



Annabel Kershaw: The Mariner's Daughter

for Quintet and Recorded Voices

*Karen Dufour, soprano saxophone - Cathal Killeen, bass clarinet
Iñigo Mikileiz-Berrade, accordion - Rebecca Minio-Paluello, viola
Louise McMonagle, cello - Matt Elliott, production design & technician*

Thursday 24th October 2024 7.30pm Newton Dee Community

Friday 25th October 2024 3.30pm, Fittie Community Hall

Saturday 26th October 2024 1.30pm, Buchanhaven Heritage Centre, Peterhead

Sunday 27th October 2024 3pm, Salmon Bothy, Portsoy

Programme notes

This piece brings together the voices of seven women from the Northeast of Scotland, who I interviewed in early 2024 about their connections to the North Sea. It is a continuous piece, with one story flowing into another, interspersed with moments of imagery which delve into the sounds and atmospheres of the North Sea. To find out more about the stories and how *The Mariner's Daughter* was developed, visit the project website: www.themarinersdaughtermusic.co.uk

1. SWELL (full ensemble)

"As they neared the shore each bar rose, heaped itself, broke and swept a thin veil of white water across the sand. The wave paused, and drew out again, sighing like a sleeper whose breath comes and goes unconsciously". The Waves, Virginia Woolf

2. RIG (accordion) THE 100-YEAR WAVE (a vignette for full ensemble)

Gillian was one of very few women working on the oil platforms situated in the North Sea in the early 1990s. She was the first female apprentice to be based on BP Magnus - the rig that was to become her home from home over her twelve years working offshore. Gillian spoke to me about her time on BP Magnus, reflecting on her experiences as a younger woman, her memories of working offshore and how these have left her with a continued sense of connection to those who work on the North Sea.

3. RESOLUTE (full ensemble)

I met Linzi in January 2024 at the lifeboat Station in Fraserburgh Harbour. At the time, Linzi was the newest and youngest member of the Fraserburgh Lifeboat crew. She spoke to me about her hopes and fears at the beginning of her journey; the support and encouragement of her crew members, the added sense of purpose the lifeboat had brought to her work as a nursery school teacher and how this new chapter connected her back to her family and her experience of growing up with the sea.

4. LIGHTHOUSES & FOGHORN (a vignette for full ensemble)

5. HERRING (bass clarinet, accordion & cello)

Isobel and Helen have known each other for a long time. Related as first cousins and connected by many shared stories through their years of friendship, both women have strong ties to the Northeast fishing community; Isobel's father and brother and Helen's father and husband, all fishermen. In Isobel's words, they saw "*both the rewards and the disadvantages of that side of it*". They shared their memories of the women in Peterhead who would pack the herring into barrels, who travelled around the coast to follow the fish and of two mutual aunties, who Helen describes as being "*terrific gutters!*"

6. SAPPHIRE (soprano saxophone, viola & cello)

In 1997, Shirley was a young mum caring for her two-year old daughter, Darcie. On October 1st of that year, Shirley was to hear the news that changed the course of her life. A fishing boat had disappeared from radar, search and rescue had been launched, the boat was *The Sapphire* and her husband Robert, was one of the five crewmen on board. Four families lost a loved one that day. The story of the courageous fight that Shirley and the three other grieving families were forced to take on was well documented at the time, with coverage from both national and international press throughout their campaign to take matters into their own hands after the refusal of the UK Government to raise the vessel from the seabed. Through sheer will and determination, the families raised the funds that allowed *The Sapphire* to be returned to shore, bringing their men home.

In February of this year, I met with Shirley and Darcie in Peterhead. They shared their moving family story with me; it was a story of loss, of strength, and ultimately, of love.

7. POD (a vignette for soprano saxophone & bass clarinet)

8. NANTUCKET SLEIGHRIDE (full ensemble)

I met with Cath after her work, on a drizzly evening in mid-February at the Scottish Dolphin Centre in Spey Bay, overlooking the Moray Firth. Cath spoke to me about her experience as a marine mammal medic with the national charity British Divers Marine Life Rescue and her role within the Large Whale Disentanglement Team; a specialist team who quickly respond when a sighting of an entangled whale is reported to the charity's 24-hour hotline.

How on earth do you go about disentangling a whale? Cath answers this question in vivid detail, describing the unique logistical challenges involved in whale rescue; the plethora of unpredictable factors to contend with, the strategies used in approaching a potentially distressed animal in open waters, the sense of satisfaction when a rescue operation goes to plan, and the considerable risks involved in freeing a large moving cetacean "*in the entirely rubber boat with the extremely sharp knives!*"

9. THE WHALE (a vignette for bass clarinet)]

10. TURBINE (full ensemble)

Candice is an energy transitioner. Building her early career as an engineer within the oil and gas industry in Trinidad and Tabago, her career path led her to working offshore in the North Sea, where she found herself surrounded by wind turbines. Candice spoke to me about how this experience was to reignite her fascination for renewable technology. She describes the pivotal moment in her decision to change her career trajectory and

steer her life onto a new path towards renewable energy and the possibilities the North Sea held to develop it.

