

Madeleine Mitchell performs the world premiere of Grace Williams' *Violin Sonata* at the first ever International Conference on Women's Work in Music at Bangor University



**"This highly imaginative artist...charismatic playing and musical personality"**  
Rian Evans, Musical Opinion

**7 September | 11am-12pm | Powis Hall, Bangor University**  
**International Conference on Women's Work in Music**

Madeleine Mitchell *violin*  
Cerys Jones *violin*  
Konstantin Lapshin *piano*

**Madeleine Mitchell** performs the world premiere of **Grace Williams' Violin Sonata** at the first ever **International Conference on Women's Work in Music at Bangor University** on **7 September**. The conference is marking the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of the Welsh composer Grace Williams (1906-77) and runs from 4-7 September. See [here](#) for more details.

The *Sonata for Violin and Piano (Sonata ar gyfer ffidyl a phiano)* has remained unpublished until now. It was composed quite early in Grace Williams' career whilst she was studying under Egon Wellesz in Vienna in 1930. Williams revised the Sonata in 1938. Mitchell discovered the manuscript at Ty Cerdd (Welsh Music Information Centre), who have just published the work. Considered to be Wales' most notable female composer, Grace Williams was a student of Vaughan Williams. Her most well known works include *Fantasia on Welsh Nursery Tunes* (1940), *Penillion* (1955) and *Missa Cambrensis* (1971), revived last year. In 1949 she also became the first British woman to write the score for a feature film, with the British drama *Blue Scar*.

Alongside what is considered to be the world premiere of Williams' *Violin Sonata*, Madeleine will also be performing other works from her forthcoming album ***Violin Muse***. This will include **Judith Weir's *Atlantic Drift for 2 violins***, and **Sadie Harrison's *Aurea Luce***. In keeping with the theme of the conference, Mitchell will also perform works by leading female composers [Lili Boulanger](#) and **Rebecca Clarke**. The album is to be released on the **Divine Art label** on **20 October 2017** and features world premiere recordings including works written for Mitchell by Michael Nyman and Bangor-based Guto Puw, whose violin concerto she recorded live with BBC NOW.



## Madeleine Mitchell

**Madeleine Mitchell** has been described by The Times as 'one of Britain's liveliest musical forces (and) foremost violinists'. She has performed in some 50 countries in a wide repertoire in major festivals and venues, frequently broadcast, including the BBC Proms, S4C, ABC, Bayerischer Rundfunk and Italian TV.

As a concerto soloist she has performed with orchestras including the Royal Philharmonic, Polish and Czech Radio, St Petersburg Philharmonic and for the BBC, most recently with BBC NOW. She has given recitals at Lincoln Center New York, Wigmore Hall and South Bank Centre London, Vienna, Moscow, Singapore, Seoul Centre for the Arts, Sydney Opera House and numerous festivals, frequently representing the UK and championing British music.

Mitchell's acclaimed discography for which she has been nominated for Grammy and BBC Music Awards, includes 'In Sunlight: Pieces for Madeleine Mitchell' by MacMillan, Nyman and other well-known UK composers, 'FiddleSticks' - Lou Harrison Violin Concerto with Percussion Orchestra and new companion pieces (which she performed in Symphony Hall International Series); the popular 'Violin Songs' - Classic FM's featured CD, 'British Treasures' - early 20th century romantic violin sonatas, two albums for Naxos of music by Alwyn and Howard Blake (with the composer as pianist), Hummel violin sonatas, Bridge chamber music and the widely recommended Messiaen Quartet for the End of Time with Joanna MacGregor. Madeleine's Linn recording of MacMillan Motet with solo violin and choir was BBC Music Magazine's CD of the Month.

A highly creative artist, Madeleine Mitchell devised the [Red Violin festival](#) under Lord Menuhin's patronage, the first international eclectic celebration of the fiddle across the arts, held throughout Cardiff, for which she was short listed for European Women of Achievement and Creative Briton Awards. She has won awards for her original collaborations with both percussion and voices.

Madeleine is a professor of violin and performance science at the Royal College of Music, where as a Foundation Scholar she won the Tagore Gold Medal and the prestigious Fulbright/ITT Fellowship to the USA, where she frequently tours. She is a visiting lecturer at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama and was made a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts in 2000. She plays on a 1839 Rocca from Turin.

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