
CONCERTS AT THE UNIVERSITY

Autumn - Winter 2016

Tuesday 15 November 2016

1.10pm

City of Edinburgh Methodist Church

The Scottish Saxophone Ensemble

Sue McKenzie · soprano and alto saxophones

Ellie Steemson · soprano and alto saxophones

Allon Beauvoisin · tenor saxophone

Michael Brogan · baritone saxophone

**Programme of works by PAQUITO D'RIVERA,
GORDON JACOB, EDDIE McQUIRE, BOB MINTZER,
IAN WILSON and ROSS AINSLIE.**



THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH
Edinburgh College of Art

Wapango

Paquito D'Rivera (b.1948)

Paquito D'Rivera is a Cuban-born saxophonist and clarinetist who plays jazz and classical music. In addition to D'Rivera's extraordinary performing career as an instrumentalist, he has rapidly gained a dynamic reputation as a composer. His piece, 'Ladies in White', was presented in a ballet titled *Come with Me* by the José Limón Dance Company in June 2012 in New York's Central Park. His compositions have earned him honours such as a John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship in Music Composition, a 2007-2008 appointment as Composer-In-Residence at the Caramoor Center for Music and the Arts with the Orchestra of St. Luke's, and a Latin GRAMMY for "Best Classical Contemporary Composition" in 2011 for his Panamericana Suite.

The recent premiere of D'Rivera's *Cape Cod Concerto* with the Silicon Valley Symphony was lauded as "sassy and brash, a big work of imagination and humour that arrives like a birthday cake with exploding candles" by the San Jose Mercury News. His works often reveal his widespread and eclectic musical interests, ranging from Afro-Cuban rhythms and melodies, including influences encountered in his many travels, and back to his classical origins. 'Wapango' is a lively Afro-Mexican dance (huapango) with a syncopated bass line and was written in 1990.

Saxophone Quartet No. 1

[Allegro Moderato and Scherzo]

Gordon Jacob (1895-1984)

Gordon Jacob studied at the Royal College of Music, London, with Stanford, Parry, Howells, Boulton and Vaughan Williams. He wrote music for the Festival of Britain and arranged the National Anthem with Fanfare for the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. He returned to the RCM as a lecturer and was on the teaching staff there from 1924 until his retirement in 1966; his pupils included Malcolm Arnold, Imogen Holst, Joseph Horowitz, Elizabeth Maconchy and Bernard Stevens. His first saxophone quartet was written in 1973 and commissioned by the London Saxophone Quartet for the 1974 World Saxophone Congress.

Celtic Knotwork

Eddie McGuire (b.1948)

Glasgow born Edward (Eddie) McGuire studied with James Iliff (RAM 1966-70) and with Ingvar Lidholm in Stockholm. He received a British Composers Award (2003), Creative Scotland Award (2004) and has been featured composer at several international festivals. The BBCSSO Proms performance of *Calgacus* was selected for BBC Music Magazine's CD 'The Very Best of the BBC Orchestras' (1997). Commissions and broadcasts have included those from St Magnus Festival, Edinburgh International Festival, Lorient Festival, Glasgow Festival Strings, Scottish Chamber Orchestra, Ulster Orchestra and BBC National

Orchestra of Wales. Notable successes are his 3 act ballet *Peter Pan* (Scottish Ballet; Hong Kong Ballet), opera *The Loving of Etain* (with librettist Marianne Carey) and concertos for guitar, trombone, violin, viola and bass. He writes for and plays with The Whistlebinkies and Chinese group Harmony Ensemble. 'Celtic Knotwork' was written in 1990.

Quartet No. 1 in Three Movements

Bob Mintzer (b.1953)

Bob Mintzer's diverse jazz career as a saxophonist, bass clarinetist, composer, arranger, leader of a Grammy winning big band, member of the Yellowjackets, and educator has taken him all over the world. He has recorded with Steve Winwood, James Taylor, Aretha Franklin, and Queen; and his own big band has been nominated for 4 Grammy awards and won a Grammy for best large jazz ensemble recording in 2001 with *Homage To Count Basie* on the DMP label. He has been on the faculty of the Manhattan School of Music and recently joined the faculty of University of Southern California in Los Angeles. Commissioned by The Apollo Saxophone Quartet of Manchester, England, highlights in this contemporary, concert 'opus' include several short, exposed solos for all, a full-length alto cadenza near the end of the slow second movement, and a fast-paced finale for an unforgettable finish. Drawing from his vast experience as a performing artist, Mintzer's writing for saxophones is truly idiomatic and wonderfully adventurous.