Biographies

Originally from Aberdeenshire, **Annabel Kershaw** studied composition at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama with Diana Burrell. She is a composer based in Scotland who is interested in creating new work that gives focus to underrepresented voices. Her music combines colourful imagery, rich textures and a strong sense of narrative. In 2022, Annabel was commissioned to write a new work for chamber choir through the Sound Festival's **soundcreators** scheme. Her piece, *Solar Licht*, a setting of doric poetry by Sheena Blackhall, was performed by the Con Anima Chamber Choir in Aberdeen Art Gallery, conducted by James Weeks.

The Mariner's Daughter marks Annabel's first major project as Lead Artist.

Iñigo Mikeleiz Berrade studied at the Conservatory of Music in Navarra and the Royal Academy of Music (London). He has taken part in concerts and festivals in Europe, UK and Argentina, at venues such as the Royal Festival Hall, Barbican or Wigmore Hall and collaborated with LSO, Philharmonia Orchestra, BBC SSO and Glyndebourne Opera among others. Iñigo enjoys co-working with contemporary composers, which has led to the première of more than 50 new works. He is a member of the Mikeleiz-Zucchi Duo and Diphonon Duo.

Rebecca Minio-Paluello is a violist based in Edinburgh, although she loves disappearing onto Scottish islands whenever possible. She has performed at festivals such as Glastonbury and the BBC Proms, with artists including Simon Rattle, Susanna Mälkki, Barbara Hannigan and Deep Purple. Her teachers include David Takeno, Kryisia Osostowicz and Helge Slaatto.

Cellist **Louise McMonagle** thrives on playing repertoire that goes beyond the mainstream, playing music by living composers, and creating programmes including many commissions and premieres. Recent solo performances include Wigmore Hall, Schleswig Holstein Music Festival (DE), Open Music Graz (AT), KM28 Berlin, as well as broadcasts on BBC Radio.

In September 2024 Louise features in the "Scotland Unwrapped" series at Kings Place London, presenting solo cello music by living composers from Scotland, and premiering new works for cello and live electronics in 360 soundscape. In Spring 2025 Louise will release her first solo album with Delphian Records.

Louise is a member of new music group Riot Ensemble who perform regularly around Europe. Described as "volcanically creative" (The New Yorker), and "the supergroup of top soloists playing new music" (The Guardian), Riot Ensemble have given over 250 World & UK premieres by composers from more than 30 countries. In 2020 they were awarded the Ernst von Siemens Ensemble Prize, and in 2024 they were shortlisted for the RPS "Best Ensemble" Award.

Cathal Kileen has featured as guest principal clarinet with the Ulster Orchestra, BBC Philharmonic, Scottish Chamber Orchestra, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, Manchester Camerata and the Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra. Cathal's playing can be heard on BBC Radio 3 and RTÉ Lyric FM in Ireland. Cathal is a D'addario Woodwinds artist.

Saxophonist **Karen Dufour** enjoys nothing more than exploring new and contemporary

repertoire in chamber music ensembles. She was a founding member of the award winning saxophone quartet, Sax Ecosse (2004-2019) and continues performing in the saxophone and harp duo, Baba Yaga. Karen has performed with the orchestra of Scottish Opera, the Royal Scottish National Orchestra and the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra and many dignitaries, including one of the world's most famous enthusiasts of the saxophone, former US President Bill Clinton. Highlights of her career include performing live on BBC Radio Scotland Classics unwrapped with Sax Ecosse, The Edinburgh International Festival, Celtic Connections, Norway's St Olav's Festival and collaborations with visual artists Siôn Parkinson and Turner Prize winner Charlotte Prodger.

Matt Elliott is a multi skilled av/theatre technician, (aka: a professional dabbler!) Working on *The Mariner's Daughter* has enabled him to use all his interests in audio, video and lighting design on one project and he is very much looking forward to the tour!

The Mariner's Daughter is dedicated to all the women who shared their stories for the project. With heartfelt thanks to Gillian, Linzi, Isobel, Helen, Heather, Shirley, Darcie, Cath & Candice.

This project was realised through the support of the Sound Festival, Findhorn Bay Arts and made possible through the support of Creative Scotland.

Website created by Matt Elliott. With thanks to Mungo Delap at Entertainment Design & Delivery for the generous loan of lighting equipment for the performances.

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.

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