



Season 2022–23: Concert 2

Ensemble Renard



7.30pm

9 October 2022

Viewfield Baptist Church



This concert is promoted by Dunfermline Arts Guild, whose work is aided by Chamber Music Scotland. Our concert by Ensemble Renard is sponsored by the Tunnell Trust (<https://tunnelltrust.org.uk/>).

**Chamber
Music
Scotland**

Ensemble Renard

Founded in 2018 by musicians from the Royal Academy of Music and the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, Ensemble Renard are an exciting, young chamber ensemble looking to push the boundaries of wind chamber music. Winners of the Nicholas Blake Woodwind Ensemble Prize 2019 with Thea Musgrave's seldom heard *wind quintet*, they have been passionate about championing repertoire that is rarely given the light of day. Ensemble Renard are Britten Pears Young Artists 2022/23 and hold a Tunnell Trust Award after attending their residency on the Isle of Coll. In 2021/22, the group held a Chamber Music Fellowship at the Royal Academy of Music where they explored more diverse repertoire and commissioned new works as well as appearing in major venues and festivals and such as Wigmore Hall, Llanfyllin Music Festival and Festival International de musique de Dinard.

In returning to Scotland for the first time as a group since visiting the Isle of Coll in July 2021, they wanted to share a mixed programme of some wind quintet 'classics' as well as some lesser known, contemporary works. They have included three works by the Scottish composers Thea Musgrave, Judith Weir, and James MacMillan, not only to celebrate Scottish music but because these are some of their favourite pieces to play as a group. They enjoy exploring new repertoire and are excited to share this programme with us!

Amongst the Scottish music are works from America, France, Hungary, and England. The first half starts and finishes with the music of France. Oliver Knussen's *Alleluia Nativitas* and Maurice Ravel's *Le Tombeau de Couperin* are works inspired by the French Medieval and Baroque composers Pérotin and Couperin. Knussen was a contemporary of the three living Scottish composers and had an important connection with the group's alma mater, the Royal Academy of Music. The ensemble like to programme these two works together particularly as Knussen was greatly influenced by the music of Ravel. *Le Tombeau de Couperin*, originally for solo piano and subsequently orchestra, will be played in an arrangement by Hans Abrahamsen, another composer linked to the Academy, with whom they have had the privilege of working on his own wind quintets.

After the interval they perform another work originally for solo piano. Ligeti extracted six movements from his *Musica Ricerata* and rewrote them for wind quintet to create the *Six Bagatelles*. This is now one of the most popular works in their repertoire, alongside Mendelssohn's *Songs without words*.

Ensemble Renard close their programme with African-American composer Valerie Coleman's work, *Red Clay and Mississippi Delta*. She describes the work as "a virtuosic chamber work that merges classical technique and orchestration with the blues dialect and charm of the south."

Ellie Blamires (flute) Francesca Cox (oboe) Patrick Bolton (bassoon)
George Strivens (horn) Holly Isherwood (clarinet)

PROGRAMME

Alleluya Nativitas	Pérotin (fl. c. 1200) (transcribed by Hans Abrahamsen) arr. Oliver Knussen (1952–2018)
Wind Quintet	Thea Musgrave (b. 1928)
Mountain Airs	Judith Weir (b. 1954)
Le Tombeau de Couperin	Maurice Ravel (1875–1937)
1 Prelude	(arr. Hans Abrahamsen)
2 Forlane	
3 Menuet	
4 Rigaudon	

15-minute INTERVAL

Coffee/tea will be available during the interval

You will find toilets at the top of the entrance staircase
(disabled and ladies) and the bottom of the staircase (men)

Untold	James Macmillan (b. 1959)
<i>from</i> Five Songs without words	Felix Mendelssohn (1809–1847)
2 Andante espressivo	(arr. George Strivens)
4 Moderato	
3 Molto allegro e vivace	
Six Bagatelles	György Ligeti (1923–2006)
1 Allegro con spirito	
2 Rubato. Lamentoso	
3 Allegro grazioso	
4 Presto ruvido	
5 Adagio. Mesto (Béla Bartók in memoriam)	
6 Molto vivace. Capriccioso	
Red Clay and Mississippi Delta	Valerie Coleman (b. 1970)