



Season 2019–20: Concert 1

**Fergus McCreadie
with David Bowden (bass)**



7.30pm

13 October 2019

The Tiffany Lounge at Carnegie Hall

ENTERPRISE
MUSIC
SCOTLAND

This concert is one of a series promoted by Dunfermline Arts Guild with financial assistance from Creative Scotland provided through Enterprise Music Scotland



Fergus McCreadie

Pianist Fergus McCreadie is one of Scotland's most exciting young talents. Born in Jamestown, near Strathpeffer, he grew up in Dollar and graduated from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland in 2018.

As well as winning the prestigious Peter Wittingham Jazz Award with his trio in 2016, he has twice won the Young Scottish Jazz Musician of the year under-17s Prize and is the winner of the Guy Jones Prize, the Joe Temperley Prize from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, and the Linda Trahan Memorial Prize from St Andrews University.

His trio has featured at the Glasgow, Edinburgh, Fife, Aberdeen and Islay jazz festivals regularly and earlier this year toured in Norway, Sweden, Lithuania and Estonia. The group has also appeared at Oslo Jazz Festival and the Ronnie Scott's International Piano Trio Festival and later this month will play at Stockholm Jazz Festival.

Released in Spring 2018, the trio's debut album, *Turas*, has been praised for "reflecting his engagement with the Scottish landscape and musical traditions while also showing a firm grasp of the jazz piano tradition" (*Jazz in Europe*) and won the Album of the Year title at the Scottish Jazz Awards this year, following on from McCreadie's Best Instrumentalist title at the 2018 awards.

More recently, *Turas* was shortlisted for the Scottish Album of the Year Award, reaching the final ten from 290-plus candidates, a rare feat for a jazz album, and McCreadie is currently shortlisted for two categories (Best Album and Best Newcomer) in the Parliamentary Jazz Awards and in the Piano section of the British Jazz Awards, the results of which will be announced later in the year.

McCreadie's music is an innovative blend of jazz and Scottish traditional music. *Turas* (Scottish Gaelic for 'Journey') features eight original compositions which are designed to take the listener on an auditory journey of Scotland. Depicting scenes from the Western Isles to the East Neuk of Fife, the music is evocative of the landscapes from which it has taken its inspiration.

McCreadie, who also works with drummer Graham Costello's widely-acclaimed STRATA, among other groups, will perform tonight with his regular bassist, David Bowden, the winner of the Young Scottish Jazz Musician of the Year title in 2017 and leader of the acclaimed, world music influenced band Mezcla.

"Think Erik Satie running on Islay malt rather than absinthe" (*The Scotsman*)

"Prodigious, cascading technique while communicating warmth of personality and the ability both to convey a sense of place and landscape and make a melancholy phrase somehow spiritually uplifting" (*The Herald*)

"An effervescent mix of reeling folk melody that still retains a contemporary jazz sensibility" (*JazzWise*)

Tonight's music

The pieces played tonight will include four items from the classical repertoire

J S Bach: Prelude and Fugue 20 in A minor (BWV 889)
from Book 2 of *The Well-Tempered Klavier*

Frédéric Chopin: Prelude in D♭ major "Raindrop" (Op. 28, No 15)

Frédéric Chopin: Prelude in B minor (Op. 28, No 6)

Claude Debussy: Clair de lune
The third movement of *Suite bergamasque*

Fergus and David will also play some new music they have written, as well as items from their Turas album including a selection from Ardbeg, Mull, Cairn, Tide, The Back Burn, Hillfoot Glen, The Old Harbour and The Set. The pieces will be introduced by the artists.

INTERVAL

As usual, tonight's performance will have an interval during which refreshments will be available.

What Fergus wrote about Turas

"Most of the tunes on the album represent places that I've been in Scotland throughout my life. I think the sense of place is very important. Having travelled a lot of Scotland and being a lover of all things Scottish has really influenced how I approach music and it especially comes through on this album.

"My writing process usually is nothing more than me sitting at the piano messing about with an idea, until it morphs into something more than that. Each of these tunes has come from a sound or a concept that I've been messing around with, until it's taken shape. I usually don't name tunes until after I've finished them – I like to take my time with naming the pieces, so that I really know where they've come from and what they remind me of in my life."