



The Music Room
Conversations about Music
With Zoë Beyers

Episode Three

(First broadcast 17 July 2020)

William Conway
Cellist, conductor &
Artistic Director of Hebrides Ensemble

Programme Notes



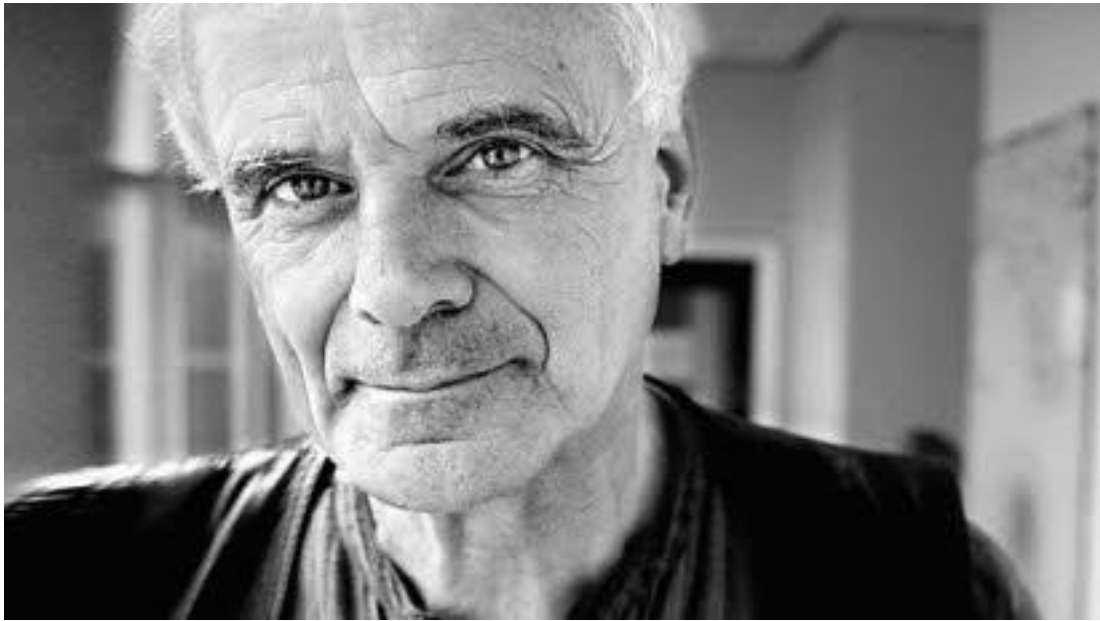
William Conway

Living Composers; Live Music

William Conway is a musical trailblazer: a true champion of new and little-known music. In a career as an international cellist, conductor and chamber musician spanning four decades, he has worked tirelessly to bring the music of living composers to audiences old and new in fresh, relevant and meaningful ways. Over the last ten years his long-standing collaborations with Sir James MacMillan, Sir Peter Maxwell Davies, Nigel Osborne and Dame Judith Weir have borne fruit as a series of 'composer portraits', in the form of [critically acclaimed recordings](#) (for Delphian).

Will is an equally passionate advocate for music education and works with young people in his role as Head of Strings at St Mary's Music School in Edinburgh, and with students at the Royal Scottish Conservatoire. He created the [Hebrides Academy](#), a side-by-side programme in which young professionals are offered unique performance opportunities and access to Hebrides Ensemble musicians, composers, directors and conductors. Hebrides Ensemble undertakes annual touring of Scotland's most rural areas, sharing music in remote locations with often very isolated communities.

Past Master...



Peter Maxwell Davies

Sir Peter Maxwell Davies (1934 - 2016) was Master of the Queen's Music from 2004 - 2014. This was an initially controversial appointment on account of his political stance: Max, as he was widely known, made no secret of his republican views. He was politically active all his life, marching in protest against the government in the run up to the 2003 Iraq war and campaigning as an environmentalist. Max was a prolific composer and a substantial quantity of his music was created with his adopted home of the Orkney Isles in mind. Much like Benjamin Britten, Max made works that involved community choirs, troupes of children, actors and dancers - long before it was fashionable - and founded the [St Magnus International Festival](#) in Kirkwall to bring artists and art-lovers to Orkney at midsummer.

... and the Present Master



Judith Weir

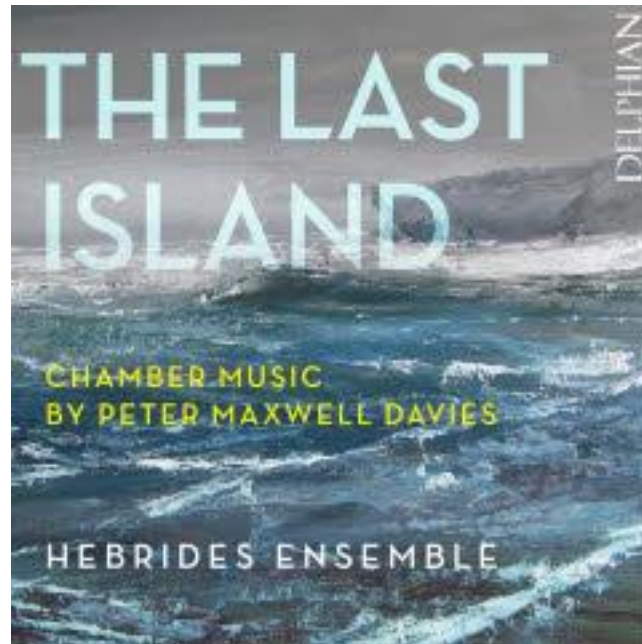
In 2014, Dame Judith Weir took on the mantle of Master of the Queen's Music - or 'Mastress' as she is fondly known. Her often delicate, transparent musical landscape combines with her lifelong interest in medieval history in *O Viridissima*, which we hear in this programme. This composition is an exquisite reimagining of Hildegard von Bingen's hymn *O Viridissima Virga* ('O greenest branch') for piano trio. Listen to the original here:



