

## Northern Connection

defunensemble, Red Note Ensemble & Ensemble Temporum

Saturday 26 October 2024, 6pm

The Lemon Tree, Aberdeen

### Programme

Lisa Robertson	<i>am fàsach (UK Premiere)</i>
Tine Surel Lange	<i>Flaskepost</i>
Lauri Supponen	<i>North (UK Premiere)</i>

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### Programme notes

#### **Lisa Robertson *am fàsach***

This piece explores interconnectivity with nature in traditional Gaelic, Finnish and Sámi cultures. The Gaelic word *fàsach* translates as wilderness. However, it doesn't mean empty, human-free land but the place we go to connect with nature. The piece has a nature-based outlook reflecting sensitivity/ adaptivity towards nature, freedom to roam in nature, embedded in our politics, and that natural objects/ places have a spiritual life force. Correspondingly, musicians respond to each other's cues, have freedom and choice and natural sounds and objects are revered. It contains three 'year' cycles with four-season patterns. It evokes Northern bird migration patterns, autumnal roaring of stags, seasonal nomadic practices between low/ high ground and traditional Gaelic and Sámi nature imitation songs. It combines sounds of our eco-conscious past (songs in archive recordings) with our eco-conscious present (a modern hydro-electric scheme). Finally, it references Gaelic and Finnish lament traditions, as climate change disrupts natural cycles.

#### **Tine Surel Lange *Flaskepost***

*Flaskepost* — message in a bottle — is a piece inspired by the ocean connecting Scotland and Norway. Based on field recordings made in the Lofoten archipelago in Northern Norway (where the composer is based) the piece is diving into the depths of the ocean, exploring the musical potential of the ocean itself as well as imagining the creatures and other things you can encounter in the depths. The piece also reflects on the ocean as pathway, both for human travel throughout the times but

also for enormous amounts of plastic waste that with the Gulf Stream end up in Lofoten from all over the world. Inspired by the image of sending a cry for help and rescue with a message in a bottle.

*Flaskepost* — a message written on a scrap of paper, rolled up and put into an empty bottle and set adrift on the ocean; traditionally, a method used by castaways to advertise their distress to the outside world.

### **Lauri Supponen *North***

*north* is a quartet with electronics by the Finnish composer Lauri Supponen, where a slightly barren yet meditative landscape unfolds. Even if we would register some of the included morse codes as specific coordinates, “north” is not regarded as a direction or a certain geographical area, but this is rather a piece that lets the listener enter a certain state of mind.

“North would exist though time wouldn't.  
Left and right would exist though time wouldn't.  
Forward and backward don't exist without time.”  
Pauliina Haasjoki, Planeetta (transl.)

## **Biographies**

Formed in 2009, **defunensemble** has astonishingly fast established itself as one of the most important contemporary music groups in Finland. The ensemble's vigorous mission is to systematically delve into the world of electroacoustic music. Defunensemble gives Finnish premieres of the most essential electroacoustic repertoire both classic and current, while simultaneously actively commissioning new works incorporating the latest technologies. With artistic director Sami Klemola the ensemble's concert concepts have proven to be highly innovative, blending different sub-genres of the electroacoustic persuasion with an unprecedented street credibility—any dusty notions of classical music are soon forgotten. A serious professional undertaking, the musicians and sound designers of defunensemble are some of the most active personalities in the Finnish contemporary music scene. After conquering the major Finnish festivals, the ensemble is already gaining international pull, their concert calendar is filling rapidly.

During its brief history defunensemble has already performed over 120 concerts and at over 20 different festivals, the most notable being Tampere biennale (FI), Time of Music (FI), Musica nova Helsinki (FI), Helsinki Festival (FI), Flow Festival (FI), Klang Concert Series (FI), Crusell Music Festival (FI), Nordic Music Days (FI, SE), dOCUMENTA (DE), chiffren - kieler tage für neue musik (DE), November Music (NL), Loop Festival (BE), Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival (GB), Re:new music (DK), ISCM World Music Festival (EST) and Copenhagen Avantgarde Music Festival Klang (DK). Defunensemble has premiered works by - for example - Tim Page, Antti Auvinen, Hikari Kiyama, Ville Raasakka, Perttu Haapanen, Pink Twins, M. A. Numminen, Guðmundur Steinn Gunnarsson, Peter Ablinger, Christian Winther Christensen, Alexander Schubert and Gilbert Nouno.

Since its formation in 2008, **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 Working with Communities, 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.

**Ensemble Temporum** is a contemporary music ensemble based in Oslo. The ensemble had its debut at the Ultima festival in 2016, and since then, they have given concerts at festivals such as UNM, Ultima, Kaivos (Finland) and Klang (Denmark). They have worked closely with several composers, and their commission from Chaya Czernowin will be released on the label of Wergo in 2025. The ensemble consists of a sextet and the conductor Kai Grinde Myrann.

**Lisa Robertson** is a composer from the West Highlands of Scotland, particularly interested in examining human/ environment relationships and Gaelic culture. She gained a PhD from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. Her music has been performed by the RSNO, the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra, The Sixteen, EXAUDI, defunensemble, Red Note Ensemble, Psappha Ensemble, Hebrides Ensemble, among others, and at festivals including Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival, Musica Nova Helsinki, Cheltenham Music Festival, and on BBC Radio 3 and BBC World Service. She was shortlisted four times for the Scottish Awards for New Music and featured in *BBC Music Magazine's* 'Rising Stars' column. She is a Music Patron composer and her music is published by Composers Edition.

Arctic landscapes, surrounding sounds, mythologies, and sound choreography are some of the inspirations that shape the works of Norwegian composer and interdisciplinary artist **Tine Surel Lange** (b. 1989, Vesterålen, Norway). Based in Lofoten, Northern Norway, her work is rooted in organic material – with a focus on listening, space, and the ways that different connotations colour how we listen to and experience art. Currently, her main focus is on storytelling, site-specificity, sculptural objects, 3D sound, sounding objects, sound for scenic productions, and creating conceptual works for sound and image – all strongly influenced by Nordic roots, magical realism, and the coming doom of the human race.

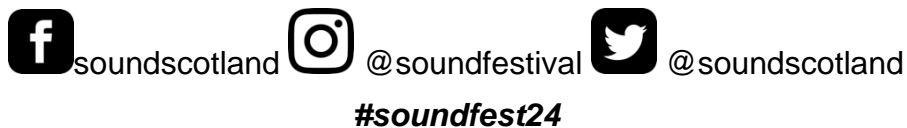
**Lauri Supponen** (b. 1988) is a composer for whom composition is an act of dreaming of alternative forms of organisation. Hailing from Brussels and Helsinki, he studied composition at RCM in London and UdK in Berlin, graduating from SibA in 2016. Lauri's works have been premiered by leading contemporary music ensembles such as Ensemble Intercontemporain, Ensemble Modern and BBC Singers at festivals around Europe and North America. Supponen's work happens at the intersection of music, dance, visual art and theatre, nurturing the playfulness and creation that happen in between structures.

*This concert was made possible through the support of Taike - Arts Promotion Centre Finland, Finnish Cultural Foundation, Music Finland, City of Helsinki, Arts and Culture Norway (Kulturdirektoratet), Northern Connection, Music Norway, FFUK, CREO*

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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