

PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE USE

Scottish Ensemble explores the effect that music has on body, mind and soul in *Pause*



- **Scotland's pioneering string orchestra Scottish Ensemble to present evening of music and discussion exploring the scientific, spiritual and philosophical nature of music**
- **Guest speakers include neuroscientist Dr. Guido Orgs (all dates) and broadcaster, writer and cleric Dr. Richard Holloway (Edinburgh only)**
- **Dates in Dundee, Glasgow, Aberdeen and Edinburgh 11 – 14 September**
- **Tickets available at scottishensemble.co.uk**

Images available to download [here](#)

***What happens when we stop and listen?* Scottish Ensemble brings thought-provoking evening of live music, debate and discussion to venues across Scotland**

Pause blends live musical performance with provocations, conversation and debate. As well as expert speakers and SE musicians sharing their perspectives on what music does to us and why, carefully-devised sets of music will create an absorbing listening experience for mind and body – from the riveting, repetitive patterns of **Philip Glass**, to the mystical intensity of **Biber**, to the Pulitzer-Prize-winning soundscapes of **Caroline Shaw**.

Guest speakers will include neuroscientist **Dr. Guido Orgs** (in all cities), and SE is also thrilled to welcome broadcaster, writer and cleric **Dr. Richard Holloway (to the event in Edinburgh only** on 14 September). SE Artistic Director **Jonathan Morton** and violinist **Daniel Pioro** will also share their thoughts from a musician’s perspective, with Pioro having devised the sets of music to be performed on the evening.

Former cleric **Dr. Richard Holloway** caused controversy in 2000 when he resigned from his positions of Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church and Bishop of Edinburgh. Claiming to be an “anti-religionist”, he has since written extensively on issues relating to religion in the modern world from an atheistic perspective, and passionately supported progressive causes such as LGBT rights. Currently lecturing at Goldsmiths, University of London, **Dr. Guido Orgs** has a PhD in Neuroscience and, as a trained dancer, has specifically researched the effects of music and dance on humans and animals, examining why we are so drawn to both.

Events in Dundee and Glasgow take place in non-concert venues. In Dundee, SE will be performing at West Ward Works, a former DC Thomson annuals warehouse, which is being transformed by one-off cultural events (most recently the Dundee Design Festival). In Glasgow, SE have chosen the apt surroundings of Glasgow Science Centre, with the audience free to wander the exhibits during the interval and after the concert.

The concert tour will also be enhanced by a **series of ‘pausing with music’ workshops, run in collaboration with cancer charity Maggie’s. Devised for cancer sufferers and those around them**, the workshops explore the role of music in enhancing mindfulness practice. First performed at the Dundee Maggie’s Centre (in the Ninewells Hospital campus) in 2016, these rewarding, emotional workshops received such positive feedback from participants that SE has continued its partnership, this year delivering events in Dundee, Fife and Airdrie.

In Dundee, the group will also deliver numerous events bringing music to the community through its SE Residency programme, established in 2012. This year’s events include a session with Sense Scotland, a life-drawing class with a live music soundtrack, and a performance in the Children’s Ward at Ninewells Hospital.

Listings information

Tue 11 September

7.30pm - 9.30pm (approx)

West Ward Works, Dundee

Tickets:

<http://bit.ly/2Jfplpl>

01382 434 940

Or in person at Dundee City Box Office

Wed 12 September

8pm - 10pm (approx)

Glasgow Science Centre

Tickets:

<http://bit.ly/2Jd3fzC>

0141 420 5000

Or in person at Glasgow Science Centre

Thu 13 September

7.30pm - 9.30pm (approx)

The Lemon Tree, Aberdeen

Tickets:

<http://bit.ly/2lp2YPT>

01224 641 122

Or in person at The Lemon Tree, His Majesty's Theatre

Fri 14 September

7.30pm - 9.30pm (approx)

Assembly Rooms, Edinburgh

Tickets:

<http://bit.ly/2xMlhr7>

0131 668 2019

Or in person at The Queen's Hall

ENDS/

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Dundee Residency

Life Drawing at Dundee and Angus College

Friday 7 September

A quartet of SE musicians will join Dundee and Angus College's Art & Design Portfolio Preparation students for their weekly life-drawing class, giving them the opportunity to draw new types of models in different (clothed!) poses, as well as studying movement, and seeing how the varying moods of different pieces of music influence their drawings. SE musicians will alternate short periods of posing with brief solo/duo/trio and ensemble performances.

Ninewells Hospital Wards Visit

Saturday 8 September

SE will return to Ninewells Hospital to bring music to a variety of wards across the hospital. Musicians will perform pieces as various forces, from solo to small ensemble.

Sense Scotland: Dundee Respite Centre Visit

Saturday 8 September

Following a successful workshop in 2017, SE musicians will collaborate with participants from Sense Scotland to explore composition and music-making.

Speakers and musicians:

Dr. Richard Holloway

Born in Possilpark, Glasgow in 1933 and brought up in Alexandria, Dunbartonshire,

Dr. Richard Holloway was educated at theological colleges in Edinburgh and New York before serving as curate, vicar and rector at various parishes across England, Scotland and North America. He was Bishop of Edinburgh from 1986 and was elected Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church in 1992.

After resigning from these positions in 2000, Richard is now regarded as one of the most outspoken and controversial figures in the Church. Describing himself as an "anti-religionist", Richard has commented widely on issues concerning religious belief in the modern world, and is known for his support of progressive causes including LGBT rights. He has also written extensively on ethical issues in the areas of sexuality, drugs and bioethics.

His many accolades include fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh and honorary degrees from the Universities of Strathclyde (1994), Aberdeen (1997), Napier (2000), Glasgow (2002) and St Andrews (2017). He is a former chair of the Scottish Arts Council, and current chair of Sistema Scotland.

Dr. Guido Orgs

Guido Orgs received his training in Performing Dance (Folkwang University of the Arts) and Psychology (University of Dusseldorf) in Germany. After completion of his PhD in Cognitive

Neuroscience on how sounds convey meaning, he performed with German dance company NEUER TANZ/VA WÖLFL at international theatres and performing arts festivals, including the Theatre de la Ville, Paris, kunstenfestivaldesarts, Brussels and Julidans, Amsterdam.

In 2009, he moved to London to work at the Institute of Cognitive Neuroscience at UCL. In his research, he examines how and why humans and other animals appreciate music and dance. Since September 2015 he is a Lecturer in Psychology at Goldsmiths, University of London directing a new Masters in Psychology of the Arts, Neuroaesthetics and Creativity.

Scottish Ensemble

Re-defining the string orchestra, Scottish Ensemble (SE) inspires audiences in the UK and beyond with vibrant performances which are powerful, challenging and rewarding experiences. The UK's leading string orchestra, SE is based in Glasgow and is built around a core of outstanding string players who perform together under Artistic Director Jonathan Morton. As well as working with world-class soloists and commissioning new works, SE is becoming increasingly known for its collaborations with artists from other disciplines, from dance and theatre companies to visual artists. SE regularly performs across Scotland, the UK and internationally.