



Any Enemy

Conducted by Pete Stollery

Saturday 29th October 2022, 1pm

Cowdray Hall

Programme

John De Simone	<i>Gone</i>
John De Simone	<i>Lost</i>
Cameron Duff	<i>In Midian (world premiere)</i>
Jenna Stewart	<i>Colour Wheel (world premiere)</i>
Scott Manson	<i>views from a Mountaintop (world premiere)</i>



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Programme notes

John De Simone *Lost* and *Gone*

The further I get on in my career, the more the opportunity to write for specific people, rather than specific instruments becomes my favourite method of working. I am delighted to be able to work with the amazing Any Enemy in this way, taking this opportunity to really get to know the musicians in the group, by writing a concerto style movement for each of them.

The two movements today are of a melancholic nature, meditations on loss and forgetting. In *Lost*, the expressive qualities of the Cor Anglais offer a melodic searching whilst supported by a static chorale in the ensemble. *Gone* features the wistful quality of the Flute, engaged in almost Proustian research into memories of times past.

Cameron Duff *In Midian*

This piece represents a sense of 'otherness' - Moses leaves Egypt for the first time as a foreboding of what he would be called to do later in his life. In the land of Midian he was a sojourner, and in a particular season we too are taken out of

what we might consider home in preparation. Disparate fractured bits of our lives appear and disappear through the opening and concluding sections as we assess where we have been placed. The middle calms us, reminiscent of our being placed in the river in a basket; we are delivered ultimately.

Jenna Stewart *Colour Wheel*

Colour Wheel is a piece written to describe various colours through the texture of the *Any Enemy* ensemble. In the more recent years of her composition, Jenna has been learning to use her perception of colour to compose music. Jenna has synaesthesia, which is described as “*a condition in which someone experiences things through their senses in an unusual way, for example by experiencing a colour as a sound, or a number as a position in space*”

Jenna uses her synaesthesia, in this case the association of music matching colours, to explore different keys and the colours to which they resonate with. In particular, Jenna associates musical keys with colours, for example the key of E major is a strong red colour for her; so, she has used this to further portray to the listener how her mind processes music/colour.

The piece is played in short movements, each representing colours, beginning with *Purple*, then moving to *Yellow*, *Blue*, *Green* and finishing boldly with *Red*.

Scott Manson *views from a Mountaintop*

views from a Mountaintop, for mixed ensemble, is a piece of musical landscape art. The work frames the vast expanse of Scottish mountains and valleys as well as smaller scenes such as a village folk dance. The piece also gazes upwards, to dark skies flooded with stars.

The work fuses Scottish folk music with the contemporary classical style. The opening takes influences from the bagpipe piobaireachd tradition, then dissolves into an air-like melody in the cello. Much of the second half is reminiscent of a slightly off-balance jig, with a distant bodhran beating through the metric changes."

Biographies

Any Enemy (the North East New Music Ensemble) was set up in 2018 on the initiative of Guera Maunder and Lesley Wilson who after years of involvement with sound wanted to establish a local contemporary music ensemble. This mixed ensemble is made up of local musicians in NE Scotland and conducted by Pete Stollery from the University of Aberdeen's Music department. They meet monthly throughout the year and rehearse a wide range of new music for flexible instrumentation. They gave their inaugural performance at **soundfestival 2018** performing works by Gavin Bryars, Howard Skempton and Colin Riley as well as two specifically commissioned new works by Gemma McGregor and Rose Dodd. The ensemble is currently made up of a slightly unusual combination of instruments: Violin, Cello, Flute, Oboe/Cor, Bassoon, Trumpet, Percussion and Piano.

