

Embargoed until 19 June 2019

Scottish Ensemble celebrates its 50th Anniversary season with new co-productions, pioneering collaborators, Scottish and international commissions, and a new Glasgow festival of string music



Scottish Ensemble Artistic Director Jonathan Morton (Credit Peter Dibdin)

Overview

Scottish Ensemble (SE) is thrilled to announce its 2019/20 season, spanning August 2019 to June 2020 and marking the string orchestra's 50th anniversary.

Founded in 1969, SE has established a reputation as the **UK's leading string orchestra**, and is today known for exploring the imaginative and innovative ways in which classical music can be presented and shared. Since its first major cross-artform collaboration in 2014 (with visual artist Toby Paterson, at Glasgow's Anderston Centre), the group has become increasingly known - both in Scotland, and further afield - for its adventurous, forward-thinking productions with artists of all kinds that introduce music for strings to new audiences, and connect it to our wider experience of contemporary life.

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Across its celebratory 2019-20 season, SE continues on this trajectory offering a series of **thought-provoking, experience-driven events** performed across Scotland, the UK and the globe. Bursting with collaborative energy, SE will present new events with artists and partners from across art forms, genres and disciplines, including theatre company **Untitled Projects**, Icelandic composer/producer **Valgeir Sigurðsson**, harpsichordist and Arcangelo Artistic Director **Jonathan Cohen**, and social enterprise **Social Bite**, to name just a few.

The season also continues to see SE take music to a **wider audience**, whether by opening up classical music by creating engaging new experiences with collaborators outside of the classical sphere, or through its commitment to taking music out of the concert hall and directly into communities - both of which have grown and diversified SE's audiences across the past seven years.

SE will continue to create imaginative, meaningful ways to bring music to people who might not otherwise be able to experience it through an integrated programme of bespoke participatory events, workshops and creative learning opportunities. These are created in collaboration with local partners such as schools, hospitals and community groups, and inspired by themes from the season's collaborations.

Marking **Scottish Ensemble's 50th Anniversary**, the programme of events is both a continuation of SE's recent innovation, and a celebration of the distinctive qualities that have been at the core of the group's output since its inception: an inquisitive, open-minded, cross-disciplinary approach to presenting classical music, a sense of agility and flexibility in its programming and approach, and, above all, performance of an exceptional standard.

SE Artistic Director Jonathan Morton said:

"It's such an exciting time for Scottish Ensemble and, looking back over 50 years, it's fascinating to see how far it has come. SE has shared the power and enjoyment of music with a whole range of people not only in Scotland, but across the world – and it's showing no signs of stopping any time soon..."

I am really looking forward to a season that pays homage to some of our roots – be that getting back to baroque music or telling stories through song. But perhaps more so, I am hopeful this season will light up our collective curiosity with its mix of different perspectives, vivid musical voices and intriguing ideas.

We will also explore how music, deeply rooted in our psyche and imagination, connects with the world we live in, and how it might help us reflect on some of the important issues we face. We hope our creative collaborators, as well as the places and ways in which we perform, will allow our audiences to delve into these ideas with us. And of course we hope they'll also join us in celebrating a half-century of music-making!"

Season summary

Highlights from SE's 2019/20 50th Anniversary Season include:

> A **major new theatrical co-production with Untitled Projects**. Directed and conceived by **Stewart Laing** (Untitled Projects / National Theatre of Scotland), with text from dramaturg **Pamela Carter** and a bespoke new

score from Icelandic composer/producer **Valgeir Sigurðsson** for string orchestra and two vocalists, *We Are In Time* explores the journey of a transplanted heart through the voices of both the donor and the recipient.



Pamela Carter (Credit - Stuart Archibald)

- A collaboration centred around a **new commission** by acclaimed fiddler **Aidan O'Rourke** (Lau / Kan / Blazin' Fiddles) and pianist and organ player **Kit Downes**, inspired by Edwin Morgan's 1984 poem *Slate* and exploring its themes of Scottish landscape - both politically and environmentally - and the processes of change and time.

- A promenade concert with acclaimed harpsichordist and **Arcangelo Artistic Director Jonathan Cohen**, exploring a rich programme of Baroque concerti grossi and sonatas across two contrasting venues to explore the effect of our surroundings on the way we hear.

- The performance of a landmark Scottish work, **James MacMillan's *Seven Last Words From The Cross***, with Dunedin Consort, another leading Scottish Ensemble celebrated at home and abroad for their vivid interpretations and commitment to exceptional performances.

