

**Ewan Armstrong** was born in Perth in 1981 and began his musical life on the piano at the age of 14. In 2003 he graduated from the University of Edinburgh with an Honours Degree in Music, winning the Cameron prize for outstanding contributions to music-making within the university and the wider Edinburgh community. Ewan went on to continue his studies at the Moray House School of Education at the University of Edinburgh, where he graduated in 2004 with a PGCE (Secondary) in Music Education. He is currently teaching music in a North Lanarkshire secondary school.

During his time as a music student, Ewan studied piano with Peter Bream and gave a highly accomplished recital as part of his honours finals. His post-university musical career to date has seen him spend one year as Musical Director of the Edinburgh Phoenix Singers, and five successful years as Chorusmaster of the Edinburgh University Music Society Chorus (2003-2008). During 2007, Ewan was invited to join the staff of the North Lanarkshire Schools Senior Chorus as a choral tutor, a position he gratefully accepted and is relishing to the full.

In November 2003, Ewan was appointed organist and choirmaster at Dean Parish Church in Edinburgh.

**Andrew Caskie** was born in Glasgow in 1979 and studied organ initially with Robert Lightband while a pupil at Dundee High School. He has been Director of Music at Palmerston Place Church since 2003, and is currently Vice-President of the Edinburgh Society of Organists. Andrew is married to Rebecca and they have a one-year-old son, Samuel.

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### **More Music at Palmerston Place...**

free admission, 7.30pm start

Tues 12 August – Peter Foggitt, piano

Thurs 14 August – Shean Bowers, organ

Tues 19 August – Philomusica, chamber orchestra

Thurs 21 August – Gilmour MacLeod & Lawrence Dunn, piano & violin

Sat 4 Oct – Andrew Caskie, organ

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# Fringe Concerts 2008

## Ewan Armstrong & Andrew Caskie



# Tuesday 7 August 2008 Palmerston Place Church

## PROGRAMME

Prelude in G major BWV 541  
(arr. G. Williams) Johann Sebastian Bach  
(1685 – 1750)

The great JS Bach is known as the composer unsurpassed in understanding and exploitation of the organ. One of his most joyful works for the instrument is the BWV 541 Prelude & Fugue in G major. This arrangement of the Prelude for piano duet by London composer John Gerrard Williams (1888 -1947) illustrates the clear influence of the harpsichord on Bach's writing.

Bossa Nova John Kember  
(b. 1935)

Much of the popular piano duet repertoire takes the form of arrangements of works written for other media, but there are some interesting works originally conceived for four hands at the piano. The music of the English composer John Kember is often inspired to practice a particular technique for students. Although the *Bossa Nova* is intended for performance by teacher and pupil (you can guess who is playing which part!), the effective simplicity of the work bears a concert hearing well.

Grand Valse Brillante in E flat, Op. 18  
(arr. C. Butterriss) Frédéric Chopin  
(1810 – 1849)

Chopin is often regarded as Poland's finest composer; he is remembered for his piano works. A mainstay of early 19<sup>th</sup> century Romantic repertoire, Chopin's music style features expression and nuance more than the relentless virtuosity of Liszt, although it still has plenty technical challenge! The Grand Valse Brillante is Chopin's earliest published waltz. It has been arranged for piano duet by Clare Butterriss, who plays regularly in an organ / piano duo with Andrew's wife's uncle in Pelsall Evangelical Church, Wolverhampton!

Jamaican Rumba (from *Two Jamaican Pieces*)  
(arr. J. Trimble) Arthur Benjamin  
(1893 – 1960)

Arthur Benjamin was an Australian composer and pianist based in London for most of his life. Although a composer of broad accomplishment he is now known for only one piece: the evergreen *Jamaican Rumba*. Part of a 1938 work for two pianists at two pianos, called *Two Jamaican Pieces: Jamaican Song and Jamaican Rumba*, the piece was later orchestrated and subsequently arranged for four hands at one piano by the English piano duet pianist Joan Trimble (1915 – 2000).

Benjamin discovered the melody of *Jamaican Rumba* while examining in the West Indies; the Jamaican government gave Benjamin a free barrel of rum every year in perpetuity in thanks for his contribution to their tourism economy!

Overture (from *A Midsummer Night's Dream*)  
(arr. E. Pauer) Felix Mendelssohn  
(1809 – 1847)

Various composers have set incidental music to Shakespeare's famous play, written in the 1590s. Perhaps the best setting is by the German composer Felix Mendelssohn, published in 1843 (his famous *Wedding March* comes from the setting). The opening overture was actually written in 1826 as a stand-alone concert overture and later incorporated into the setting. Although classically influenced in sonata form, the piece features many special Romantic effects: look out for the braying ass, scampering fairy feet and hunting calls from craftsmen. This arrangement for piano duet was made by Austrian pianist Ernst Pauer (1826 – 1905).

Country Gardens Percy Grainger  
(1882 – 1961)

That everyone knows the tune to the mediaeval satirical song *The Vicar of Bray* is thanks to Australian composer Percy Grainger who discovered the melody while researching English folksong. Grainger arranged the piece for '2 whistlers and a few instruments' about 1908 and then for piano solo in 1918. An immediate smash hit, it assured Grainger a comfortable income for the rest of his life. Sadly, Grainger came to detest the piece's exclusive association with him, but not before he had arranged it for an incredible variety of musical ensembles, including eight hands at two pianos. The most common version is that for piano duet. The piece is prefaced by his comment: 'Groups of countryside dancers - 'teams' of 'Morris Men' - decked out with ribbons and jingling bells, still dance the Morris Dance to the accompaniment of such tunes as Sheperd's Hey and Country Gardens, in some parts of rural England'.

Eine Kleine Nachtmusik K525 Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart  
(transc. A. Carse) (1756 – 1791)

Properly known as the Serenade No. 13 in G major for strings, Mozart's *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik* [*'A Little Night Music'*] is one of his most enduring works. Composed in Vienna in 1787, the piece has four contrasting movements. This arrangement for piano duet is by British light music composer Adam Von Ahn Carse (1878 – 1958).

Samba alla Turca Philip R Buttall  
(b. 1950)

Based in Plymouth, the English pianist and composer Philip Buttall taught secondary school music for over 25 years. In his retirement he has composed many light attractive pieces, the best known of which is perhaps this cheerful Brazilian desecration of a famous piece by Mozart!