

THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH CONCERT SERIES SPRING · SUMMER 2013

Concerts at The University

Friday 15 March 2013

1.10pm

Reid Concert Hall

Artisan Trio

Aisling O'Dea · violin

Clea Friend · cello

Svetoslav Todorov · piano

with

Peter Furniss · clarinet

Programme of works by DVORÁK and SUZANNE PARRY.



THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH
Edinburgh College of Art

Long Walks in Small Spaces

Suzanne Parry (b.1980)

I have always loved walking through mazes; there is something so uniquely therapeutic in the process of finding one's way through. They are whimsical, exuberant and safe places to be alone, and let your mind and body wander. 'Long Walks in Small Spaces' refers to this. In an effort to translate this thought to music, I set about creating a mode representative of the expansive and contractive nature of a spiral. It had to be self-contained, and have possibilities for interior and exterior space. This mode was then transposed on each degree of its ascending side, creating a tonal spectrum with a universe of possibilities to explore. The piece is an instinctive journey through the spectrum, which is not as prescriptive as system or a row, but merely a climbing frame upon which my language could weave. It travels through chromatic corners to massive expanses, both dense and sparse, accumulating and compounding transpositions as it proceeds. It draws to a close as the strings find a place to rest, the clarinet departs on an absentminded stroll, and the piano sleepily daydreams of the places it has been. Originally composed for piano trio and oboe, piece was premiered by Hebrides Ensemble in 2007, and was performed later that year by Ensemble 360 during the opening concert of the 2007 Biannual International Conference on Music Since 1900. This is the premiere performance of the new clarinet arrangement, commissioned by Artisan Trio.

S.P.

Piano Trio No.4 in E minor Op.90 'Dumky'

Antonin Dvořák(1841-1904)

1. Lento Maestoso
2. Poco Adagio
3. Andante
4. Andante Moderato (Quasi Tempo di Marcia)
5. Allegro
6. Lento Maestoso

Music critic Daniel Felsenfeld describes the form as follows: The form of the piece is structurally simple but emotionally complicated, being an uninhibited Bohemian lament. Considered essentially formless, at least by classical standards, it is more like a six movement dark fantasia-completely original and successful, benchmark piece for the composer. Being completely free of the rigors of sonata form gave Dvořák license to take the movements to some dizzying, heavy, places, able to be both brooding and yet somehow, through it all, a little light-hearted.

Born in Dublin, Ireland, **Aisling O'Dea** began to play the violin at the age of nine. She went on to study at the Royal Academy of Music, London with Professor Maurice Hasson, completing a BMus (Performance) Degree in 1995 and then went on to complete two years of further study at the 'Hans Eisler' Hochschule für Musik in Berlin with Professors Stefan Piacard and Michael Erxleben. During her 11 years in Germany, she played with many different ensembles including the Kammerphilharmonie, Bremen and was a member of Ensemble 'Oriol', Berlin, performing regularly in Berlin's Philharmonie Hall. In 2000, she became a member of the Radio Symphony Orchestra in Frankfurt (R.S.O. Frankfurt) and was with the R.S.O. until 2007 when she was then appointed a position with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra. Winner of the String section in R.T.E.'s 'Young Musician of the Future' in 1994, Aisling has appeared as guest soloist with the National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland on a number of occasions, most recently performing Beethoven's Romance in F and Sibelius' Humoresque no. 1 and 2.

Cellist **Clea Friend** was born in London and pursued her studies firstly at Edinburgh University and then at Eastman School of Music in the USA. She has performed with many orchestras and ensembles in the UK, including the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, RSN0, Scottish Opera and Ballet, and both the Paragon and Hebrides Ensembles. She is an active chamber musician and in 2009 established Artisan with violinist Aisling O'Dea and pianist Simon Smith. Other recent projects include a collaboration with composer Nigel Osborne and dancer Michael Popper at Edinburgh's Dance Base and an Artisan concert to raise funds for the DEC Haitian Earthquake appeal. Clea sees her role as not just as a performing musician, but also as a community worker and educator, facilitating a wide variety of people from across all sectors of society to use music as an expressive and communicative tool. In addition to her extensive teaching experience, she has been project manager and animateur for several innovative projects in the UK and abroad, from schools and community centres, to theatres, prisons and war-torn communities.

