

RED NOTE

 **sound**festival


PERCUSSIONS CLAVIERS DE LYON

Zad Moutaka *Aber-Dîn* (world première)

Zad Moutaka : music, conception and staging performance
with Red Note ensemble and the Percussions Claviers de Lyon
sound: Matthew Swan

Wednesday 26th October 2022, 7pm

Cowdray Hall

Co-commissioned by **sound**, Red Note Ensemble and Percussions Claviers de Lyon.

This concert is supported by Diaphonique, Franco-British fund for classical contemporary music in partnership with the SACEM, the Friends of the French Institute, the British Council, the Institut français, the Institut français du Royaume Uni, the Centre National de la Musique, Creative Scotland and the Salabert Foundation,
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Programme note

Zad Moutaka *Aber-Dîn*

In 1859, Jules Verne left for Scotland with his friend Aristide Hignard and saw his first big journey, which he will relate in the "Voyage backwards to England and Scotland". The novel features two travellers: Jacques Lavaret, lover of history and literature, and Jonathan Savournon, composer. The book is full of humour! Various adventures lead them to Nantes and then to Bordeaux when their plan was to go north. The book is the starting point of a free and whimsical musical adaptation, created by the French-Lebanese composer Zad Moutaka for two ensembles, the Red Note Ensemble (Scotland) and the Percussions Claviers de Lyon (France).

We find a Lebanese composer, Jonathan Zadorno, convinced that Lebanon is the centre of the earth (of the world!). His friend Gilles Lavouret, an art and science lover, passionate about Scotland, proposed to Zadorno to take a long journey to Aberdeen. Lavouret has just read an obscure scientific article on the history of population movements between the Middle East and the British Isles, which will finally prove that all the British come from Beirut.

After tough musical and scientific investigations, the two friends conclude nevertheless that several thousand years ago, the Scots emigrated to Lebanon, and not the other way around! Worse, the Lebanese language comes from a dialect still spoken today in the city of Aberdeen! Faced with this overwhelming observation, Jonathan sinks into despair and takes his friend Gilles with him. Both then dive into an unexplained delirium and, among other strange behaviors, begin to speak an Anglo-Aberdonian-Lebanese language, percussive and bizarre...

Biographies

Zad Moultaqa

Born in Lebanon in 1967 in the contemporary theatre world, Zad Moultaqa is a composer and visual artist. He started playing the piano at the age of five and moved to Paris in 1984. In 1989, he won the First Prize at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Paris. In 1993, he abandoned his international career as an interpreter to devote himself to composition and visual art. Trained in the discipline of the western musical writing but linked naturally to his Mediterranean roots, Zad Moultaqa creates his own musical language. Noticed by György Kurtág, his meeting with the composer was decisive in the statement of a progressive original and atypical writing.

His works are interpreted and appreciated throughout the world; he received the SACEM Prize-Claude Arrieu 2007 and the Critics' Prize, best musical creation in 2017 for his work *UM sovereign engine of all things*. His several musical collaborations include 57th Venice Art Biennale, Van Harenz Foundation; Sveriges Radios Symfoniorkester, Stockholm; Deutsche Oper Berlin; Muziktheater Im Revier, Gelsenkirchen; Neue Vocalsolisten, Stuttgart; Chamber choir Les éléments; ArsNova, Musicatreize, 2e2m Ensembles...and more recently, *Hémon*, Opéra national du Rhin, Strasbourg; *Der letzte Klang ist der erste Blick*, Ensemble Modern, Frankfurt; *Requiem for a New World*, Basilica S.S. Giovanni e Paolo, Venice and *L'Orangerie*, Compagnie Lyrique de Création Chants Libres, Montreal.