So Softly

Ian Wilson (b.1964)

Ian Wilson was born in Belfast, Northern Ireland and began composing while at university. He has since written over one hundred and fifty works, including chamber operas, concertos, string quartets, a range of orchestral and chamber music and multi-media pieces. His compositions have been performed and broadcast on six continents and presented at festivals including the BBC Proms, Venice Biennale and Frankfurt Bookfair and at venues such as New York's Carnegie Hall, London's Royal Albert and Wigmore Halls, Amsterdam's Concertgebouw and Muziekgebouw, Vienna's Musikverein and Tokyo's Suntory Hall. Ian has in recent years also worked with jazz musicians, Asian tabla and Chinese pipa players and traditional Irish singers; he has also collaborated with choreographers, theatre directors and electroacoustic and computer music composers.

"I had the idea for 'So softly' [1992] after someone remarked on the tone of my voice. Cast in four sections, the rhythm of the outer ones has the rise and fall of breathing. The piece itself is mostly gentle, almost like a lullaby, with a sense of appearing from, and disappearing into nothingness" - Ian Wilson. 'So softly' was written at the request of British jazz legend Stan Sulzman and first performed by a quartet which included Sulzman, Evan Parker, Julian Argüelles and Ray Warleigh.

Galore

Ross Ainslie (b.1983) [arr. S. McKenzie]

Ross Ainslie is one of Scotland's finest traditional musicians and composers, playing pipes, whistles and cittern. He is renowned for his highly acclaimed solo material, and as a skilled performer and prolific collaborator who performs regularly with bands Treacherous Orchestra – of which he is a founding member – Salsa Celtica, Dougie Maclean, Charlie McKerron, India Alba, and with Jarlath Henderson. This is a special SSE arrangement of his tune 'Galore'.

As one of Scotland's leading contemporary saxophonists **Sue McKenzie** has given UK and Scottish premieres of many new works for saxophone as well as commissioning new music. She was the Assistant Director of the World Saxophone Congress 2012 and is the Director of the Scottish Saxophone Academy. A graduate of the Royal College of Music, Sue also studied in the US, Japan and Portugal (with Lynn Klock / Eugene Rousseau / David Murray - World Saxophone Quartet) and is a past winner of the British Clarinet and Saxophone Society Young Performers Competition and a Royal Overseas League Woodwind Finalist.

Ellie Steemson studied jazz and classical saxophone at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama with Christian Forshaw, John Harle, Martin Hathaway and Nick Moss. Ellie is a founding member of new music group Workers Union Ensemble, as well as forming duo partnerships with percussionist Caz Wolfson and pianist Edward Pick. Ellie's versatility as a saxophonist and woodwind player has seen her perform in a variety of settings ranging from big bands and theatre pits to chamber groups and orchestras.

Allon Beauvoisin graduated from Glasgow University in 1996 with a 1st Class Honours degree and has built up a burgeoning reputation as one of Scotland's leading baritone saxophonists. From 2004 Brass Jaw has been his main musical focus in which Allon performs, composes and manages the ensemble. In 2011 Brass Jaw won numerous awards. Between 1997 and 2005 he performed primarily with The Scottish National Jazz Orchestra, but in the recent past Allon has also worked with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, the RTE Concert Orchestra, the Ryan Quigley Big Band, the Fife Jazz Orchestra and the Andy Mears Big Band.

Mike Brogan is a graduate of the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, and has enjoyed a richly varied freelance career as a performer and producer. He has held posts as Chairman and Principal Baritone of the National Saxophone Choir of Great Britain and led the group in their tours of China, Holland, Thailand, and their appearance at the Prague Fringe Festival. Mike was Assistant Director of the highly acclaimed 16th World Saxophone Congress, hosted in St Andrews, Scotland, and was an invited performer at WSCs in Thailand, Slovenia, and France.