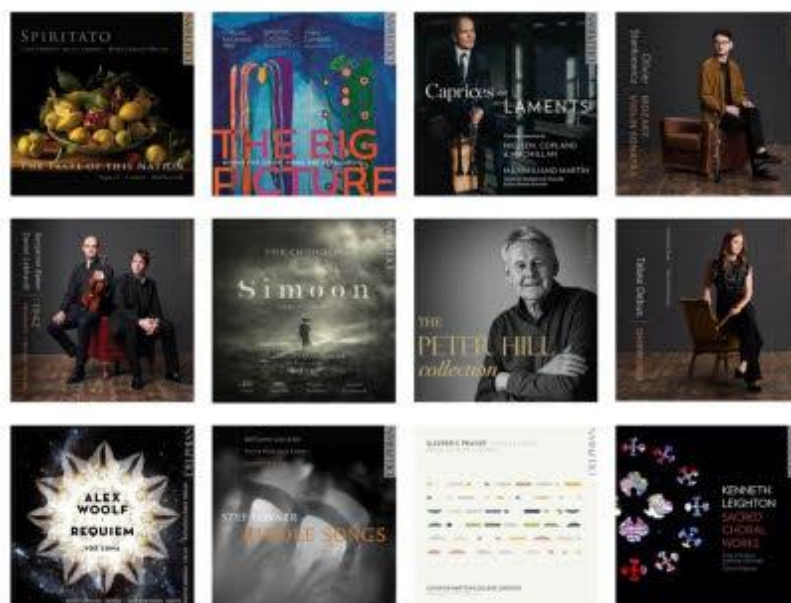
Links to follow...

[Will's website](#) and [Hebrides Ensemble's website](#) for more information, digital concerts, composers and music both old and new.

[The Last Island](#): Hebrides Ensemble's critically acclaimed recording of Sir Peter Maxwell Davies's late chamber music.



[Delphian Records](#) for truly ear-opening recordings, from the very old to the very new.



Episode Playlist



- Haydn: Cello Concerto No. 1 in C major Hob. VIIb no. 1: I. Moderato (William Conway, cello; The Goldberg Ensemble) - Meridian

- Berg: Concerto for Violin and Orchestra (1935): I. Andante; Allegretto (Isaac Stern, violin; New York Philharmonic; Leonard Bernstein) - Sony Classical

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- John Bevan Baker: Triptych (William Conway, cello; Graeme McNaught, piano) - Linn Records

- Britten: Suite No. 3 for Solo Cello Op. 87: VII. Recitativo: Fantastico (Truls Mørk, cello) - Erato/Warner Classics
- J. S. Bach: Suite No. 3 for Solo Cello BWV 1009: I. Prélude & VI. Gigue (Pierre Fournier, cello) - Archiv Produktion
- [Peter Maxwell Davies: Strathclyde Concerto No. 2 for Cello](#) (William Conway, cello; Scottish Chamber Orchestra; Peter Maxwell Davies) - Treasure Island
- [Judith Weir: O Viridissima](#) (Hebrides Ensemble) - Delphian Records
- [Schubert & Schumann arr. Reinbert de Leeuw: Im Wunderschönen Monat Mai: Die Winterreise: Gute Nacht & Rastlose Liebe](#) (Barbara Sukowa, voice; Schönberg Ensemble; Reinbert de Leeuw) - Music Edition Winter & Winter
- Brahms: Piano Concerto No. 2 in B flat major Op. 83: III. Andante (Emmanuel Ax, piano; Chamber Orchestra of Europe; Bernard Haitink) - live at the BBC Proms



- Richard Strauss: *Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme* Op. 60: The Dinner (Chamber Orchestra of Europe; Vladimir Jurowski)

- Mozart: Symphony No. 29 in A major K. 201: I. Allegro Moderato (NYOS Camerata Scotland; William Conway)



- Nigel Osborne: Differences in Demolition (Opera Circus; William Conway)

- [Nigel Osborne: Adagio for Vedran Smailovic](#) (William Conway, cello)



- Verdi: *Otello: Ave Maria* (Nadine Benjamin, Desdemona; Everybody Can! Opera; William Conway)

- Stravinsky: The Soldier's Tale: Valse and Ragtime (Hebrides Ensemble; William Conway) - live at the BBC Proms
- [James MacMillan](#): *Since it was the day of preparation*: IV. The Burial & V. Interlude (Brindley Sherratt, bass; Synergy Vocals; Hebrides Ensemble) – Delphian
- [Judith Weir](#): *3 Chorales: I. Angels Bending Near the Earth* (William Conway, cello; James Willshire, piano) - Delphian Records



- Dvorák: Piano Trio in E minor Op. 90 B166 ('Dumky'): I. Lento maestoso - Allegro quasi doppio movimento (Hebrides Ensemble)