In parallel, he continues his visual arts practice working across installation, painting, photography and video. Recent exhibitions highlights include Totah Gallery New York; Dome Oscar Niemeyer Tripoli-Lebanon; Center Pompidou-Metz; 57th Venice Art Biennale, Sursock Museum, Beirut 2018, Suomenlinna, Finland; Nuit Blanche, Paris; Saint-Pierre-aux-Nonnains; Arsenal de Metz; Art Dubai and Palazzo Albrizzi, Venice. More recently, Zad Moultaqa was selected from among 200 Visionaries by Maison Louis Vuitton, in order to create a trunk to

mark the 200th birthday of its founder. In November 2021, he exhibited his new collection “*APOCALYPSE 6:08*” at AEDAEN gallery, Strasbourg, France and a visual and sound installation “*WAHM*” *Corridor des Illusions in China*.

Red Note Ensemble

Since its formation Red Note Ensemble has taken up a leadership position as Scotland’s contemporary music ensemble, performing and developing an extensive, highly-varied and critically-acclaimed programme of new music to the highest standards, and taking new music out to audiences across Scotland and internationally. Red Note performs the established classics of contemporary music, commissions new music, develops the work of new and emerging composers and performers from Scotland and around the world, and finds new spaces and new ways of performing contemporary music to attract new audiences.

Within Scotland the ensemble has performed from the Outer Hebrides to the Borders in concert halls, bothies, pubs, clubs and aircraft hangars, amongst other unusual settings. Outwith the UK it has a growing international reputation, performing to great acclaim at festivals in France, Germany, Belgium, Holland and Australia in recent years. The ensemble also undertakes an extensive programme of Access, Engagement and Participation (AEP) work, focusing particularly upon working with younger and older people, people with multiple disabilities, people living in areas of multiple deprivation, and also working to address inequalities of access and representation due to race/ethnicity and gender imbalances. We also undertake an extensive performer and composer development programme within schools, universities and conservatoires nationally and internationally.

Red Note is Associate Contemporary Ensemble at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland in Glasgow and Associate Ensemble of the *soundfestival* Aberdeen. Red Note is a Delphian Records recording artist, releasing CDs of music by Eddie McGuire, John McLeod, David Wilde and Lyell Cresswell to great acclaim, and a 5th CD – of music by James Dillon – released in 2022. Red Note is also a PRS Foundation Talent Development Partner and a Weston Jerwood Creative Bursaries host.

Percussions Claviers de Lyon

Created in 1983, the Percussions Claviers de Lyon is a five-percussionist ensemble based in Lyon, France. Recently renewed, the ensemble is now composed of Gilles Dumoulin, Sylvie Aubelle, Jérémy Daillet, Renaud Cholewa and Lara Oyedepo. Dedicated to tuned percussion instruments such as marimbas, vibraphones, and xylophones, the ensemble produces an innovative and eclectic repertoire for their instruments that is always evolving. The quintet is constantly striving for musical excellence, reaching out to their audiences with original music creations, multidisciplinary performances, and collaborations with renowned bands and musicians like French singer Bertrand Belin (*Calamity/Billy* – 2018, *Bertrand Belin & Les Percussions Claviers de Lyon* – 2020), Senegalese percussionist Doudou N’Diaye Rose (*Mix* – 2004), Afro-Brazilian percussion band

Zalindê (*Caleidoscópico* – 2019). These include the interpretation of pieces from the western musical heritage (Steve Reich, John Cage, Leonard Bernstein, Claude Debussy, Maurice Ravel, Darius Milhaud), transcriptions of popular music works (Scott Joplin, Emilie Simon, Chico Buarque, Jule Styne), as well as commissioned musical pieces by contemporary composers (Gavin Bryars, Zad Moultaqa, Moritz Eggert, Graham Fitkin,...). The ensemble also participates in numerous cultural and education activities on tour such as conferences and workshops, as they do in L'Hameçon, their residence in Lyon, France.

The Percussions Claviers de Lyon ensemble is subsidised by the Ministry of Culture - Drac Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, the Auvergne Rhône-Alpes Region and the City of Lyon. The ensemble receives regular support for their concert, performance and recording activities from SPEDIDAM, SACEM, FCM and the Maison de la Musique Contemporaine. The Percussions Claviers de Lyon is a member of FEVIS, PROFEDIM, CNM and Futurs Composés. The Ateliers Guedj and Resta-Jay Percussions support the ensemble through their Corporate Club.

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