Pete Stollery studied composition with Jonty Harrison at the University of Birmingham and was one of the first members of BEAST in the early 1980s. He was Head of the Department of Music at the University of Aberdeen for many years and he retired as Professor of Composition and Electroacoustic Music in 2022. In 1996, along with Alistair MacDonald, Robert Dow and Simon Atkinson, he established the group *invisiblEARts* whose aim is to perform acousmatic music throughout Scotland and to promote Scottish acousmatic music to a wider audience, both within Scotland and abroad. In 2004 he was part of the setting up of sound, a new music incubator in NE Scotland which runs an annual festival of new music featuring composers and performers from around Europe, as well as year long activity including opportunities for composers and performers of all stages. He is also artistic director of Any Enemy, NE Scotland's New Music Ensemble.

Pete Stollery composes music for concert hall performance, particularly acousmatic music and more recently has created work for outside the concert hall, including sound installations and internet projects. His main interest is in how humans respond to sounds in their immediate surroundings, in particular sounds that are not necessarily intended for listening purposes, as well as how an engagement with sound relates to the idea of place. His creative work exists as electroacoustic compositions, sound installations, web-based sound art, as well as instrumental/vocal compositions. His music is published by the Canadian label *empreintes DIGITALes* with further information at *Électroprésence* and tracks available for streaming at *Electrothèque*.

John De Simone studied postgraduate composition at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama and the Royal Conservatoire, The Hague where he graduated with distinction. He gained his PhD from the University of St Andrews and the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland in 2010 where he was lecturer until 2020, after which he took up his current post as Senior Lecturer in Composition at the University of Aberdeen. He has enjoyed regular commissions throughout his career and has written for numerous groups including the BBC SSO, The Edinburgh Quartet, Red Note Ensemble, Aurelia Sax Quartet, the Mondriaan String Quartet, Percussion Group The Hague, Ensemble Klang and the New Juilliard Ensemble,. His music has been performed in several major festivals including, Verona Risuona, FUSELeeds, BBC Tectonics, Spitalfields, Gaudeamus and Gothenburg GAS festival and broadcast widely on national and international radio. From 2016-18 he was the inaugural Composer in Residence for sound festival. He is director and founder of Ensemble Thing, one of Scotland's leading new music groups.




Cameron Duff is an emerging musician and composer based in Glasgow, Scotland. Whilst studying at the University of Glasgow, Cameron began developing his composing under Jane Stanley and Drew Hammond. Having workshopped pieces with ensembles from the RSNO and organist Kevin Bowyer, Cameron graduated with a 2.1 Bachelor's of Music with Honours in Summer 2022. Now working as a professional freelancer, Cameron is engaged in several eclectic projects across Glasgow and Scotland more broadly, including

Jazz/Swing (The Stone Combo/Various Quartets), Ceilidh and Trad music (Ceithir Ceol), to Rock/Indie (Tibetan Miracle Seeds) and multiple sessions beyond.

Jenna Stewart enjoys all aspects of music, but finds herself particularly drawn to composition, song writing and music production. She began her studies of music at Edinburgh Napier at the beginning of September 2022, where she specialises in musical composition and production. In August 2022, Jenna was extremely excited to have her piece *Unchanging Purpose* written for the BBC Concert Orchestra performed at the Proms at Battersea, as a commission based on her winning the BBC Young Composer Competition the previous year. During her earlier years of composition, organisations such as Sound provided the workshops *Go Compose* and *Get Composing*, which were vital for catering her love for creating music, as well as providing a safe space to develop her compositional style. Aside from musical composition, Jenna is a keen violin player and taught violin in her gap year with the Wee String School. In the future, Jenna aspires to have a career in creating music, as an artist, composer and producer.

Scott Manson is a pianist, flautist, and composer hailing from Aberdeen. He has enjoyed successes in competitions and calls for scores across the UK, winning first prize in the Scottish Freelancers Ensemble Open Call, and being shortlisted in competitions from Benslow Music Trust, National Centre for Early Music, and the Royal Opera House. His works have been performed by the Consone Quartet, Sarah Leonard, and members of the RSNO (as part of Notes from Scotland 2022) and Red Note Ensemble. His music is characterised by the fusion of contemporary classical music with folk/world music, jazz, and the creation of multimedia works by combining art forms.

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