- Concerts celebrating virtuosity and talent of SE musicians and its collaborators, including a performance of Mendelssohn and Enescu octets with **guest director Marianne Thorsen** (Nash Ensemble / Trondheim Soloists).

- A celebratory musical feast in collaboration with Scottish social enterprise **Social Bite**, in which audience members and musicians will enjoy a meal together (provided by Social Bite) before an evening of musical entertainment featuring special guests.

- **The Bridge: a new four-day festival of music for strings.** Supported by **Creative Europe**, The Bridge is a collaboration between three of Europe's leading string ensembles - **Scottish Ensemble (UK)**, **Ensemble Resonanz (Germany)** and **Trondheim Soloists (Norway)** - and a major European talent development organisation, the **PLMF Music Trust (Estonia)**. From 14-17 May 2020, the festival will fill venues across the breadth of Glasgow - from concert halls, to theatres, to living rooms - with events that showcase the vitality, innovation and potential of the

string repertoire, as well as the considerable talents of these exceptional European ensembles.

- An integrated programme of events taking music **out of the concert hall**, from **SE Residencies** devised with partners including hospitals, primary schools, youth orchestras and more, to participatory events and workshops running alongside the major tours. Incorporating themes and artistic collaborators from the season's programme to create imaginative events, the programme will include events inspired by SE's work with **Jonathan Cohen, Aidan O'Rourke, Untitled Projects** and **Social Bite**.

- **RCS Week**: five days of intensive coaching at the **Royal Conservatoire of Scotland**, culminating in a public side-by-side concert. Following the week of coaching, SE will then select its Young Artists for the following year - a small group of students who are chosen to join SE on tour, gaining invaluable practical experience of life as a professional musician.

- A **continuation of SE's international success**: SE is in demand at venues across the globe for its distinctive, original projects that put Scotland, and Scottish creativity, on the map. SE will perform across three nights at the **Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival** (Germany, August 2019), take its 2016 collaboration with **Anna Meredith** to the multi-arts **Yokohama Music Festival** (Japan, September 2019), and perform with award-winning duo **Chris Stout** and **Catriona McKay** for the opening night of the Baerum Kulturhus's Scottish Season (Norway, January 2020). SE is also thrilled to be taking **Prelude - skydiving from a dream**, its critically-acclaimed second collaboration with Swedish contemporary dance company **Andersson Dance**, to Manchester's Royal Northern College of Music and the Sage Gateshead, as well as a performance in Glasgow as part of The Bridge festival.

Scottish Ensemble Artistic Director **Jonathan Morton** said:

“Since becoming Artistic Director thirteen years ago now, I've been trying to keep an open mind about what music can be, and how we can present it in new ways that shed new light on its inherent mysteries and complexities.

This core of music has, of course, been at the heart of Scottish Ensemble since its inception in 1969, and it's from this same core of music that we still venture out today.

Across this anniversary season, whether through collaborations with visionary theatre companies such as Untitled Projects, new commissions by exceptional musicians excelling in other genres, such as Aidan O'Rourke and Kit Downes, or projects with brilliant Scottish social enterprises such as Social Bite, I'm looking forward to venturing out into both familiar and new places, guided by our instinct to balance tradition with innovation, and a desire to create events that grip all of us.”



Aidan O'Rourke (Credit - Peter McNally)

Details of all events (chronological)

INTERNATIONAL

Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival

18 to 20 August 2019

With Andersson Dance / Chris Stout & Catriona McKay

This year, the **Schleswig- Holstein Music Festival** celebrates Bach's legacy, and we're thrilled to have been invited to perform our music-and-dance reimagining of his *Goldberg Variations* (18–19 Aug). In this collaboration with **Andersson Dance**, premiered in 2015 and since invited to be performed across the globe, SE musicians are choreographed alongside dancers, creating a playful, witty, often surprising perspective on an iconic piece.

For our final night (20 Aug), we'll be joined by long-time collaborators **Chris Stout** (fiddle) and **Catriona McKay** (Scottish harp) for something completely different; a programme that pairs works by Bach with other genres, influences and traditions, in trademark SE style.

