and dancers.

In addition to his career as a performer, Ben teaches in schools and music schools across Scotland. He is Associate Piano Teacher at the University of St Andrews.

Programme

Nature, Mythology and Folklore

Lili Boulanger - D'un Matin De Printemps

Lili Boulanger - Nocturne

Aileen Sweeney - Eilean a ' Cheò, arr. For Flute and Piano

Carl Reinicke - Undine

~~ Interval ~~

Claude Debussy - Prelude á L'après-midi d'un Faune

William Grant Still - Summerland

Hamilton Harty - In Ireland

Ian Clarke - Orange Dawn

Amanda Harberg - Feathers and Wax

Website: www.aurrasduo.com