

**LIVE** Music on Sundays  
in Dunfermline

**Season 2024–25 Concert 3**

# **Benjamin Shute & Anastasia Abu Bakar**



**3:00pm**

**8 December 2024**

**Viewfield Baptist Church**

**Chamber  
Music  
Scotland**

This concert is promoted by Dunfermline Arts Guild with financial assistance from Creative Scotland provided through Chamber Music Scotland.



ALBA | CHRUTHACHAIL

## Benjamin Shute & Anastasia Abu Bakar

Benjamin Shute and Anastasia Abu Bakar began performing as a period-instrument duo while students at the conservatoires of Freiburg and Frankfurt. They have given recitals internationally as the Highlands Duo, enjoying enriching collaborations with colleagues including violinist Alan Choo, cellists Steuart Pincombe and Michael Katz, and countertenor Augustine Mercante. They have also jointly guest-directed professional chamber orchestras including the Heisenberg Ensemble (St Andrews), Cecilia's Muse, and the Oklahoma Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra. Having a long-standing commitment to education, the duo has held residencies at American institutions including Wheaton Conservatory and Dickinson College, taught at summer programs in New York, Pennsylvania, and Vermont, and coached the Oklahoma City University Early Music Ensemble over several years, bringing the group to national recognition in the 2021 Early Music America Young Performers Showcase. Though focusing primarily on the 17th and 18th centuries, their repertoire extends into the 21st century, having made the premiere recording of the violin-piano sonatas of Karén Khanagov in addition to creating their own original works.

Originally from Wilmington, Delaware, USA, period violinist **Benjamin Shute** has performed across North America, Europe, and Asia as soloist in concertos from the 17th to 20th centuries, chamber musician, and leader of ensembles including the Boston Chamber Orchestra. He is the author of the books *Sei Solo: Symbolum? The Theology of J. S. Bach's Solo Violin Works* (Pickwick, 2016) and *The Harmonic Violinist* (Oxford University Press, forthcoming), as well as various scholarly editions. A finalist for the 2023 American Prize in chamber music composition, his works have been heard in the UK at venues including the London Festival of Contemporary Church Music. Currently teaching at the University of St Andrews Music Centre, he previously lectured at various American universities and has taught for Tonebase Violin as well as festivals in North America, Europe, and Asia. He holds a DMA from the New England Conservatory and a Diplom KA from the Hochschule für Musik Freiburg, where his teachers included Rainer Kussmaul (first concertmaster, Berliner Philharmoniker), Masuko Ushioda, and Lucy Chapman.

Harpsichordist **Anastasia Abu Bakar** has performed as soloist with orchestras in her native Malaysia as well as Germany, the USA, and the UK. She has appeared internationally in recital and been featured as soloist on a CD produced by the Hessian Ministry of Science and the Arts commemorating the semi-centennial of Hindemith's death. A specialist in the historic national styles of basso continuo, she has appeared as continuo player with numerous ensembles on both sides of the Atlantic and has published various continuo realisations for PRB Productions, also serving as editor for their two-volume set of Blavet's Op. 2 sonatas. She has held posts at Delaware State University and Oklahoma City University, where she served as harpsichord instructor and director of the Early Music Ensemble. Her mentors at the conservatoires of Freiburg, Frankfurt, and Florence included Robert Hill, Eva Maria Pollerus, and Alfonso Fedi.

## **A PROGRAMME FOR ADVENT**

‘Veni, veni Emmanuel’ (melody: 15th-century French) arr. Shute

Four British Folk Songs Anastasia Abu Bakar

- I. There Were Three Ravens
- II. Suo Gân
- III. My Lagan Love
- IV. Loch Lomond

Sonata in G minor, BWV 1001 Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

- I. Adagio
- II. Fuga
- III. Siciliana
- IV. Presto

### ***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)

Invention in B-flat major, Op. 10 no. 5

Francesco Bonporti (1672–1749)

- I. Andante
- II. Aria: Largo
- III. Giga: Presto
- IV. Fantasia: Amabile

Sinfonia in D minor, after BWV 188/1052

J. S. Bach, arr. Shute

A Fife Pilgrim Triptych

Shute

Lullabye

Adoramus

Grand danse

Song of Ascents from Sinfonia ‘*Magnum Mysterium*’

Shute