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**Scottish Ensemble, Trondheim Soloists, Ensemble Resonanz and PLMF Music Trust announce the programme for The Bridge Festival**

**21-24 April 2022
Venues across Glasgow
Tickets on sale 25 February 2022**

*Venues include:*

Barrowland Ballroom, Saint Luke’s, Merchants House, Glad Café, Tramway and Mackintosh Church as well as ‘pop up’ concerts in public places across Glasgow

*Artists include:*

Scottish Ensemble (UK), Ensemble Resonanz (Germany), Trondheim Soloists (Norway), PLMF Trust musicians (Estonia), Derya Yıldırım (Germany/Turkey), Deniz Mahir Kartal (Germany/Turkey), Sebastian Flaig (Germany), Max Andrzejewski (Germany), Glasgow DJ Charlie Knox

*World premiere of new commissions by Mica Levi and Erkki Sven Tüür*

**Four innovative classical music organisations from across Europe announce the programme for a new festival celebrating music for strings, taking place across Glasgow from 21-24 April 2022.**

**Presented by Scottish Ensemble (UK), Ensemble Resonanz (Germany), Trondheim Soloists (Norway) and PLMF Music Trust (Estonia)**, **The Bridge Festival** brings some of Europe’s best string players - and most innovative ensembles - to Glasgow.

The festival centres around dynamic, creative, collaborative live performances that aim to showcase the power and variety of music for strings. In both separate and collaborative concerts, each company will bring their own slant on the more innovative ways in which classical music can be presented, as well as the spaces it can illuminate, with events taking place in venues across the city where classical music might not usually be found.

Seeking to inspire new ways of thinking about music for strings, the events will be enriched by collaborative endeavours across the board: from visual artists, to musicians from other, non-classical genres, to young musicians, to people on the street as professional musicians spring up right across the city for performances.

Each ensemble will deliver a headline event showcasing their own distinctive style and ethos, through a mix of acclaimed signature productions - including Scottish Ensemble’s boundary-breaking collaboration with Anna Meredith and visual artist Eleanor Meredith, ***Anno***, and Ensemble Resonanz’s award-winning urban stringchamber music club night.

The festival opens with its most significant collaboration, ***Nachtmusik***. Over forty string musicians, including all three ensembles as well as musicians from the PLMF Music Trust umbrella, will take to the stage at Glasgow’s iconic Barrowland Ballroom in a spectacular concert s celebrating the tantalising diversity and colour of music for strings, and its place in contemporary cultural life. The evening centres around new commissions by two composers straddling the worlds of rock, pop and classical composition: experimental pop artist and film composer **Mica Levi** (UK), and former rock frontman turned celebrated composer **Erkki-Sven Tüür** (Estonia).

Igniting imagination at the same time as embedding classical music into everyday spaces and contemporary life, events will take place at a range of venues across the city, taking classical music out of the expected concert hall setting and into venues more readily associated with other art forms, and other musical genres. Concerts will take place at two of Glasgow’s foremost east end gig venues, intimate music hub **Saint Luke’s** and Glasgow’s iconic **Barrowland Ballroom**, as well as the historic **Merchants House**, award-winning creative hub **Glad Café**, post-industrial international arts space **Tramway** and one of Glasgow’s hidden architectural gems, the **Mackintosh Church**.

The Bridge is a festival bringing European collaboration and breathtaking performance to the people of Glasgow. Whether encountering Bridge performances for free in public spaces, via a ‘Pay what you think it’s worth’ policy for the late night urban string gig, through multi-event ticket discounts, and discounted £6 tickets available for those living in the G40 postcode, as well as for students, under 30’s and unemployed, the aim is for audiences across the city to get involved and discover something new.

The festival is presented by The Bridge network, established in 2018 with support from Creative Europe. Across the past three years, these four forward-thinking classical music organisations from across Europe have come together to explore, share and develop ideas around artistic innovation and audience diversity in the classical music sector, as well as developing a string ensembles network.

The Bridge network and festival, originally planned for May 2020, continue to be supported by the **Creative Europe Programme of the European Union**.
**The Bridge: Headline events**

**Thursday 21 April**

**Nachtmusik**

**Barrowland Ballroom, 8pm**

Mica Levi: Flag (world premiere)

Mahler: Adagietto from Symphony no.5

Erkki-Sven Tüür: Deep Dark Shine (world premiere)

Penderecki: Polymorphia

Jonny Greenwood: 48 Responses to Polymorphia

Hildegard von Bingen: O, Ecclesia

Gabrieli, work tbc

**All three ensembles and musicians from PLMF Music Trust join together for a spectacular evening showcase of the power of music for strings, featuring two world premieres by Mica Levi and Erkki-Sven Tüür.**

Around 50 string musicians will come together in this dynamic and celebratory concert, performing music for strings that celebrates its innovation, its flexibility, its possibilities and its sheer power.