TOUR: SCOTLAND

AUG-SEP 2019 AND FEB 2020

Chamber Notes

29 August to 3 September 2019

and 3 to 7 February 2020

With guest director **Marianne Thorsen (violin)**

Felix Mendelssohn

String Octet in E-flat major

George Enescu

Octet for Strings in C major

Although written for just eight instruments, both of these sophisticated works have the drama, richness and depth of a full-blown symphony. They also make for an excellently contrasting pair. From **Mendelssohn's** exuberant opening bars, we're swept through music that is impressively complex yet captivatingly, joyously melodic throughout, whilst **Enescu's** is moody, breathlessly dramatic, and, in parts, simply volcanic.

Guest directed by **Marianne Thorsen**, a passionate chamber musician, at this concert SE will explore the specific charm of seeing a small group of musicians performing live. With fewer instruments, the fabric of the music becomes more tangible, subtle shifts in mood may have a new-found presence, and pieces you think you know well might offer surprising new colours when heard live. With fewer musicians, it's easier to follow their individual paths and witness the beautiful alchemy of eight artists creating something together.

Norwegian violinist **Marianne Thorsen** is an acclaimed soloist and passionate chamber music. Former leader of the **Nash Ensemble**, she regularly performs with Norway's Trondheim Soloists, one of the founding ensembles of The Bridge network and festival.

<https://www.worldwideartists.com/Marianne-Thorsen-violin>

INTERNATIONAL

SEPTEMBER 2019

Anno at the Yokohama Music Festival, Japan

16 September 2019

With composer/producer **Anna Meredith**

The **Yokohama Music Festival** is a forward-thinking festival combining art, performance and music. It's the perfect fit for the Asian premiere of *Anno*, our 2016 commission by **Anna Meredith**, one of the most lauded, inventive and distinctive composer/producers of her generation. Interspersing Vivaldi's *Four Seasons* with new electronic sounds, audiences are cocooned by giant screens pulsating with artist **Eleanor Meredith's** captivating animations and watercolours, creating an unforgettable experience of our journey through the year.

The Japanese premiere of *Anno* is supported by **Made in Scotland**.

TOUR: SCOTLAND & LONDON

OCTOBER 2019

Baroque: Take Two

16 to 21 October 2019

With guest director **Jonathan Cohen (harpsichord)**

Programme to include

Antonio Vivaldi

Concerto Grosso in G minor

Arcangelo Corelli

Concerto Grosso in E-flat major

Heinrich Biber

Rosary Sonata No. 6 in C minor

The music of the Baroque era is a celebration of virtuosity: flush with ornamentation, laced with ostentation and thick with harmony. For this special promenade concert, Scottish Ensemble and acclaimed harpsichordist **Jonathan Cohen** (Arcangelo) will perform a selection of exuberant chamber pieces - at the same time as exploring how our surroundings might change the way we listen.

Performing the first half of the concert in one venue before moving to another for the second half, the audience will experience vivacious concerti by Corelli, Locatelli and Vivaldi, and violin sonatas by Corelli and Biber, in contrasting spaces. Guided by Cohen's passion and expertise, whether in the cosy 'chamber' or the ceremonial church, the common factor will be the verve and flair of this rich period of music.

Jonathan Cohen is an acclaimed cellist, harpsichordist and guest director, and founder and Artistic Director of **Arcangelo**, the celebrated London-based early music ensemble known for their performance and recordings of Baroque and Classical repertoire. Cohen is also Artistic Director of Tetbury Music Festival, Artistic Partner of the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra (Minnesota, US), Music Director Designate of Les Violons du Roy (Canada), and Associate Conductor of Les Arts Florissants.

www.arcangelo.org.uk

TOUR: SCOTLAND

NOVEMBER 2019

Elemental

9 to 13 November 2019

With **Aidan O'Rourke (fiddle)** and **Kit Downes (piano / harmonium)**

Aidan O'Rourke and Kit Downes

There is no beginning

Tansy Davies

The Beginning of the World

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Dave Fennessy

Hirta Rounds

György Ligeti

Ramifications

Ruth Crawford Seeger

Andante for Strings

Elemental centres around a new piece for harmonium, piano, fiddle and string orchestra by **Aidan O'Rourke** and **Kit Downes** - two musicians with an embarrassment of accolades, and a taste for musical pioneering. *There is no beginning* fuses the visceral energy and haunting beauty of Aidan's traditional Celtic roots with wisps of jazz, folk, ambient and classical. Surrounding it will come a clutch of contemporary works that speak to us of all things elemental – space, silence, waves and air – intertwined with melodies which echo an ancient Scotland.

