



St Andrew Cathedral Church
28 King Street, Aberdeen AB24 5AX
www.standrewsaberdeen.org SC 001058



Any Enemy

Saturday 25th October 2025, 12pm

St Andrew's Cathedral Church, Aberdeen

Programme

John de Simone

Ups and Downs (*World première*)

Any Enemy: Guera Crockett (violin), Laurie Rominger (viola), Alison MacDonald (cello), Richard Craig (flute), Fiona Gordon (oboe), Lucy Webster (bassoon), John de Simone (tuba), Aden Mazur (piano) and Brodie McCash (percussion)

Programme notes

Ups and Downs is a set of pieces written to feature each member of Any Enemy. When I moved to live in Aberdeen in 2020, I was immediately keen to work with the Ensemble and to get to know them through writing music for them all, keen to write music not just for the instrumental forces but for the individual members of the group.

Initially titled Ups and Downs after the first movement; the title takes on more meaning throughout as over the 5 years of composing this group of pieces a series of significant life events (and a pandemic) good and bad occurred. As such the whole set presents more as a series of meditations, reflecting on loss, love and community.

Ups and Downs

Featuring Guera on Violin, Ups and Downs, the first piece in written for this project is based on numerous modes moving up and then down, capturing the registers and timbres possible in this wonderful group of performers and instruments.

Lost

In Lost, the expressive qualities of the Cor Anglais provided so beautifully by Fiona, offer a melodic searching for home whilst supported by a static chorale in the ensemble.

DSCG

The wildcard entry in this concert was initially written for Laurie in a different concert and ensemble. Since joining Any Enemy I have been delighted to reapproach and arrange this piece to welcome Laurie to the group. DSCG is similar to the musical monogram of Dimitri Shostakovich, though instead of DSCH ending on a B natural we end on a G

Plunge

Plunge was written initially for Pauline Black on Trumpet. Pauline has since moved away and in that time I have joined as the Tuba player, and now I have taken the Plunge in to performing it for you today.

Depths

Depths, written for Lucy on Bassoon is a melancholy response and reframing of a bassoon cadenza I wrote 20 years ago, now deeply affected by the passage of time.

Gone

A counterpart to Lost; Gone features the wistful qualities of the Flute written for Catherine O'Rourke and today performed by Richard Craig. The soloist is engaged in a Proustian research into memories of times past.

Up, Up!

We revisit the scalic passages of Ups and Downs, though in a more mindful way. Featuring Aden and Brodie, the piano and vibes work their way out of the depths, seeking transcendence.

Found

Found is the last of the pieces in this set and written for Alison MacDonald on the Cello. As a counterpart to last years melancholy piece Lost this is a more upbeat piece where the cello wrestles with a virtuosic central riff whilst the ensemble chases to find them.

JDS 2025

Biographies

Any Enemy is a contemporary music ensemble of local musicians in NE Scotland, conducted by Pete Stollery. They meet monthly throughout the year and rehearse a wide range of new music for flexible instrumentation.

Any Enemy gave their inaugural performance at *soundfestival* in 2018 which included works by Gemma McGregor and Rose Dodd. At *soundfestival* 2019 they premiered new works by three young Scottish composers, which led to an annual composer development opportunity, and also joined forces with the Red Note Ensemble for the world premiere of "Fire and Ice" by Linda Buckley. Both concerts were recorded and

later broadcast by BBC Radio 3. During lockdown, Any Enemy gave several performances from their own homes via Zoom. These reached distant audiences and brought about a Trans-Atlantic Zoom concert with Brandon University New Music Ensemble.

Any Enemy were joined by local musicians of all ages and Aberdeen University's Spectrum Ensemble for CoMA's Contemporary Music for All festivals in 2022 and 2024 and they also enjoy working with community projects such as **sound's** Get Creative contemporary music-making workshops for young musicians.

To date they have given world premieres of 23 works they have supported or commissioned.

Pete Stollery studied composition with Jonty Harrison at the University of Birmingham and was one of the first members of BEAST (Birmingham Electroacoustic Sound Theatre) in the early 1980s. Following several years as a schoolteacher in Kent, he moved to Aberdeen to work in teacher education at the former Northern College which later merged with the University of Aberdeen. From 2000, he was part of the team which re-introduced music programmes at the University of Aberdeen, including the introduction of doctoral programmes in Composition and the development of the electroacoustic music studios. He was Head of the Department of Music for many years and he retired as Professor of Composition and Electroacoustic Music in 2022.

In 2004 he was part of the setting up of sound, where he has appeared regularly as composer, performer and conductor, especially with Any Enemy, where he is Musical Director. In February 2026, he will conduct the Aberdeen City Orchestra in the premiere of a new work by Joe Stollery, as well as Sibelius Fifth Symphony and music by Piazzolla.

His compositional work exists as electroacoustic compositions, sound installations, web-based sound art, as well as instrumental/vocal compositions. He recently completed commissions for Inverurie and Learig Orchestras (*Un Pensamiento Triste Que Se Baila*) and *Content* for the University of Aberdeen Chamber Choir.

John De Simone (1974, Aylesbury) is a composer based in Aberdeenshire. He studied composition at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama and Royal Conservatoire, The Hague where he graduated with distinction. He gained his PhD in composition from the University of St Andrews and Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, where he joined as a Lecturer from 2006, In 2020 he commenced his current position as Senior Lecturer in Composition at the University of Aberdeen.

He has enjoyed regular commissions throughout his career, writing for groups such as the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, The Edinburgh Quartet, Mondriaan Quartet, Red Note Ensemble, Aurelia Sax Quartet, Percussion Group The Hague,

Ensemble Klang and the New Juilliard Ensemble, working closely with conductors such as Kevin Edusei, Jonathan Stockhammer and Ilan Volkov.

His music has been performed in several major festivals, including Verona Risuona, BBC Tectonics, Spitalfields, Gaudeamus, and the Gothenburg GAS festival, and broadcast widely on national and international radio. From 2016-18 he was the inaugural Composer in Residence for the sound festival, Aberdeen.

He believes strongly in building community through making music and as such was a key figure in the re-emergence of new music ensembles in The Netherlands through the creation of Ensemble Muse (1999-2003) Moving to Scotland, he created Ensemble Thing, which continues to this day performing throughout Scotland and beyond.

Follow us on social media for up to date information and festival news

 soundscotland  @soundfestival  @soundscotland.bsky.social

#soundfest25

We gather feedback to find out whether you've enjoyed the event and to better understand our audiences and their demographic. Short forms will be distributed at the event, but if you're happy to fill in a longer online feedback form you can access it here:



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

soundfestival 2025 gratefully acknowledges the support of:



soundfestival is also supported by: UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, Diaphonique, D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust, Fidelio Charitable Trust, Hope Scott Trust, Hugh Fraser Foundation, Idlewild Trust, The Leche Trust, Pear Tree Fund for Music, Vaughan Williams Foundation and the University of Aberdeen Development Trust