Svetoslav Todorov is a talented pianist, singer, composer and teacher. He started playing piano at the age of 6 in a musicians' family. Six years later he moved to 'Dobri Hristov' Music school, where he graduated in 2010. Before he came to the University of Edinburgh in 2011 to study with Peter Evans, he spent one year with the head of piano Prof. Stella Dimitrova-Maistorova at the Sofia Conservatoire. During his whole educating process he has been an excellent student and winner of over 30 international awards (e.g. Grand Prix in Moscow 2009). Svetoslav has participated in many festivals, projects and concerts over Europe (e.g. concerts in the Gaveau Hall in Paris 2010, in Moscow Conservatoire's Rachmaninov Hall 2009, in Madeira Island, Portugal 2010, the Reid Concert Hall, the Queen's Hall in Edinburgh and many others). His musical interests vary from classical and jazz, to film and contemporary music styles. He is a second year BMus student at the University of Edinburgh, and was awarded the Tovey Memorial Prize 2012. This made him the second first-year student ever to win the award and the first pianist for several years. A few days ago, Svetoslav won the Edinburgh Festival

Competition's Big Final 2013 playing the first movement of Gershwin's Piano Concerto with the Festival Orchestra.

Peter Furniss is now based in Edinburgh and has performed extensively in the UK and Europe including recitals at the Bridgewater Hall in Manchester, London's Purcell Room as part of the Park Lane Group Series and two recitals in New York. He performs regularly as a guest with British orchestras, including the BBC Symphony, Scottish Chamber and Royal Philharmonic Orchestras, as well as Camerata Ireland with pianist Barry Douglas. Chamber music partners have included Stephen Hough, David Leifer Jones, Daniel Becker, Takane Funatsu and Kate Gould. His many premières, include solo pieces by Richard Dudas (Sonata, Prelude), Michael Kaulkin (American Standard), and Raul Rothblatt (solo clarinet version of Trio for Cello, Sox and Underwear), as well as works by Robin Holloway, Dai Fujikura, Thomas Ades, Mark-Anthony Turnage, Elliott Carter, John Adams, Magnus Lindberg, Peter Eotvos, Arelene Elizabeth Sierra, Sir Peter Maxwell Davies and others. As a committed teacher for almost 20 years, Peter is involved as animateur, composer and conductor in a number of innovative projects, particularly in connection with the DaCapo Music Foundation.

Suzanne Parry grew up in Cornwall, leaving to study composition at The Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. She achieved a first class degree and having received a PRS Foundation Scholarship for postgraduate study, went on to gain a Masters degree with distinction. Suzanne won several college trophies, and her orchestral portfolio was recorded by BBC National Orchestra of Wales. After successfully representing RWCMD at the Conservatoire Composers Forum in 2002 she made her London début in the Purcell Rooms at The State of the Nation Festival. After graduating, Suzanne became Associate Composer at Music Theatre Wales where she met composer Nigel Osborne, who invited her to pursue a Ph.D. at The University of Edinburgh. Having secured a scholarship Suzanne moved to Edinburgh in 2006 and has since become part of the thriving new music community, and a part time composition teacher at the university. The first piece she completed in Edinburgh opened the 2007 International Conference on Music Since 1900, and since then she has enjoyed working widely in theatre, dance and concert music. Commissions, performances and collaborations include Diversions Dance Company, Articulate Animal, Music Theatre Wales, Chapter Arts Centre, Andrea Severa, Ensemble 360, PM Ensemble, Millennium Ensemble, The Edinburgh Quartet, In Transit, Charles Mutter, Ian Pace, Lore Lixenburg, Theatre in the Mill, Edinburgh Contemporary Music Ensemble and The Stove. Her music has also been featured in broadcasts on BBC Radio 3. Suzanne completed her Ph.D in 2011, and has since been finding a balance between her new life as a wife, mother and composer. Last year she made her debut in the USA during the International Women in Music concert series, composed a partner piece for Hebrides Ensemble's Quartet for the End of Time Tour, and was appointed Artist in Residence at The Stove, Dumfries. She is currently working on a further commission for Artisan Trio - an exploration of a Cornish Sea Shanty.

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