The performance is inspired by **Edwin Morgan's 1984 poem *Slate***, generally accepted as a love letter to a politically- and environmentally-battered Scotland. Through music, alongside its two collaborators, SE will explore themes of time, change and transformation, particularly in relation to our nation and our world; entities that, as with music, are subject to the constant processes of time. Sound will be used to conjure thoughts of the past, present and future of the land we all share – as well as creating a space to contemplate it.

Aidan O'Rourke is a fiddler, producer and award-winning composer who has pioneered a new sound in folk music and redefined traditional forms. As well as performing with his band Lau - who have won Best Group at the BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards an unprecedented four times - Aidan performs as a solo artist, finding new ways of articulating the tradition. As well as four albums under his belt, he was named Musician of the Year at the BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards in 2014, and is the three-time winner of the PRSF New Music Biennial commission at the Southbank Centre. As a composer Aidan has also been commissioned by the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, Sage Gateshead, Celtic Connections, the Tolbooth in Stirling, An Tobar, Cottier Chamber Project and Capella Nova. He wrote the official music for the opening ceremony of the Queensferry Crossing in 2017.

<http://www.aidanorourke.net>

Kit Downes is a pianist, organist and harmonium player, recording as a solo artist for ECM. He has toured the world performing on various keyboard instruments with his own bands - ENEMY, Troyka, Elt and Vyamanikal - as well as artists such as Squarepusher, Thomas Strønen and Django Bates. He has written commissions for Cheltenham Music Festival, London Contemporary Orchestra, Stavanger Konserthus, ReWire Festival, Cologne Philharmonie, BBC Radio 3 and the Wellcome Trust, as well as collaborating with film-makers, video game developers and classical composers. A BBC Jazz Award winner, Kit has also been nominated for a Mercury Music Award.

<https://www.kitdownes.com>

As well as performing with a variety of other artists and collaborators, fiddler **Aidan O'Rourke (Lau)** and pianist **Kit Downes** perform as a duo.

TOUR: SCOTLAND

DECEMBER 2019

For A Winter's Night

3 to 11 December 2019

Concerts by Candlelight

Programme to include

Johann Sebastian Bach

Goldberg Variations (extracts)

Jean Sibelius

Rakastava

John Tavener

Tears of the Angels

Anna Meredith

Scottish Variation

Flickering candlelight, atmospheric architecture, and music of illumination and warmth...

Scottish Ensemble's much-loved December concerts provide an alternative to the usual musical offerings of the season, filling candle-lit churches and cathedrals with evocative music from across centuries and styles.

Celebrating its 50th anniversary season, this year SE offers a jigsaw of significant snapshots and fragments from across its history, from pieces that have particularly resonated with audiences to some of its most significant commissions and musical moments. Between Sibelius's *Rakastava*, Tavener's *Tears of The Angels*, and extracts from Bach's *Goldberg Variations* will come arrangements of melodies from a golden era of music, Scottish traditional tunes, and a haunting carol.

CREATIVE LEARNING

JANUARY 2020

RCS Week

13 to 17 January 2020

Coaching at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland

Scottish Ensemble's **Young Artists Scheme**, in collaboration with the **Royal Conservatoire of Scotland**, offers practical experience to strings students.

During **RCS Week**, students enjoy an intensive five days of coaching with SE musicians preparing for a public side-by-side concert as part of the RCS's **Fridays at One** series. Following this, a small group of students are then selected to accompany SE on tour, gaining invaluable experience of life as a professional touring musician.

CONCERT: SCOTLAND

JANUARY 2020

Fridays At One

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17 January 2020

With guest director Barbara Bultmann

Students, SE musicians and guest director **Barbara Bultmann** (Ensemble Resonanz) showcase the results of a week of intensive coaching in a side- by-side performance including **Stravinsky's** *Apollon Musagète*.

**INTERNATIONAL
JANUARY 2020**

Bærum Kulturhus Scottish Season opening night

25 January 2020

with Chris Stout and Catriona McKay

The **Bærum Kulturhus** celebrates a different country each year through its programming and, in 2020, Scottish Ensemble has been invited to kick off a season celebrating Scotland.

Alongside long-term collaborators **Chris Stout (fiddle)** and **Catriona McKay (Scottish harp)**, SE will perform a programme that offers virtuosity, history and the spark of contemporary Scotland through Bach concerti, Beethoven from memory, a piece written for SE by Chris and Catriona, and Scottish composer Sally Beamish's double concerto for string orchestra, Scottish harp and fiddle – before ending the evening with a ceilidh!

