

Carla Rees

Wednesday 11th February, 5:45pm

Firth Hall

PERFORMANCE
VENUES
CONCERTS

George Nicholson - River Tales (2025) for solo alto flute (premiere)

Dorothy Ker - face (2014) for solo flute (premiere)

David Bennett Thomas - Moons Ago (2026) for solo bass flute (premiere)

Carla Rees

Carla Rees is a British low flutes player, composer and arranger, working to raise the profile of her instruments through performance, research and collaboration.

Carla enjoys an international performance career both as a soloist, improviser and chamber musician; she frequently appears at international festivals and was a soloist for the National Flute Association's Concerto Gala in Phoenix Arizona in 2023. Recent performances include in Brazil, USA and Japan as well as around the UK.

She is an established recording artist with a discography of over 30 titles, including concertos with the Royal Ballet Sinfonia and Neue Musik im Ostseeraum, as well as several world premiere recordings of works composed for her. She has also recorded for film, radio and video games. Her drive to create new repertoire for low flutes and baroque traverso has resulted in the premieres of several hundred works, many of which are now published by Tetractys Publishing.

She is Artistic Director of the contemporary chamber music ensemble rarescale, with whom she has performed in the UK and internationally and appeared on BBC Radio 3, and Director of its associated ensemble, rarescale Flute Academy. As part of her work with rarescale she leads low flute days and masterclasses, encouraging advanced amateur players to explore and develop their interest in low flutes.

She is also Artistic Director of the International Superflutes Collective, an ensemble which celebrates international friendship and collaboration.

Carla has over 100 published arrangements and compositions, which receive frequent performances internationally. Her acclaimed 2016 composition, Nightsong, has been broadcast on BBC Radio 3 and released on several commercial Recordings.

In addition to her performance work, Carla is a dedicated teacher. She was appointed as the first Professor of Low Flutes and Contemporary Flute at the Royal Academy of Music in September 2021 and has taught masterclasses and led composer workshops at some of the world's leading institutions, including the Juilliard School in New York and USC in Los Angeles.

Carla plays Kingma System flutes, made for her by Eva Kingma, Bickford Brannen and Lev Levit. She is Editor of the British Flute Society's magazine, PAN, and Commissions Coordinator for the National Flute Association of America.

Carla has a PhD from the Royal College of Music in London where she studied flute with Graham Mayger and Simon Channing, and composition with Timothy Salter.

www.carlarees.co.uk

<https://www.ram.ac.uk/people/carla-rees>

www.rarescale.org.uk

George Nicholson - River Tales (2025) for solo alto flute (premiere)

George Nicholson is a composer, conductor and pianist from County Durham. After his freelance career in London, he became a lecturer in music and the Director of Composition at Keele University in 1988. Since 1996 he has worked at Sheffield University and was appointed Emeritus Professor of Composition in 2020. Nicholson's music is highly regarded and has been played by the London Sinfonietta, the BBC Philharmonic, the Orchestra of St John's Smith Square, the Zürich Tonhalle Orchestra and many other ensembles. Nicholson's Flute Concerto was commissioned by James Galway and the Zürich Tonhalle Orchestra in 1993. His work is available on the record labels Metier, Oboe Classics, Cuillin Sound, Unknown Public and the British Music Label (**George Nicholson**).

River Tales

The Kingma System flute offers great expressive possibilities in terms of timbre, glissando and multiphonics, and over the course of the five movements of *River Tales* I was keen to explore the increased fluidity and versatility of the instrument. Formally, it is as if that sense of fluidity also stimulated a tendency for musical ideas to flow freely between the movements, so that the structure of the whole began to take on something of the character of a river and its tributaries: the separate movements are all constructed from the same material, and the same or similar events are perceived from a range of different perspectives, opening up the possibility of both anticipation and recall.

The title is unashamedly borrowed from a painting by the Sheffield-born artist, John Hoyland. Although my piece has no particular connection with it, the work of Hoyland as a whole has moved and excited my imagination for many years. I find the vibrancy and richness of his canvases genuinely captivating and irresistible, and his lifelong determined exploration of colour and form is something that is truly inspiring.

Dorothy Ker - face (2014) for solo flute (premiere)

Dorothy Ker is a composer born in Carterton, New Zealand. After completing a master's degree in music, in 1992 she emigrated to the UK and completed her PhD at York University. She has since had research fellowships at Reading and The University of Sheffield, and currently works as a Senior Lecturer in Composition at The University of Sheffield (**Sounz**). She has worked with a number of performers including the London Symphony Orchestra, Lontano, NZTrio, 175East, STROMA, Christopher Redgate, Mark Knoop and Shu Jiang (**The University of Sheffield**).

Face is a piece inspired by a poem of the same name by Denys Trussell:

Folding out of our inward dream this last expression that grows from the body's stem of time is a face to reveal us, to mask us in the circle of its eyes / its geology of bone the shifting construction of tears and laughter.

(Excerpt from 'Face' by Denys Trussell from the 1986 collection 'Words for the Rock Antipodes') (**Sounz**).

David Bennett Thomas - Moons Ago (2026) for solo bass flute (premiere)

David Bennett Thomas (b. 1969) is a prolific composer who has composed music for chamber groups, soloists, and choruses around the world. He is also active performing and recording in the jazz realm. Thomas has received commissions, grants, and awards from organizations to release many albums of both classical and jazz music. Thomas also has an active life on YouTube, where his music theory and original composition videos have millions of views. Thomas is on the faculty at Temple University and Kean University, where he teaches composition, theory, orchestration, and piano. *Moons Ago* is a set of short pieces inspired by poetry about the moon, written especially for Carla Rees (**David Bennett Thomas**).

Coming Soon:

We've got loads of great events coming up, you can visit our website for full details - www.performancevenues.group.shef.ac.uk

Brotsky Quartet

Thursday 12th February - 7:30pm

£10-£17

Firth Hall

Since its formation in 1972 the Brodsky Quartet has performed over 3000 concerts on the major stages of the world and released more than 60 recordings. A natural curiosity and insatiable desire to explore has propelled the group in many artistic directions and continues to ensure them not only a place at the very forefront of the international chamber music scene but also a rich and varied musical existence. Their energy and craftsmanship have attracted numerous awards and accolades worldwide, while ongoing educational work provides a vehicle for passing on experience and staying in touch with the next generation.

Free Concerts on campus

Throughout term time we run free informal recitals and events in Firth Hall, including visiting guests and the performances from the talented students from the Department of Music.

These events are free to attend and are performed at lunch time and rush hour, which we believe make the events accessible for everyone to enjoy. To find out more about these events and to reserve your ticket, head to our website.

Wednesday 18th February	Rush Hour Concert - Pop and Jazz Ensembles	Mappin Hall	17:45
Monday 23rd February	Lunchtime Concert - Performances from our students	Firth Hall	13:10
Monday 2nd March	Lunchtime Concert - Women Composers Spotlight	Firth Hall	13:10