

THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH CONCERT SERIES SPRING · SUMMER 2011

Concerts at The University

Friday 11 March 2011

1.10pm

Reid Concert Hall

Sarah Nicolls · piano

Programme of works by **ATAU TANAKA**,
MICHAEL EDWARDS and **RICHARD BARRETT**.



Suspensions for pianist and sensors (2009)

Atau Tanaka

Sarah Nicolls aims to embed instinctive performance into technology, working with interactive technology and expanding the performance environment of the pianist. Her most recent collaboration with Atau Tanaka (Director, Culture Lab) has involved explorations with bio sensors and accelerometers to capture and use the gestures of performance. This sets the hands and arms in a fluid relationship with the piano, teasing out sound from the space around - as well as inside - the instrument.

I believe the highest human achievement can be accomplished with a raging heart (2006)

Michael Edwards (b.1968)

electronics performed by Lauren Sarah Hayes

This solo piece comes from a much larger cycle by Edwards for piano, percussion and live and pre-recorded electronics. The original cycle was written for ZKM and was played over 48 speakers in the Kubus at ZKM. The staging of the piece symbolised a clock face, with twelve percussion stations spread around the room and the piano at the front of the room. This extract forms the core of the piano writing for the piece and represents the only moment of solo writing for the instrument in the whole one-hour work.

Adrift (2007)

Richard Barrett (b.1959)

electronics performed by Lauren Sarah Hayes

Adrift is based on my 2004 piano piece *Lost*, with the addition and interpolation of improvisation and live electronics. The original music was already a labyrinth of connections and disconnections, and this new version is intended to add further dimensions to this aspect in particular.

R.B.

Atau Tanaka is currently Director of Culture Lab and Chair of Digital Media at Newcastle University. Atau Tanaka bridges the fields of media art, experimental music, and research. He worked at IRCAM, was Artistic Ambassador for Apple France, and was researcher at Sony Computer Science Laboratory Paris, and was an Artistic Co-Director of STEIM in Amsterdam. Atau creates sensor-based musical instruments for performance, and is known for his work with biosignal interfaces. He seeks to harness collective musical creativity in mobile environments, seeking out the continued place of the artist in democratized digital forms. His work has been presented at Ars Electronica, SFMOMA, Eyebeam, V2, ICC, and ZKM and has been mentor at NESTA.

Michael Edwards was born in Cheshire in 1968. He studied oboe then composition at Bristol University with Adrian Beaumont (1986-91) and privately with Gwynn Pritchard, then computer music with John Chowning at CCRMA, Stanford University (1991-96). A consultant software engineer in Silicon Valley (1996-97), Guest Professor at the Universität Mozarteum Salzburg (1997-2002), he is currently Reader at the University of Edinburgh.

Richard Barrett was born in Swansea in 1959, studied composition principally with Peter Wiegold and from 2006-9 was a Professor of music at Brunel University. He now teaches at the Institute of Sonology in The Hague. His work encompasses a wide range between orchestral composition and electronic improvisation.

Sarah Nicolls is a UK-based experimental pianist and inventor, in 2008 building her own piano to resolve the issue of how to get inside the piano more easily. Called the 'Inside-out piano', she has since been creating new pieces for the instrument with various additional pieces of technology such as her 'Wii wheel' and MIDI-controlled motors. Sarah also works with interactive technologies and last year developed a new piece with EMG sensors, written by Atau Tanaka (Culture Lab). In other academic partnerships, she has worked with Nick Gillian at SARC to begin developing a motion capture system of control at the piano and with Pierre Alexandre Tremblay (University of Huddersfield) to create a half-hour interactive piece using the PianoBar.

Sarah also continues with her busy concert career, giving recent world premieres such as Larry Goves' *Piano Concerto* and Richard Barrett's *Mesoptamia*, both with the London Sinfonietta. She is regularly broadcast on BBC Radio 3 and has recently written an article on Improvising with live electronics for the Leonardo Music Journal (LMJ20). Sarah is a Senior Lecturer at Brunel University and has received funding from the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) and the Brunel Research Initiative and Enterprise Fund (BRIEF). See www.sarahnicolls.com for more details.

Lauren Sarah Hayes (b.1981) is a composer and performer from Glasgow. Her recent practice largely focuses on realizing compositions for piano and live electronics, which aim to unify extended technique, bespoke software and instrument augmentation. These works explore methods for integrating acoustic and electronic sound worlds, while investigating new strategies for performers of such music, including working with haptic feedback as a performance device. This research is undertaken at the University of Edinburgh, as part of a PhD in Creative Music Practice. Additionally, she is a keen improviser (prepared piano, analogue synthesizer and laptop), and her improvisational duo Mustek, will perform at Sonorities Festival, SARC, Belfast in April 2011.

Special thanks to Lauren Sarah Hayes and Owen Green for their help in making this concert possible and for their performances today.

FORTHCOMING CONCERTS:

Tuesday 15 March

1.10pm

Reid Concert Hall

Performances by music students from the University of Edinburgh including the joint winners of the Tovey Memorial Prize 2011, Laura Reading (soprano) and James Telford (composer).

ADMISSION FREE

Friday 18 March

1.10pm

Reid Concert Hall

Exhilarating, soulful Eastern European, Balkan, Jewish and Gypsy music performed by international award-winning klezmer band, **She'Koyokh**.

ADMISSION FREE

Tuesday 22 March

1.10pm

Reid Concert Hall

The Edinburgh Quartet

Tristan Gurney · violin

Philip Burren · violin

Michael Beeston · viola

Mark Bailey · cello

MOZART Adagio and Fugue in C minor K546

MACMILLAN Memento

BEETHOVEN Quartet in D major Op.18 No.3

ADMISSION FREE

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