**TOUR: SCOTLAND
FEBRUARY-MARCH 2020**

We Are In Time

25 February to 6 March 2020

with Untitled Projects

Composer

Valgeir Sigurðsson

Writer

Pamela Carter

Musical Director

Jonathan Morton

Director

Stewart Laing (*Untitled Projects*)

Plus vocalists to be announced

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We Are In Time is a striking new theatrical production by **Stewart Laing** – founder and Artistic Director of Untitled Projects, and one of Scotland’s most forward-thinking theatre-makers. Through song, music and words, we are told the extraordinary story of a transplanted heart, written by **Pamela Carter**. Through the voices of both giver and receiver, the journey of the heart from one life to another is teased open, inviting the audience into a strange, intense world of complex emotion and unexpected metaphor.

The production will feature a bespoke new score by highly lauded Icelandic composer/producer **Valgeir Sigurðsson**.

Creating music that swoops beneath the surface of our expectations, Sigurðsson melds contemporary classical and enigmatic electronica to create new soundworlds that are at once minimal and complex, beautiful and absorbing. Performing alongside two solo singers, SE musicians become a living, breathing element of the on-stage world; at once soundtrack, chorus and curious witnesses to the unfolding drama.

Valgeir Sigurðsson is a musical polymath of enviable acclaim. His list of collaborators as composer, producer and engineer is enviable in its name-dropping variety: Björk and Feist on one hand; Hilary Hahn, Nico Muhly and City of London Sinfonia on another, all approached with genre-fluidity and polished creativity. His own music is another thing altogether. Says famed journalist Paul Morley, on his latest album *Dissonance*: “music that is made in direct, elusive opposition to the limiting, spoiling restrictions of classification, music not made to belong anywhere in particular, or music made to belong somewhere in a future not yet determined”.

www.valgeir.net

Pamela Carter is a writer and dramaturgist creating ideas-driven, conceptual pieces that seems to straddle a world of theatre, visual art and performance art, with a distinctly continental-European resonance. In her regular encounters with Laing’s **Untitled Projects**, her writing sparks with ideas and the obvious alchemy of their collaborative working - *The Salon Project*, *Paul Bright’s Confessions of a Justified Sinner* and *Slope* - as also demonstrated in her writing for pioneering theatre company **Vanishing Point**, in *Saturday Night* (2011) and *Tomorrow* (2014).

www.untitledprojects.co.uk/collaborators/pamela-carter

Stewart Laing is a bold and adventurous director. Currently Associate Director with **National Theatre of Scotland**, Laing’s celebrated reputation is entangled with **Untitled Projects**, the company he formed to create one-off, adventurous, truly genre-defying events. His work pushes at the future, probes the social obsessions of the present, and reframes cultural history; it also provokes on an intellectual level, and entertains on a human one. His training as a (Tony-award-winning) theatre designer roots his creations in extraordinary visuals; his extensive work with operatic companies showcases a deep understanding of music-as-spectacle.

www.untitledprojects.co.uk/artistic-director/stewart-laing

TOUR: SCOTLAND & LONDON

MARCH 2020

Seven Last Words

26 to 31 March 2020

scottish ensemble

with **Dunedin Consort**

Carlo Gesualdo

O crux benedicta

Erkki-Sven Tüür

L'ombra della croce

James MacMillan

Seven Last Words From The Cross

James MacMillan's setting of the dying words of Jesus Christ is astonishing. Through moments of aching intensity, heart-rending beauty and raw, keening desolation, we are guided through an experience that somehow manages to feel both intensely personal, and magnificently universal. Vivid and alive with the composer's distinctive style, strings combine with voices to create a truly chilling, brutal, beautiful, transcendent piece of music that boldly reaches out to its listener, whatever their beliefs.

Commissioned in 1994 by the BBC, Scottish Ensemble gave the premiere performance of the work on live television across the seven consecutive nights of Easter Week. More than two decades later, in its 50th anniversary year, SE will re-visit the piece in collaboration with another leading Scottish group, **Dunedin Consort**.

The engrossing intensity and sheer emotional weight of MacMillan's landmark work is one of its most precious qualities; across 45 minutes, the listener is offered not so much a depiction of a religious scene, but the sense of a transformative experience that lingers long after the final note sounds. To capture and honour its power, this hour-long concert centres around this singular work, offering it the space it requires and deserves.

