

News Release

sound festival of new music, 2008

- **Classical world premières from Sally Beamish, Pippa Murphy and Thea Musgrave amongst others**
- **BBCSSO/Andrew Litton, Scottish Ensemble/Pekka Kuusisto, Roberto Fabbriciani and Sarah Leonard all perform in 2008 Festival**
- **2008 festival features themed weekends for first time**
- **Four-day focus on the saxophone with appearances by Rob Hall, Andy Scott, SaxAssault, Martin Kershaw, Charlotte Harding and others**
- **Kim Cascone among world-renowned electro-acoustic musicians participating in the Festival**

The 2008 **sound** festival will see over 70 events taking place between **Tuesday 21 October and Monday 17 November**. Scotland's only dedicated new music festival, now in its fourth year, is set to feature two themed weekends for the first time - one dedicated to the saxophone and the second to classical and electro-acoustic music – alongside a wide range of recitals, workshops, master-classes and community events.

*“**sound** has continued to grow since its inception, expanding both its repertoire and geographic spread,”* says Festival Co-ordinator, Fiona Robertson *“This year we are thrilled to be able to offer a showcase for some of the world's leading classical and electro-acoustic musicians and to celebrate the saxophone as both jazz and classical instrument.”*

“Particularly exciting this year is the addition of new venues including the recently refurbished Salmon Bothy in Portsoy and the Beach Ballroom which will be the hub for the community saxophone day and concert with Andy Scott, Richard Ingham and Charlotte Harding.”

The success of **sound** to date was underlined earlier this year when the Scottish Arts Council awarded the Festival flexible funding status. *“It is difficult to believe that **sound** has only existed in its current form for three years, as it has become in that short time a significant member of the Scottish festivals circuit,”* says Ian Smith, Head of Music Scottish Arts Council. *“**sound** has quickly established itself as a facilitator and promoter of contemporary music and is an excellent example of how to inspire community involvement at all levels.”*

Master-classes, Composers' Day and Classical Premieres

As always, **sound** will feature a number of Classical Premieres. The opening concert, to be given by the BBCSSO under the direction of Andrew Litton, will include a new work by the winner of the 2007 Aberdeen music prize, Woojun Lee; the Scottish Flute Trio will perform three World Premieres including a new work



Images: Reem Kelani, Pekka Kuusisto, Roberto Fabbriciani and Thea Musgrave

from Thea Musgrave, who this year celebrates her 80th birthday, and the Scottish Ensemble will give a pre-concert showcase of two works by spnm short-listed composers ahead of a performance with charismatic violinist Pekka Kuusisto. This year's Composers' Day will see Judith Weir, Roberto Fabbriciani and John Casken working with local and amateur composers, whilst the master-class programme features Italian Flautist – Roberto Fabbriciani, Palestinian singer- Reem Kelani; Irish violinist Darragh Morgan; and cellist Robin Michael.

SaxAssault



Images: Rob Hall, Charlotte Harding, Andy Scott

From **Thursday 30 October – Sunday 2 November** Aberdeen will resound to the tones of hundreds of saxophones as practitioners professional and amateur celebrate the versatility of the instrument across a range of musical genres. An open workshop with the Glasgow Improvisers Orchestra and a community saxophone event and concert in the Beach Ballroom are complemented by master-classes and by performances with Rob Hall, Chick Lyall, Martin Kershaw, Andy Scott and Charlotte Harding.

Aberdeen acoustics



Images: Darragh Morgan, Erdem Helvacioğlu and Kim Cascone

Five internationally renowned musicians will gather in Aberdeen on the 15th November for a focus on electro-acoustic music during a gig in the Lemon Tree with 45 minute slots from Darragh Morgan, Scott Wilson,

Robert Scott Thomson and Erdem Helvacioğlu culminating in a live set from Kim Cascone, the celebrated American composer, whose career started with David Lynch working on Twin Peaks.

New and old venues

sound 2008 will include performances in venues that have been the mainstay of the Festival since its inception including the University of Aberdeen and Woodend Barn, Banchory. Once again Sir Philip Astor opens up the historic Migvie church for the Festival and this year sees the first concert in the former Salmon Bothy in Potsoy (a performance featuring celebrated soprano Sarah Leonard) and concerts in the Institute of Medical Sciences – a working building with a remarkable acoustic - and Beach Ballroom.

ENDS

Issued on behalf of the sound festival by New Century PR. For further information, interview and images contact: Lesley Booth 0779 941 4474 lesley@newcenturypr.com

Notes for Editors

- **sound** is the North East of Scotland's festival of new music. Following a pilot event, "Upbeat" in 2004, the first festival was launched in November 2005. **sound** is now an annual event, which aims to make new and contemporary music more accessible to audiences of all ages and backgrounds by presenting an eclectic but very broad range of contemporary music - classical, traditional, popular, jazz, experimental - through a wide range of events including concerts, talks, electroacoustic installations, and workshops.
- As well as programming its own events, **sound** operates as an umbrella for a range of concerts, workshops, masterclasses and performances programmed by other organisations in the North East.
- Dame Evelyn Glennie DBE is current Patron of the festival

sound is supported by Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council, Aberdeen Endowments Trust, Astor of Hever Trust, EventScotland Regional Events Programme, Hope Scott Trust, Hugh Fraser Foundation, Petro-Canada, PRS Foundation, RVW Trust, Scottish Arts Council & the University of Aberdeen.

- The Scottish Arts Council is a Non-Departmental Public Body (NDPB) which was established by Royal Charter in 1994 and is also a Lottery distributor. The organisation serves the people of Scotland by fostering arts of excellence through investment, development, research and advocacy. Our corporate aims are: to support artists to fulfil their creative and business potential; to increase participation in the arts; and to place the arts, culture and creativity at the heart of learning. We invest £60m each year, including £15 million of National Lottery funding. For more information visit: www.scottisharts.org.uk