Aberdeen by David Fennessy

(Scottish Premiere)

with

David Fennessy	Composer & Guitar
Sonia Cromarty	Cello
Tim Copper	Electronics
Nicholas Bone	Director

The Anatomy Rooms

Saturday 23rd October, 7.30pm

Co-commissioned by Spitalfields Music and **sound,**
in partnership with the Royal Philharmonic Society,
through the generous support of an anonymous donor.

Programme note

It feels highly appropriate that, finally, we get to perform *Aberdeen* in Aberdeen. This piece has had a long gestation. Just how long is hard to tell. Four years? Forty years? Maybe longer, I don't know. I remember seeing bits of an unfinished cello, carefully wrapped, under a bed in the spare room of Sonia's mum's house just down the road from here, more than ten years ago and feeling like they might represent a link; a tangible, tactile connection to her father, who had begun making them in the late 1980's but whom sadly, I'd never met.

In this piece you will hear the voices of Sonia's mum Edna, to whom we both owe so much, Stephanie and Linus who completed the cello so beautifully and Órla, our youngest daughter.

David Fennessy

Biographies

David Fennessy became interested in composing whilst studying for his undergraduate degree as a guitarist at the Dublin College of Music. In 1998 Fennessy moved to Glasgow to study for his Masters Degree at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland with James MacMillan. He was later invited to join the composition faculty and has held a teaching post there since 2005.

Fennessy's music is regularly performed nationally and internationally by leading orchestras and ensembles. Including the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, Munich Chamber Orchestra, Irish Chamber Orchestra, RTE National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland, London Sinfonietta, Talea Ensemble, Hebrides Ensemble, Psappha, and Ensemble Modern.

Significant recent works include his *Piano Trio no. 2*, premiered by the Fidelio Trio in 2020, *Rosewoods,* a concertante work for guitarist Sean Shibe and *Conquest of the Useless*, which received its first performance at New Music Dublin in 2019.

A recording of his *Triptych* for 16 voices recently won a Scottish Award for New Music and his debut CD *Panopticon* was released on the NMC label in 2019.

David's music is published by Universal Edition, Vienna.

https://www.universaledition.com/david-fennessy-4082

Sonia Cromarty

Sonia Cromarty studied cello and baroque cello at the RSAMD (now Royal Conservatoire of Scotland) gaining a First Class Honours degree and Post-graduate Diploma with Distinction.

Since graduating she has enjoyed a busy and varied freelance career that has taken her around the world from South America to the Arctic. She has worked with Scotland's leading orchestras and ensembles and performs and tours regularly with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra and the Orchestra of Scottish Opera. She has also appeared with the RSNO, Scottish Ballet, The Scottish Ensemble, Paragon Ensemble and Red Note Ensemble.

As a chamber player Sonia is a member of the Amici Cello Trio, Beinn Artair Piano Trio and the Rhona Mackay Trio. Her duo with the violinist Alice Rickards has commissioned and premiered many new works including those by Judith Weir, David Fennessy, Stuart McCrae.

Off stage, she enjoys teaching, and is passionate about bringing music to the wider community through various education projects.

https://www.sequoiaduo.com

Timothy Cooper is a composer and performer of electroacoustic music.

Recent projects include the site-responsive installation *Tide Times* made with Laura Bissell, an album with Tom Poulson and Danielle Price of works for instruments and electronics. Most recently he has been working on *Seven Shadows*, an hour long performance of music responding to English Renaissance composer John Dowland's music and life. *...shadows that in darkness dwell…,* the first piece composed for *Seven Shadows*, was shortlisted for the Scottish Awards for New Music and an Ivor Novello Award.

Tim is a PhD candidate at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland supervised by Professor Alistair MacDonald and Dr Diana Salazar.

He lectures at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.

https://timothy-cooper.co.uk

Nicholas Bone is Artistic Director of Magnetic North and is a theatre director and writer. Work for Magnetic North includes: writing and directing *Lost in Music* (a new version of Orpheus and Eurydice with music by Kim Moore), *Our Fathers* (co-written with Rob Drummond), *A Walk at the Edge of the World* and *Walden*; co-creating and directing the 'sort-of opera' *Pass the Spoon* with David Shrigley and David Fennessy; directing *Getting Close* by Kathy McKean (co-production with National Theatre of Scotland and BBC Scotland). Other directing work includes *London Road* by Alecky Blythe and Adam Cork (Bristol Old Vic), *Denton and Me* by Sam Rowe (Arches and Summerhall), *Osama the Hero* by Dennis Kelly (NIDA, Sydney) and *Kora* by Tom McGrath (Dundee Rep).

Magnetic North is an award-winning theatre company based in Edinburgh.

Led by Artistic Director Nicholas Bone and Producer Verity Leigh, Magnetic North combines developing and producing new live work with innovative multi-art form artist development.

The company has collaborated with playwrights, composers, choreographers, visual artists, performers and other artists to create a wide range of work including plays, music-theatre, installations, online events and films. Their comprehensive artist development strand has supported over 150 independent artists to continue developing.

magneticnorth.org.uk

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