Dunedin Consort is one of the world's leading Baroque ensembles, recognised for its vivid and insightful performances and recordings. Formed in 1995 and named after Din Eidyn, the ancient Celtic name for Edinburgh Castle, Dunedin Consort's ambition is to make early music relevant to the present day. Under the direction of **John Butt**, the ensemble has earned two coveted Gramophone Awards – for the 2007 recording of Handel's Messiah and the 2014 recording of Mozart's Requiem – and a Grammy nomination. In 2018, it was shortlisted for a Royal Philharmonic Society Ensemble award.

<https://www.dunedin-consort.org.uk/>

Seven Last Words is supported by **Resonate**, a PRS Foundation initiative in partnership with Association of British Orchestras, BBC Radio 3 and Boltini Trust

TOUR: UK

MAY 2020

Prelude - skydiving from a dream

7 to 14 May 2020

with Andersson Dance

Ludwig van Beethoven

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Grosse Fugue

Plus extracts from

Johann Sebastian Bach

The Art of Fugue

Witold Lutoslawski

Preludes and Fugue for 13 Solo Strings

Our critically-acclaimed music-and-dance production takes three rich pieces of music that push at the boundaries and restrictions of artistic expression, and creates something entirely new. From amongst the dark, wild chaos of **Lutoslawski's** *Preludes* and the overwhelming precision of **Bach's** *Art of Fugue* comes the climactic full performance of **Beethoven's** *Grosse Fugue*. Both celebrated and scorned, lauded and derided across its lifetime, this 21st-century reframing of the piece sheds new light on this epic composition.

Merging astute, inquisitive choreography with razor-sharp live musical performance, **Prelude - skydiving from a dream** transports you to a dark, pulsating playground of ideas, teeming with the paradoxes grooved into the edges and corners of the human subconscious. Choreographed together, musicians move alongside dancers to create a palette of sight and sound that gleams with the grotesque and the glittering, the rational and the absurd.

Andersson Dance is a contemporary dance company based in Stockholm, Sweden, and led by choreographer **Örjan Andersson**. Since 1996 Örjan has created numerous works for various contexts, from the intimate to the larger format. The exploration of music has always been a focus, whether newly-composed electronica, folk music or classical works. Andersson Dance continuously invites artists - from dancers and composers to lighting, costume or video designers – to collaborate with them in various ways. Örjan Andersson also creates a range of commissions for other companies, theatres and opera houses.

Prelude - skydiving from a dream is supported by Creative Scotland, The Swedish Arts Council, Stockholms Stad and Region Stockholm.

Praise for its premiere performances:

You leave feeling as if you have gorged on the very stuff of life. Chaos, calm, disharmony, beauty, fear, connection, isolation – it's all here, conveyed through music, movement or both.

*The Scotsman ******

*The Herald ******

*Backtrack ******

FESTIVAL: SCOTLAND

MAY 2020

The Bridge

14 to 17 May 2020

A new festival of music for strings for Glasgow

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The Bridge Strings Network was established in 2018 in order to promote and celebrate the richness, variety and potential of music for strings. The **Bridge Festival**, taking place in spaces across the breadth of **Glasgow** from **14 to 17 May 2020**, will be the culmination of this work: a chance to proudly present some of the most innovative ways to experience this music, bring it to as many people as possible, and transform the ways that people can arrive at and enjoy the string repertoire.

The Bridge is presented by **Scottish Ensemble (UK)**, **Ensemble Resonanz (Germany)** and **Trondheim Soloists (Norway)** – a group of European musical ensembles with formidable reputations for creating out-of-the-box, innovative live events – and talent development organisation **PLMF Music Trust (Estonia)**.

Across a long weekend, in venues scattered across the breadth of the city, there'll be large-scale concerts, intimate gigs, daytime sessions, late night events, chances to participate, a celebratory concert offering the rare opportunity to witness all of the ensembles performing together, and the **world premieres of two special commissions** from Estonian composer **Erkki-Sven Tüür** and British composer/producer **Mica Levi**.

Full programme listing will be announced later this summer.

