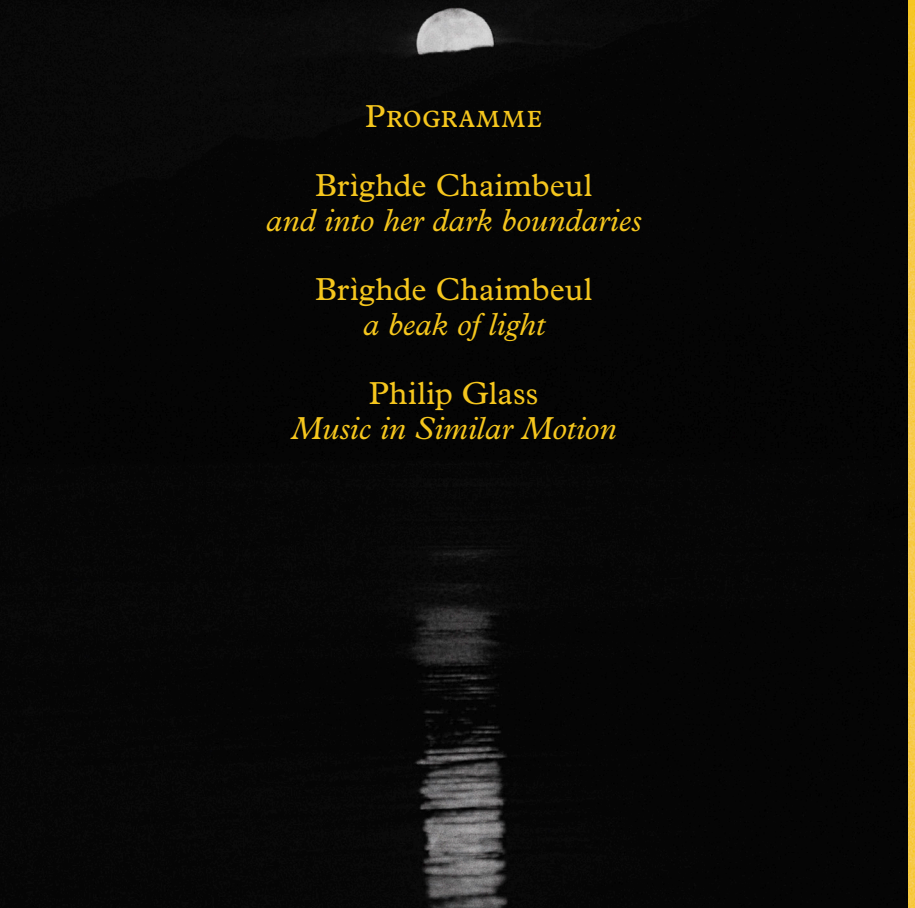
Scottish Ensemble
& Brìghde Chaimbeul

Luaineach

restless, changeable or wandering
shares a linguistic connection with *Luan*,
a Gaelic word for the moon

Tonight
I lay restless
while the others are in slumber.
I carried with me
a story I heard…
a reminder of another night here;
a full moon
tranquillity-
the distinction intertwines.
But time will pass
and as such, with the waxing moon
comes a beak of light,
and then back into her dark boundaries
Restless without strife, without cease

A nochd air oidhche
Mo chridhe luaineach
San còrr nan suain
Thog mi leam
Sgeulachd a chuala mi …
Samhladh air oidhche eile an seo;
Gealach làn
suaimhneas-
an eadar-dhealachadh a fighe ri chèile.
Ach thig laithean seachad
Agus mar sin, leis a ghealach a fàs
Thig gob soillse
is air a h-ais dhan earra-dhubh.
Luaineach gun strì, gun stad



Programme

Brìghde Chaimbeul
and into her dark boundaries

Brìghde Chaimbeul
a beak of light

Philip Glass
Music in Similar Motion

In creating this performance, we spent three inspiring days on Skye working with Brìghde to draw together the smallpipes and strings into this new, beguiling sound world. It was a fascinating experience for all of us, coming together from different musical traditions to create something unique and unfamiliar. Brìghde is using the strings of the Ensemble's instruments as a kind of extra resonator for the smallpipes, drawing out a depth of colour and a spectrum of sound that feels epic. The drones are fascinating organisms. Listening to them over a sustained period of time can be strange - at first, the overwhelming sense is one of stasis, but soon you can start to hear layers of ethereal, beautiful voices emerging. It's magical. I hope audiences will feel able to let their minds wander via this very rich, earthy, ancient, other worldly sound. I don't think many people will be familiar with this kind of experience, which we hope will be powerful, visceral, and beautiful.

— Jonathan Morton

It's been a real honour to collaborate with Scottish Ensemble and create new music for them. I've loved shaping a piece that blends together the raw voice of the smallpipes with the rich, expressive world of the strings, and allowing the character of the pipes to guide the music. Inspired by the shifting cycles of the moon as they appear in Gaelic folklore, the piece moves through contrasting landscapes, at times grounded and earthy, at others luminous and otherworldly. And woven throughout, of course, are the ever-present drones.

— Brìghde Chaimbeul

Brìghde Chaimbeul is a leading purveyor of Celtic experimentalism and a master of the Scottish smallpipes – the bellows-blown, mellower and more emotive cousin to the famous Highland bagpipes – and she's taken them to the global stage.

A native Gaelic speaker from the Isle of Skye, Brìghde roots her music in her language and culture. She rose to prominence as a prodigy of traditional music, but has since begun a journey to take the smallpipes into uncharted territory. She has devised a completely unique way of arranging for pipe music that emphasises the rich textural drones of the instrument; the constancy of sound that creates a trance-like atmosphere, played with enticing virtuosic liquidity.

She draws inspiration from the world of interconnected piping traditions, and her most recent album brings in influence from ambient, avant garde and electronic music. One can talk about Brìghde's awards (BBC Young Folk Award; BBC Horizons Award; SAY Award nominee) and her wide array of collaborators (Caroline Polachek; Colin Stetson; Gruff Rhys; Aidan O'Rourke…) but after it all, her music speaks for itself. Haunting, entrancing, breathtaking, beautiful – this open-eared, understatedly virtuosic performer is transforming and creating new definitions for Scottish folk in the 21st century.

This project was created at An Crùbh, Skye, 3-5 March 2026, and first performed at Edinburgh International Festival, 23 August 2026.

Scottish Ensemble is a pioneering group of outstanding string players, described by *The Herald* as "always challenging the norms of classical music performance." Founded in 1969, we have built a reputation for imaginative, cross-artform collaborations that reimagine how classical music can connect with contemporary life.

Based in Glasgow, our touring work regularly takes us across Scotland, the UK, and internationally, as likely to be found playing at celebrated concert halls and international festivals as we are on pop-up stages and non-traditional venues. With the support of Creative Scotland, Scottish Ensemble continues to be a beacon of Scottish creativity at home and around the world.

For more information visit www.scottishensemble.co.uk

Creative Team

Smallpipes
Brighde Chaimbeul

Artistic Director
Jonathan Morton

Visuals
Jonny Ashworth

Violin
Cheryl Crockett
Laura Ghiro
Donald Grant
Joanne Green
Tristan Gurney
Liza Johnson
Jonathan Morton
George Smith

Viola
Jane Atkins
Andrew Berridge
Gordon Cervoni
Carol Ella

Cello
Louise McMonagle
Niamh Molloy
Naomi Pavri

Bass
Diane Clark
Daniel Griffin

Sound Engineer
Jonathan Green

CREATIVE SCOTLAND
ALBA | CHRUTHACHAIL

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Photos: Jonny Ashworth
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