

## **RYAN CORBETT** | accordion

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BBC New Generation artist, Royal Over-Seas League Gold medallist and Classic FM Rising Star, Ryan Corbett is a leading exponent of his instrument, having given more than sixteen hours of radio broadcasts and a televised performance at the Scottish Coronation of HM King Charles III. He has enlarged the repertoire by creating hundreds of new arrangements for accordion, but no matter how strong his passion for the instrument, it is his dedication to musical integrity that takes precedence.

Recent seasons have seen solo performances across Europe at venues including the Berlin Philharmonie and Wigmore Hall, as well as recitals in the USA, Mexico, Colombia and China. In the UK Ryan frequents major festivals including Bath, Beaminster, Beaumaris, Budleigh, Buxton, Cambridge Summer Music, Cheltenham, Chipping Campden, Cumnock Tryst, Deal, Edinburgh, Lake District, Lammermuir, Lichfield, St Magnus, Norfolk & Norwich, Oxford Song, Paxton, Perth, Ryedale, Southrepps, Swaledale, and the Keyboard Festival at St George's Bristol.

Passionate about collaboration, Ryan regularly performs with ensembles and soloists including the BBC, BBC Scottish, Bournemouth and Berlin Symphony Orchestras, Scottish Chamber Orchestra, National Youth Orchestra of Scotland, Red Note Ensemble, Maxwell Quartet, singers Nicholas Mulroy, Ben Johnson, Alessandro Fisher and Lotte Betts-Dean, cellist Santiago Cañón-Valencia, violinist Geneva Lewis, trumpeter Aaron Akugbo, and jazz pianist Fergus McCreadie. Together with accordionist Djordje Gajic, Ryan performs his own arrangements of Stravinsky's *Petrushka*, Rachmaninov's *Symphonic Dances*, and Bach's 'St Anne' Prelude and Fugue which was described as "musically unified and utterly compelling" (Seen and Heard International).

Ryan also works with composers to create new music for the instrument. In 2024 he gave the world premiere of Daniel Soley's accordion concerto with Britten Sinfonia, and the the UK premiere of Mikhail Pletnev's accordion concerto with the Edinburgh Youth Orchestra and Sian Edwards, later recording it with the BBC Symphony Orchestra and Andrew Litton. Last year he gave the premiere of Jay Capperauld's concerto 'Galvanic Dances' with the National Youth Orchestra of Scotland under Catherine Larsen-Maguire which was subsequently toured around the UK and at Young Euro Classic in Konzerthaus Berlin. This year sees the release of an album to celebrate Sally Beamish's 70th birthday, on which Ryan plays duets for viola and accordion with the composer.

Ryan won first prize at the 2022 Bromsgrove International Musicians' competition and is a prize winner of international accordion competitions in Italy, Germany, and China. He was nominated in the Young Artist category of the 2024 Royal Philharmonic Society Awards and has been listed as 'one to watch' by BBC Music Magazine, Interlude HK, The Scotsman and Scala Radio. He was a Tillet Trust and

Munster Trust recital scheme artist and is the first accordionist to be part of the prestigious BBC Radio 3 New Generation Artist scheme since its launch in 1999. Ryan performed in the BBC World Service New Year Concert 2025 and has been interviewed on BBC Radio 4's 'Front Row' programme. He has also performed at private events for Sir Jackie Stewart, Dame Kiri Te Kanawa and Dame Janet Baker.

Born in Glasgow in 1999, Ryan studied at the Music School of Douglas Academy, St Mary's Music School, and the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. He was introduced to the accordion aged eleven, when his grandmother bought a small instrument for him and his brother to try. As the instrument wasn't airtight, the only way to play it was like a piano, while the other pulled the bellows across the floor. It was soon fixed, and Ryan would spend hours playing Scottish folk music on it rather than practising the piano or violin on which he was receiving lessons. He continued to teach himself accordion until the age of fourteen, when he began studying with Djordje Gajic. These studies were supported by Cross Trust, Drake Calleja Trust, Countess of Munster Musical Trust, RCS Scholarship Fund and Help Musicians UK.

Ryan plays a Bugari Spectrum classical piano accordion made in Castelfidardo, Italy. This was made possible by private sponsors, the John Mather Trust, and Dewar Arts Awards.