Ensemble Resonanz is a string ensemble based in Hamburg, Germany, combining the performance and promotion of contemporary music with bold interpretations of the classical repertoire. Occupying a space between chamber orchestra, and soloist ensemble championing new music, the group is known for its dynamic ways of presenting classical music, without pre-conceptions or labels. Perhaps exemplifying this, **urban string**, their monthly club night, takes place in their custom-built venue **resonanzraum** - the world's first chamber music club, located in a converted Hamburg bunker - whilst their second home is the **Elbphilharmonie Hamburg**, where they are the Ensemble-in-Residence.

www.ensembleresonanz.com/

The **PLMF Music Trust** is one of Estonia's major talent development organisations, supporting professional musicians by organising master classes, opportunities to perform and by introducing them internationally. As part of the spectrum of events organised by the trust are the **Tallinn Winter Festival** and the **Tallinn Chamber Music Festival**.

www.plmf.ee/en

Trondheim Soloists is a 16-piece string orchestra based in Trondheim, Norway, and one of the most exciting young ensembles performing on the international stage. With Classic FM labelling their distinctively clear, open sound as 'The Trondheim Sound', the group has made a variety of Grammy-nominated recordings. Committed to musical exploration, collaborators have included violinist **Anne-Sophie Mutter**, who sought-out the ensemble's energy and verve, pianist Leif Ove Andsnes and various folk and rock artists.

www.trondheimsolistene.no/

TOUR: SCOTLAND

JUNE 2020

Sound Bites

18 to 21 June 2020

With Social Bite



Scottish Ensemble will end its anniversary season with a **celebratory midsummer feast** of both food and music, in collaboration with Scottish social enterprise **Social Bite**.

Sharing a meal together, and listening to music together, are two experiences at the heart of our lives as social beings. At **Sound Bites**, SE will connect the two worlds – an evening of great food, great company and great music exploring the fun to be had when we share food and music together.

Social Bite will provide a meal for everyone – audience members and musicians – to enjoy together, with a menu created by a local celebrity chef. After this Scottish Ensemble musicians and guests will provide the evening's entertainment. As with our culinary tastes, everyone's musical tastes are different, so there'll be a chance for audiences to choose some of the music courtesy of a **Musical Tasting Menu**: SE will provide a selection of pieces from across the string repertoire, from which audience members can choose the ones they want to hear.

Social Bite is a Scottish social enterprise helping to tackle homelessness through free meals, employment, social events and more, and Scottish Ensemble is thrilled to collaborate with the organisation for the first time. With events to go on sale in March 2020, where possible SE will offer a "pay what makes you happy" ticketing option, taking away the barriers that some may have in attending.

About Scottish Ensemble

Scottish Ensemble (SE) is the UK's leading string orchestra; a core of outstanding string players who perform together under Artistic Director **Jonathan Morton**.

Based in Glasgow, SE inspires audiences in the UK and beyond with vibrant performances which are powerful, challenging and rewarding experiences, crossing genres, styles, musical periods and artistic forms to offer fresh perspectives on classical music.

SE regularly collaborates with high-profile guest artists, from trumpeter Alison Balsom and mezzo-soprano Sarah Connolly to cellist Pieter Wispelwey and violinists Patricia Kopatchinskaja and Nicola Benedetti. SE is also becoming increasingly known for its international collaborations with artists from other disciplines, from dance and theatre companies to visual artists.

Starting in 2014, their series of annual cross-artform collaborations has so far included immersive projects with visual artist **Toby Paterson**; two acclaimed co-productions with Swedish contemporary dance company **Andersson Dance**; a live performance experience with electronic-classical crossover composer **Anna Meredith** and visual artist **Eleanor Meredith**; and a staged production with Scottish theatre company **Vanishing Point** centering around the music of **Arvo Pärt**.

Alongside performances across Scotland, **SE** presents concerts across the UK, London and the globe. Recent invitations to tour abroad have resulted in engagements in Taiwan, China, Brazil, the USA and across Europe, performing at prestigious venues from the Shanghai Concert Hall (China) and the John F. Kennedy Center for

scottish ensemble

Performing Arts (USA) as well as festivals including the BBC Proms, Edinburgh International, Edinburgh Fringe and Thuringia Bach Festivals.

SE is also committed to expanding the string repertoire, with recent commissions including new works from John Tavener, James MacMillan, Sally Beamish, Martin Suckling and Anna Meredith in recent years.

Media

Photography of Scottish Ensemble

<http://bit.ly/2lNg7kR>

Photography of season collaborators

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

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Full listings information can be downloaded [here](#)