

# CONCERTS

## AT THE UNIVERSITY

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*AUTUMN–WINTER 2014*

Friday 10 October 2014

1.10pm

McEwan Hall

### **Pistons and Pipes**

**Tom Poulson** · trumpet

**Calum Robertson** · organ

Programme of works by **CHRISTOPHER GOUGH**,  
**HANDEL**, **JEAN-MICHEL DAMASE**, **WILLIAM MATHIAS**,  
**LUBOŠ FIŠER**, **OSKAR LINDBERG** and **NAJI HAKIM**.



THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH  
*Edinburgh College of Art*



## Preamble (world premiere)

Christopher Gough (b.1991)

*Preamble* is the first commission by Pistons and Pipes as they look to expand the repertoire for trumpet and organ. Christopher Gough is a young up-and-coming English composer who lives in Glasgow. A graduate of the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, Christopher is also an accomplished French Horn player and has played Principal Horn on trial with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra.

## Suite in D

George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)

- (i) Overture
- (ii) Gigue
- (iii) Air
- (iv) Bouree
- (v) March

Alongside Bach, Handel is seen as the major composer of the Baroque era. He particularly excelled in his music for voice, establishing his reputation in London through his opera before turning his hand to oratorio, the most famous of these being the masterwork *Messiah*. Although Handel never wrote an outright sonata or concerto for the trumpet the instrument has always featured heavily in his music and this *Suite in D* is a collection of melodies from his large library of works.

## Trois Prières sans Paroles

Jean-Michel Damase (1928-2013)

- (i) Moderato
- (ii) Andantino
- (iii) Allegretto

French composer Jean-Michel Damase's talent was recognised from an early age and he was accepted into the Conservatoire de Paris at the age of 12. At 19 he won the conservatoire's composition competition and a year later he received the prestigious Grand Prix de Rome. His music is extremely lyrical in nature with echoes of Poulenc and Langlais and this piece shows fully the singing qualities of the trumpet and organ.

## Processional

William Mathias (1934-1992)

Mathias was a Welsh composer mainly known for his choral music. He began composing at the age of five and went on to study at the Royal Academy of Music

under Lennox Berkeley. He was elected a fellow at the RAM in 1965 before becoming professor of music at the University of Wales, Bangor in 1970. Probably his most famous work was the anthem *Let the people praise Thee, O God* which was written for the royal wedding of the Prince and Princess of Wales.

## Dialog

Loboš Fišer (1935-1999)

Czech composer Loboš Fišer has a small catalogue of works mainly of chamber music and concertos. The *Dialog* for trumpet and organ is one of his last works, written in 1996, three years before his death.

## Andante- Gammal fäbodpsalm från Dalarna

Oskar Lindberg (1887-1955)

Oskar Lindberg was a composer, church musician, and teacher born in Gagnef, in the central Dalarna region of Sweden. He studied at the Stockholm Conservatory and in 1919 began teaching there as well as at local secondary schools. He spent most of his career as an organist and composer, writing organ works, late Romantic orchestral pieces and is most recognized for his work helping edit the Church of Sweden's hymnbook in 1939. Lindberg was a nationalistic, romantic composer whose style blended features of composers such as Rachmaninoff and Sibelius with folk music and impressionistic elements.

## Sonata for Trumpet and Organ

Naji Hakim (b.1955)

- (i) Allegro con spirit
- (ii) Moderato
- (iii) Presto

Originally from Lebanon, Naji Hakim began his organ studies in Beirut. At the age of 20 he moved to Paris where he studied engineering at the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Télécommunications. While in Paris though he continued his organ studies with the leading organist-improviser-composer, Jean Langlais. On Langlais' recommendation he went on to study Organ at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique where he obtained seven first prizes in performance and composition. After graduating Hakim became the organist of the Basilique du Sacré-Cœur and in 1993 he succeeded Olivier Messiaen as organist at the Église de la Sainte-Trinité, a post he held until 2008. He now combines a career as a performer, teacher and composer. His *Sonata* was written for Håkan Hardenberger, trumpet, and Simon Preston, organ, and combines a very eclectic mix of styles and genres to make an extremely entertaining piece of music.



A multi award winner, **Tom Poulson** recently won both the Trumpet and Contemporary Performance prizes at the Aeolus International Competition for Wind Instruments as well as second place overall. He is a Yamaha Music Foundation of Europe competition winner, has been a recommended artist of Making Music's Philip & Dorothy Green Award and was runner-up at the Bromsgrove International Young Musicians' Platform. He has performed concertos with the Düsseldorf Symphoniker, Sinfonietta Köln, English Symphony Orchestra and Camerata Scotland and has given recitals at St. Martin-in-the-Fields and the Royal Festival, Wigmore and Usher Halls.

A graduate of the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, where he studied with John Wallace, he performed Jolivet's *Concertino for Trumpet, Piano and Strings* with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra and Haydn's *Trumpet Concerto* with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra. He recently graduated as the trumpeter at the International Ensemble Modern Academy

Chamber music has always been a passion of Tom's and he was recently made a member of the world renowned Stockholm Chamber Brass. Tom is a founding member of the fluid brass ensemble Brass Diversions and regularly works with WorldBrass, Aarhus Sinfonietta and the Red Note Ensemble.

Tom is very grateful for the ongoing support he has received from the John Hosier Trust, Martin's Musical/Philharmonia Orchestra Scholarship Fund, Anglo-Danish Society, Craxton Memorial Trust and he holds a silver medal from the Worshipful Company of Musicians. [www.tompoulson.com](http://www.tompoulson.com)

In July 2011 **Calum Robertson** graduated from The Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama with a BMus Honours 1st class degree. In November 2012 he gained a Masters in Performance from The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland studying clarinet with John Cushing (Principal RSNO). During those 5 years he won The Mary D. Adams Prize for chamber music, The Classical Concerto Competition and The Governors Woodwind Recital Prize.

In January 2010 he performed Carl Nielsen's *Clarinet Concerto* with The BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra as part of a joint scheme with the RSAMD. In February 2010 he was interviewed and broadcast James MacMillan's solo work *From Galloway* on BBC Radio 3. In January 2014 he was awarded The Harriet Cohen Memorial Award for young musicians establishing careers.

In August 2013 he made his Edinburgh International Festival debut in a performance of *Pierrot Lunaire* with Scottish Ballet.

He freelances with The Royal Scottish National Orchestra, Scottish Chamber Orchestra, the orchestra of Scottish Opera and The Royal Scottish National Jazz Orchestra. Recently he has played as guest principal clarinet with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra.

As organist Calum began lessons aged 14 at The Edinburgh Academy with Peter Backhouse. He began as Organ Scholar at Old Saint Paul's in July 2007 and became Assistant Organist in July 2012.