

## Spotlight gig: Go Compose!

### Red Note Musicians

Ruth Morley (flute), Fiona Winning (viola), Tom Hunter (vibraphone)

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2023, 3.30pm

Big Sky Studio, Music Hall, Aberdeen

### Programme

Ria Parmar	<i>Downfall Fury</i>
Finn Moan	<i>à travers le brouillard</i>
Dfa Aldaioub	<i>A Gardenia's Lullaby</i>
Solomon McMillan	<i>brain itch</i>
Jonathan Turner	<i>Meander in Four</i>
Ruby Kidd	<i>Emotions of the Sky</i>
Violet Harus	<i>Enigma - Rondo Revolution</i>
Murray Nicholl	<i>Fallen Leaves</i>
Thomas Ramsay	<i>Allegro for Flute, Viola &amp; Vibraphone</i>

*Thank you to Aboyne Academy for the loan of keyboards during the Go Compose! Course.*

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### Programme notes

#### **Ria Parmar *Downfall Fury***

Hi everyone. My name is Ria Parmar and the piece I've composed is called *Downfall Fury*. The recurring theme is rather fast and quite strong which conveys aggressiveness and anger, therefore the name *Downfall Fury*. My piece is in ternary form, and I've tried my best to make the sections contrast and different, so hopefully you will be able to recognise that. I hope you enjoy the piece.

#### **Finn Moan *à travers le brouillard***

*à travers le brouillard*, which means 'through the fog', is a piece inspired by the very specific idea of drinking a warm drink while staring through a rain-soaked window. The title of the piece is in French due to the flute solo inspired by a late-1800s French piece and the general atmosphere of the opening sections. The idea of the piece is to make the listener feel as if they've been away from somewhere,

and they've come back and it's not quite the same, and the music attempts to reflect that.

### **Dfa Aldaioub *A Gardenia's Lullaby***

*A Gardenia's Lullaby* is a short, sweet composition. This minimalistic piece is designed to make the listener feel safe, comfortable and at ease - as a baby would feel listening to a lullaby. To me, music can and should be used to shape how we feel. I, and I'm sure many others, have certain songs that I reach out to when I feel as if my circumstances have crushed me down, in order for these tunes to lift me back up. That is why my intention with this piece was to elevate the mood, to create that feeling of calm and stillness. Through this melody, I hope to evoke a feeling of serenity and relaxation.

### **Solomon McMillan *brain itch***

*brain itch* is made to make you feel something in your head. Like an itch on the inside of your skull sounds uncomfortable and strange, but it also makes you wonder what that would feel like. The sensation is simultaneously like an itch and a bubbly bath - like a cognitive dissonance. But it's all in your head.

### **Jonathan Turner *Meander in Four***

My name is Jonathan Turner and the piece I've written over the duration of this course is called *Meander in Four*. It has themes of jazz music (and in particular, the slow, lyrical style of the Blues era) as well as some folk elements, including glissandi, grace notes, and a classic swung quaver beat. Starting in an upbeat, major section, the piece travels to and from the minor, with the final 8 bars a combination of the two. Altogether, the piece is meant to represent a conversation between the three instruments, each speaking out their own voice. I hope you enjoy.

### **Ruby Kidd *Emotions of the Sky***

*Emotions of the Sky* is about how the weather will portray different emotions and feelings. Loud noises are what inspired me - the loud noises you hear in your day-to-day life, like the crash of something falling. But when I heard the clash of the flute, viola, and vibraphone it reminded me of thunder, and the flute sounded like lightning. So, the weather came to mind – how in Scotland the weather doesn't like to stay the same and it's like the sky is showing its emotions and how they change and don't like to stay the same.

### **Violet Harus *Enigma - Rondo Revolution***

This piece is in Rondo form, which means it contains a theme that rotates with two other contrasting sections - ABACA. In this case, each section is overthrown by a new section like a revolution or uprising. This is like different stages of life that contrast with each other and can often happen unexpectedly. When the theme returns each time, it is changed slightly as after each stage of life we are still the same person but with some differences. 'Enigma' refers to the

mystery of life and that we know different stages are coming but not how they will influence or change us.

### **Murray Nicholl *Fallen Leaves***

This piece is dedicated to my family, as it was them who helped me find the inspiration for this piece. The title comes from the idea that our parents are our trees, and we are their leaves. We grow from them, we change with them, and eventually they help us leave and become our own tree.

### **Thomas Ramsay *Allegro for Flute, Viola & Vibraphone***

In my piece, simply titled *Allegro for Flute, Viola & Vibraphone*, I wanted to explore the different colour combinations possible with these varied instruments while keeping the piece melodically & structurally cohesive.

Using only a couple ideas, I've aimed to try and unify the three instruments by sharing the material as equally as possible and presenting it in ways characteristic (and ideally idiomatically) of the instruments playing it.

The piece starts off with a short, slow 8 bar introduction, then moving into the fast allegro tempo which continues for the rest of the movement. The themes and motifs used are first exposed in an obvious way, but later on are reused under various disguises, some obvious, some not.

Elements of chromaticism and bitonality are used frequently, and irregular time signatures stretch bars and cause phrases to seem like they're heading in one direction to instead be moving in another.

The piece is short, circa 3 minutes in length.

## **Biography**

### **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 hangers, 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 Austria in recent years.

**Go Compose!** is a collaboration between **sound** and Red Note Ensemble with support from Aberdeen City Council, Hugh Fraser Foundation, Witherby Publishing Group Charitable Trust, The Educational Institute of Scotland, William Syson Foundation, Aberdeen Endowments Trust, and the David and June Gordon Memorial Trust

**Go Compose!** is part of **Get Creative**, a year-round programme of contemporary music workshops for young people.

This year's **soundfestival** is dedicated to the memory of Angela Michael and of Ian Spink. We very much valued each of their contributions to **sound**, and they will be greatly missed.

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**sound** is a new music incubator based in north-east Scotland encouraging new music creation and discovery. We run the annual **soundfestival**, as well as year-round activity supporting a wide range of composers, engaging with local communities and providing educational opportunities

Find out more: [www.sound-scotland.co.uk](http://www.sound-scotland.co.uk)

**soundfestival 2023** gratefully acknowledges the support of:

