



## Con Anima Chamber Choir

Conducted by Ralph Jamieson

Sunday 26 October 2025, 2pm

Aberdeen Art Gallery

### Programme

Tyler Zwink	<i>A Passing Glimpse (World première)</i>
Riley Mackenzie	<i>Lathyrus (World première)</i>
Robert Baird	<i>To a Flame (World première)</i>

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### Programme notes

#### **Tyler Zwink *A Passing Glimpse***

This poem, originally dedicated to Frost's close friend and fellow poet Ridgely Torrence, tells of a narrator who sees a passing glimpse of something beautiful, and as he attempts to get a closer look, cannot seem to locate the beauty that he searches for. At the end he muses that true beauty can only be observed in the corner of your eye, only for a small moment of time. I started setting this poem because of how much I admired Randall Thompson's settings of Frost's poetry in "Frostiana", but it wasn't until recently that I truly appreciated the poem. On August 2nd, 2025, my wife and I said goodbye to our beloved cat Achilles, who passed away from cancer. It was very sudden and we had hoped we would get at least another 4-7 years with him. I was very blessed to get the time I did to care for and love Achilles, even if it wasn't for as long as I liked.

*Aespectus Fugitivus* is a close translation to the poem's title, quite literally translates to "A Fleeting Sight".

### **Riley Mackenzie *Lathyrus***

Music that lives in wisps and echoes; fleeting shadows of things that were once but are no longer there, already vanishing by the time you notice them.

I must express my gratitude to the endlessly talented Cameron McNaughton, whose text *My Portrait for Henry Eckford* was graciously provided for use in this piece.

### **Robert Baird *To a Flame***

*To A Flame* set the text *A Moth To A Flame* by Glaswegian poet Eve Findlay, about greed and desire. The piece uses elements of aleatoricism, or 'singer choice', where they decide which text, notes and rhythms to sing. As the piece continues, these elements increase, giving the singers more and more freedom. It uses both dense, busy textures and more spacious moments to emulate a push and pull within the moth, that needs that thing that it knows will kill it.

## **Biographies**

**Con Anima Chamber Choir** has been performing in Aberdeen and North East Scotland for over 30 years and is an auditioned Chamber Choir with members drawn from the local area. We are lucky enough to have performed at several prestigious events over the years and have given world premieres of several new works, particularly by composers associated with the University of Aberdeen Music Department.

Our repertoire spans a wide range of sacred and secular music from ancient to modern including music from local composers or with local connections. We typically perform at venues in Aberdeen e.g. St Machar's Cathedral, and St Andrew's Cathedral and also travel further afield around Aberdeenshire and other parts of Scotland. We rehearse on Thursday evenings.

**Tyler Zwink** is an American composer living in Glasgow, Scotland. He has earned his Bachelor of Music Education degree from the University of Central Oklahoma in the United States, and his Masters in Music Composition at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland in Glasgow where he studied with Bekah Simms, David Fennessy, and Stuart MacRae. Zwink's music has been performed in Spain, Mexico, and in many regions across the United States and United Kingdom. This year Zwink has been awarded the Innovation Studio Seed Fund, Glasgow Awesome Project Fund, Help Musicians Fast Track Award, Creative Enterprise Development Office's Ideas Fund and the Converge Creation Fund.

**Riley Erin Flora Mackenzie** (b. 2002, South London) is a queer/transfeminine experimental composer and musician whose work spans forms from notated acoustic compositions to live electronic improvisation, and which seeks sensations of embodied viscerality and hallucinogenic unreality. Her work has brought her into collaboration with a number of eminent ensembles and musicians, including Calum Huggan, Sarah Watts, Stephanie Lamprea, Dopey Monkey, the Edinburgh Quartet, and Heather Roche.




Riley graduated from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland in 2025 with a BMus in composition, having studied with David Fennessy and Dr Bekah Simms in addition to private study with Dr Evan Johnson

**Robert Baird** is a Scottish composer based in London. He is an advocate for player interpretation and choice in his work, and working with players to explore this notationally and conceptually. He is also a staunch supporter and writer of contemporary music for amateurs. He is a pianist, cellist and is currently attempting to become an accordionist. He is an RCM Scholar, where he currently studies under Alison Kay and Errollyn Wallen.

This concert is part of our **soundcommunities** programme, supported by the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, and part of our **soundcreators** programme (nurturing new music creators with year-round artistic and skills development opportunities). The **soundcreators** overall programme is supported by Creative Scotland, PRSF Talent Development Network, Aberdeen City Council and the Pear Tree for Music Fund and this particular composer development opportunity concert is also supported by the Hinrichsen Foundation, the Idlewild Trust, the Leche Trust and the Vaughan Williams Foundation.

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