



# Members and Friends Newsletter

## March 2022

### Penicuik Community Arts Association

Dear PCAA members and friends,

Our recent concerts from Justyna Jablonska (Polish cellist based in Edinburgh) and Jyotsna Srikanth (South Indian Carnatic violinist) and from Ailie Robertson (Edinburgh born harpist and composer) were both extremely successful. In spite of the bad weather for Justyna and Jyotsna, we had a good audience, and we were sold out for Ailie's concert. It's wonderful to hear such world-class music live in Penicuik!

We're very grateful to Chamber Music Scotland who gave grant support for these concerts. Without this support, it wouldn't be financially possible.

On Sunday 20th March at 3pm we'll enjoy something completely different! **The Castaways (a female vocal harmony group)** will entertain us with a varied programme of songs to please us all. This is a benefit concert in aid of the ongoing Arts Centre building repairs.

Tickets are on sale online and can be purchased from the Café-gallery, 4 West Street and from Pen-y-Coe Press, 7 Bridge Street - Penicuik. You're invited to pay the price you can afford:

[Please click here](#) for Standard tickets £10

[Please click here](#) for "pay less" tickets £7

[Please click here](#) for "pay more" tickets £15



**A very special concert from Saanjh - Friday 6th May at 7pm:**

Saanjh is a cross-cultural ensemble of musicians (Ankna Arockiam, Edward Cohen, and Hardeep Deerhe) which calls on both Eastern and Western musical influences. Blending voice, piano, and tabla, the musicians mix their virtuosic playing with elements of improvisation and conversation. We are very privileged to be welcoming them to Penicuik on a tour supported by Chamber Music Scotland. They will perform a special programme that showcases the music of historically underrepresented composers. Creating an innovative, live soundscape, the trio will explore “woman’s journey through dusk and the experiences and challenges she faces along the way.”

Save the date - 6th May 2022 7:30pm! Tickets will be available from the beginning of April. Be sure to order yours in good time - we anticipate an early sell-out. Again, our grateful thanks to Chamber Music Scotland for financial support for this event.



**Saanjh**  
*(Photograph by Andrew Bradley)*

## PENFEST 2022

We are moving Penfest week to Saturday 21st May - Sunday 29th May 2022 to coincide with, and collaborate with, the popular Hunter & Lass week.

Because this is such short notice, the usual Open Exhibition for the Turner Prize will be replaced by an invited exhibition on the theme "Inspire Penicuik", This exhibition will be on show during the whole of May, in the Café-gallery and upstairs in Room 1.

A pared-down programme of events will be offered, starting with an afternoon concert on Sunday 22nd May at 3pm from the very popular **Roxburgh String Quartet**. They have played to capacity audiences at the Arts Centre before, and we anticipate that their return visit to us will be eagerly anticipated and highly enjoyable.

Other PCAA Penfest events include an Art demonstration and talk from Damian Callan on "Paint like Renoir" This will take place on Tuesday 24th May 7:30pm.

There will also be a free PCAA members-only Social gathering on Sunday 29th May 3pm. See below for how to become a PCAA member!

**The exhibition in the Café gallery during March will be from a PCAA committee Artist, Annemarie Grant.** Do drop in for a cuppa, or for lunch, and enjoy the art-work on display. The PCAA committee thanks Jenni for organising these exhibitions; her efforts are a valuable contribution to the work of the PCAA. If you would like an exhibition of your work in the Café gallery for one month, please contact us ([penicuikarts.org@gmail.com](mailto:penicuikarts.org@gmail.com)) and we'll pass your details to Jenni and send you exhibitors' information.

**We've been successful in obtaining grants for some community activities.**

Firstly, to my amazement, the SCOPS Arts Trust has awarded us money for the first year of a 2-year project to make a **film of the Paper-Making industry in Penicuik.**

This first year's money is for Gerda Stevenson to research and write a script. In addition, the PCAA will drum up interest from volunteers who might like to act, help with costumes etc, or provide stories and information from the paper mill days. Towards the end of the first year, acting and supporting roles will be allocated and props, costumes etc purchased. We have been asked to write a detailed report at the end of the first year on what's been achieved. If it's good enough, we'll get the second year's money to pay film-making professionals to work with our volunteer amateurs to get it together, and do the filming.

More details soon! But meanwhile, do get in touch if anyone you know used to work in the paper-mills, and if you have photographs or memorabilia. Gerda is keen to talk with people who have first hand experience and memories of the mills. She won't film or record you, just listen and take notes of stories to inspire her script-writing. Please also get in touch if you fancy playing a part in the film! ([penicuikarts.org@gmail.com](mailto:penicuikarts.org@gmail.com))

A second grant application success, this time from Midlothian Council, means that we can run a **series of six singing workshops this year at very low cost**, and free for anyone on low income.

The news of both grants is very recent, and more details and plans will be available within a month.

Finally, I hope you've kept safe and cosy during the recent stormy weather. We got off lightly compared with other areas where conditions looked terrifying.

I attended a webinar given by the "Making Music" organisation on how the Music industry can do its bit in reducing carbon footprint as a contribution to climate change mitigation. It's a huge scary global problem but we can all do our small bit in whatever way we can (this is a good article: <https://www.futurelearn.com/info/blog/how-to-reduce-your-carbon-footprint-tips>). But I'm racking my brains wondering how we can reduce the Arts Centre's carbon emissions. This is a real challenge. We've had energy efficiency surveys for the building and some quite expensive measures were advised. Obviously, we need to complete the Penicuik Regeneration Works first, and then give energy efficiency and our carbon footprint in general some serious consideration. If anyone has some practical advice and/or skills to offer, we'd appreciate it! In the meantime, we've purchased some new electric heaters for the events rooms which are more energy efficient and help keep those cold rooms a lot more cosy. Current room hirers seem pleased with them!

Keep up with our latest news, events, exhibitions etc on our website

<https://www.penicuikarts.org/>

Best wishes!

Sue