



Stephanie Lamprea (soprano) and Alistair MacDonald (electronics)

Saturday 1st November 2025, 4pm

The Dissection Room, Anatomy Rooms, Aberdeen

Programme

Alistair MacDonald *Ecstatic Visions*

-short interval-

Asta Hyvärinen *She, Miracle* (World Premiere) *

* Commissioned by the Scottish Music Centre and **sound** as part of the Northern Connection partnership project

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Programme notes

Alistair MacDonald *Ecstatic Visions* (2023) (22 mins)

Ecstatic Visions forges the sounds of Glasgow Cathedral's great bell with abbess Hildegard von Bingen's writings on gemstones and healing, a letter to a Benedictine monk, her visions, and two of her antiphons, in a series of kaleidoscopic, multi-channel illusions. Hildegard was revered not only as a nun, but a 'visionary, mystic, healer, linguist, poet, artist, musician, playwright, biographer, theologian, preacher and spiritual counsellor' (Priscilla Throop) and has been described as the founder of scientific natural history in Germany.

Asta Hyvärinen *She, Miracle* (2024/25) (15 mins)

Imaginary dream play for female voice and electronics

In '*She, Miracle*', the soprano soloist is in a dream state - unconscious or coma - but cannot realise it. Everything that she does is a reflection of her inner mind, and her performance is actually a vision of her dream, a hallucination.

"The work was inspired by my pondering of reality, dreams, and existence as well as films such as American Psycho, The Matrix, and some by surrealist Luis Buñuel. The performer of 'She, Miracle' needs all of her acting skills. Instead of performing the work, the singer has to transform into being her."

Biographies

Colombian-American soprano **Stephanie Lamprea** is an architect of new sounds and expressions as a performer, composer, and multidisciplinary artist, specializing in contemporary classical repertoire. Trained as an operatic coloratura, she uses her voice as a mechanism of avant-garde performance art, creating "maniacal shifts of vocal production and character... like an icepick through the skull" (Jason Eckardt). She has performed as a soloist at Roulette Intermedium (New York City), Constellation Chicago, Sound Scotland, Kings Place (London), Southbank Centre (London), the Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival, the National Concert Hall (Dublin), the Centre for Contemporary Art (Glasgow), the Hidden Door Festival (Edinburgh), and the Casa da Música (Porto). She has collaborated with leading new music ensembles and bands including the Riot Ensemble, International Contemporary Ensemble, the City of London Sinfonia, Sō Percussion, and Post Coal Prom Queen.

<http://www.stephanielamprea.com/>

Alistair MacDonald is a composer & performer based in Glasgow. Much of his work is collaborative; with musicians, artists and choreographers from different media and backgrounds he makes work for performance, broadcast and installation. His work encompasses field recording, interactivity and improvisation with live electronics. Recent work includes music for voice (Stephanie Lamprea, 2023 and Taylor Wilson, 2022), film (Kim Beveridge, 2021; Phil Minton and Vlady Bystrov, 2018, for F.W. Murnau's silent film *Nosferatu*); for dance and theatre (*Reckless Sleepers*, 2018-22); trumpet (Tom Poulson, St

Magnus Festival 2016) and in a live electroacoustic duo, Strange Rainbow, with Scottish harp player Catriona McKay.

Finnish composer **Asta Hyvärinen** has described her composition style with the term “surrealist-cubism”. This means that the structures are based on the surrealist (subconscious) process and the sonic details appearance as cubistic. She uses also the term “whole tonality” that means of equality of any kind of sounding material (chromatic; micro tonal; noises & any kind of unpitched sounds). Most of her works composed during past 20 years are some kind of cross-sections of a shattering world.

Asta has worked as a freelance composer since the mid 80’s, and as a full time composer since 2000. Her list of works contains nowadays more than 130 composition which has been performed widely in Europe and also in Canada, Americas and Asia around 30 countries.

The Northern Connection partnership project aims to sustainably connect Nordic countries and Scotland by establishing and strengthening liaisons between composers, ensembles and festivals of contemporary music in Finland, Norway, Scotland, Denmark and Iceland.

www.northernconnection.net

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