

### Season 2021-22

# GAIA violin and cello duo



## 7.30pm 14 November 2021 Viewfield Baptist Church





#### GAIA

#### Katrina Lee (violin) - Alice Allen (cello)

GAIA are an award-winning violin and cello duo, comprising two of Scotland's most distinguished chamber musicians - Katrina Lee and Alice Allen. Winners of Chamber Music Scotland's highly competitive and prestigious two-year residency, GAIA are at the forefront of innovative and pioneering programming with exciting, bold and daring performances that push the boundaries of string duo performance and creative programming. Their impressive and growing collection of bespoke commissions from world-renowned composers includes Sally Beamish, Kim Moore (sound designer for SuperFan, Nose Dive), and Duncan Strachan (Maxwell Quartet). GAIA celebrate and champion works by under-represented voices within classical music and their commitment to spotlight historical works by uncredited women composers sees them explore current issues of gender inequality within classical music, making them one of today's most exciting and dynamic duos .

Both Alice and Katrina are previous Scottish Ensemble Young Artists and between them boast an impressive array of instrumental awards. During her time at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, Katrina was recipient of every string prize awarded by the Conservatoire. She was also the recipient of the International Konigin Sophie Charlotte competition for Violin. During Alice's two-year Masters at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland she was recipient of the Durbar-Gerber Chamber Music Award, Thomas and Margaret Roddan Trust Scholarship and the Royal Scottish National Orchestra's Concerto Competition. Whilst studying at the Royal Northern College of Music Alice was winner of the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra's professional experience scheme.

GAIA are regular performers at the Royal Conservatoire's annual PLUG Contemporary Music Festival, which showcases the talent of current composition students. GAIA were recently commissioned by the world renowned Courtauld Gallery in London, to compose a piece of music inspired by Claude Monet's 'Antibes' from the gallery's extensive collection of prized art. Other recent highlights include an award winning performance of Konstantinos Terzakis piece 'Invisible Sound' which saw the composer awarded second prize at the 4th International Composer Award in Vienna. This outstanding ensemble regularly work on cross-arts collaboration, and their work with award winning Glasgow-based artist Jennifer Wicks has been showcased by Centre for Contemporary Arts.

Alice and Katrina are co-founders of the Scottish Freelancers Ensemble, formed as a response to the Covid-19 pandemic, helping our community of freelance musicians support each other to keep our art alive.

#### **PROGRAMME**

Arcangelo Corelli (1653-1713)

Sonata in A major for Violin and Cello, Op.5 No.9

1 Preludio: Largo 2 Giga: Allegro

3 Adagio 4 Tempo di gavotta: Allegro

Maurice Ravel (1875–1937)

Duo for Violin and Cello, M.73

1 Allegro2 Très vif (a scherzo)3 Lent4 Vif, avec entrain

#### 10-minute INTERVAL

Sorry we can't provide our usual refreshments! You will find toilets at the top of the entrance staircase (disabled and ladies) and the bottom of the staircase (men).

Rebecca Clarke (1886-1979)

Lullaby

Grotesque

Sally Beamish (b.1956)

Stone, Salt and Sky

1 Processional 2 Horizon 3 Harbour Blues

*Stone*, *Salt and Sky* was commissioned by Chamber Music Scotland for Gaia, and first performed on 20 May 2021 as part of the St Magnus online festival.

Sally writes: I have reflected the colours and open spaces of Orkney, and its music, as well as referencing other musical genres, for instance bluegrass and blues.

The first movement opens with stamping feet, and a 'trumpet' call. The music suggests outdoor processions and ceremonies throughout Orkney's history.

The second movement is inspired by Orkney's wide horizons, and also by Norwegian Hardanger fiddle playing.

The last movement is a blues-infused rhythmic dance – maybe even a sea shanty – using chopping techniques, harmonics and pizzicato.