



Harpland

FitkinWall

Tuesday 22nd October 2024, 6pm

Aberdeen Arts Centre

Programme

Atholl

Geal Og

Uist

Y Gog

Red Red Rose

Beinn Dorain

- interval -

Harris Gregor

Ho Ro

Yalda

Nam Ban

Ale Is Dear

Come Sunday

Ruth Wall: Harps (wire-strung, bray, electro)

Graham Fitkin: Composer and live sound

Peter Freeman: Light Installation

Charlie Rickitt: Sound

Programme notes

Harpland loosely orbits round the not-so-new phenomenon of migration. Focusing on old Scottish melodies, it uses only the sounds from Ruth's three harps, which Graham then manipulates and expands. There is also a specially commissioned light installation from artist Peter Freeman and you will hear excerpts from interviews with migrants into Scotland that Ruth interviewed earlier this year.

Since homo sapiens came out of Africa between 60,000 and 100,000 years ago, humans have populated the planet at an increasing rate. There are over 8 billion of us and we move around a lot, motivated by many different triggers. Geological and geographic changes were key to the movement of people north from Africa, as was climate change. And climate change is causing migration once more right now. There are forced migrations, such as refugees from war or cross-Atlantic slavery. There are voluntary or aspirational migrations such as Europeans to America from the late 19th century onwards, or the colonisation of Australia. Then there is the recruitment of workers from abroad - Turkish workers to West Germany in the 1960s, Asian workers in the building of Gulf States' infrastructure or the UK's use of Commonwealth labour.

Harpland concentrates on one small aspect of this huge topic and it's Ruth's Scottish highland background that has driven it. The enforced eviction and subsequent migration of families and crofters from the highlands, as part of 'the clearances' changed the landscape and people's relationships with it. We chose predominantly old Scottish melodies that refer to parting, loss of home or community, and remoulded them for old and new instruments.

Biographies

FitkinWall have performed around the world – from the Royal Albert Hall, BBC Proms, Aldeburgh and Glastonbury Festivals to Spiral Hall Tokyo, Aula Magna Rome and tours in Iceland, Sweden and Italy.

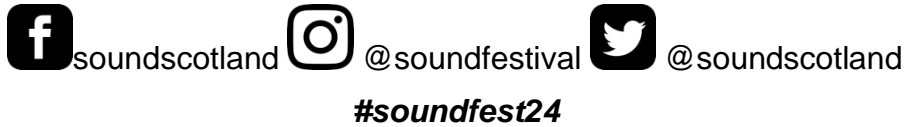
Ruth Wall was brought up in Sutherland, immersed in the songs and tunes of the Highlands. She has performed on stages around the world – Sydney Opera House, Berlin Philharmonic, Gucci 75th celebrations in Rome and Florence, Radio City New York, and the London Olympic Celebrations. Ruth has featured as a soloist with the London Chamber Orchestra and the BBC Concert Orchestra and toured extensively with Goldfrapp, The Will Gregory Moog Ensemble, Kathryn Tickell, Ockham's Razor.

Composer **Graham Fitkin** has worked with Yo-Yo Ma, Kathryn Stott, Tokyo Symphony Orchestra, BBC Symphony Orchestra, New York City Ballet. He has won three BASCA composer awards and the Royal Philharmonic Society Composer Award 2015.

Thanks to the interviewees - Lewis Backie, Mariya Bezkorovanya, Farhad, SL, Brigitte Geddes, Marija Matvejeva, Malcolm Baxter, Rhona and Alec Morrison.

Thanks to Tim Oliver and Real World, Alessandro Baldessari, Nick Cook, Genevieve Martin, Steve Tanner, Berta Valverde, Ian Kingsnorth, Cultivator Cornwall, Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees, Patricia Findlay, Max Whitby and Fiona Barclay at natureguides.com

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This year's **soundfestival** is dedicated to the memory of cellist Rohan de Saram, one of our patrons, who took part in many festivals. His musicianship, kindness and generosity will be much missed.

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

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