Directed by specialist in contemporary music, Catherine Larsen-Maguire, works by innovative 20th-century composers such as Penderecki’s *Polymorphia*, written for 48 string musicians, feature alongside examples of iconic string music written centuries ago, and still embedded in public consciousness today, such as Mahler’s emotive *Adagietto*.

The ensembles will also celebrate the extraordinary Hildegarde von Bingen, the visionary woman and Abbesse who lived almost 1000 years ago with a performance of O, Ecclesia.

Above all, the concert will celebrate the diversity of music for strings today and its rich sources of influence, centring around works by composers with backgrounds in the worlds of classical, rock, pop and electronica. As well as cult indie-rock guitarist Jonny Greenwood’s *48 Responses to Polymorphia* - a response to Penderecki’s radical work, similarly scored for 48 string musicians - at the heart of the concert will be two new commissions, one by experimental pop-rock musician and film composer Mica Levi, the other from former In Spe frontman and one of the 21st century’s most respected composers, Erkki-Sven Tüür.

**Friday 22 April**

**PLMF Music Trust: Estonia!**

**Merchants House, 12.30**

**Estonia’s PLMF Music Trust presents a feast of musical talent at this showcase of some of the country’s finest professional string musicians alongside the budding stars of the new generation.**

**Jaan Rääts** Concerto for Chamber Orchestra
**Erkki-Sven Tüür** Symbiosis

**Artur Lemba** String Sextet
**Heino Eller** Five Pieces for Strings

Some of Estonian’s finest string musicians will perform alongside a quartet of budding young stars in this relaxed daytime concert, showcasing the talent of some of Europe’s best professional musicians.

Through organising masterclasses, performances, and opportunities to perform internationally, the PLMF supports the development of professional musicians, presenting top Estonian soloists in the country’s largest towns. For this special event as part of The Bridge Festival, the Trust is proud to present four renowned soloists, as well as a quartet of young talent from the Tallinn Music High School, for a showcase of chamber music in a more intimate concert setting.

In-demand across Europe and the world as a soloist and chamber musician, violinist Mari Poll (currently second concertmaster of Norway’s Stavanger Symphony Orchestra) will be joined by conductor, violinist and violist Andres Kaljuste (who will perform on viola), cellist Andeas Lend (currently cellist with the Estonian National Opera amongst many international chamber and solo performances) and double bassist Regina Udod (associate principal of the Estonian National Symphony Orchestra amongst a busy solo career).
**Performers:**
Kaija Lukas (violin)

Érik Rauk (violin)

Aleksandra Serebrjakova (violin)

Johanna Vahermägi (viola)

Grettel Eerik (viola)

Andreas Lend (cello)

Ekke Rainer Arndt (cello)

Regina Udod (double bass)

**Friday 22 April**
**Scottish Ensemble: Anno**

**Tramway, 6+8pm**

**Anna Meredith’s *Anno*** is a boundary-pushing collaboration with the Scottish Ensemble, in which original pieces of work by the classical-electronic composer are intertwined with Vivaldi’s Four Seasons.

*Anno* was conceived when Scottish Ensemble Artistic Director Jonathan Morton drew parallels between Anna’s writing style and that of Vivaldi. As one of the most recognisable pieces of classical music of all time, Four Seasons was the perfect piece for Anna to work with, crafting experimental, utterly fresh partner pieces to sit alongside Vivaldi’s original compositions. The result is a continuous musical experience, blending old and new, ‘classical’ and ‘popular’ without distinction and Anna’s fascinating new pieces binding seamlessly with the original work.

The live work is performed as an immersive show that sees the musicians move around the stage, while specially commissioned work by visual artist (and sister of Anna) Eleanor Meredith surrounds the audience in responses to the music.

**Friday 22 April**

**Ensemble Resonanz: urban string**

**Glad Cafe, 9.30pm (post show DJ set)**

In the bonhomie of Glasgow's Glad Cafe, Ensemble Resonanz transports its award-winning club night — and four of its top musicians — from their own club in a Hamburg bunker to late-night Glasgow: an evening of unadulterated entertainment exploring minimalism from John Cage, to Lou Reed to Julia Wolfe, with experimental rhythmic beats by Glasgow DJ Charlie Knox.

**Saturday 23 April**

**Trondheim Soloists: Nordic Flavours**

**Mackintosh Church, 8pm**

The sound of Norway - distinctive, clean and bright. A sonic smorgasbord.

The exceptional Trondheim Soloists show off “that Trondheim Sound” with music by Grieg, Sibelius and Byström. This is music infused with the richness of the country’s folk heritage, summoning up vistas of a Scandinavian landscape, notably in Grieg’s *Peer Gynt* suite, here in a version featuring the evocative sounds of a national instrument of Norway, the Hardingfele.

An evening offering a smorgasbord of musical delights — all crafted by Grammy-winning Trondheim Soloists.

Grieg Two Nordic Melodies

Britta Byström A Walk to Gade

Sibelius Valse Triste

Grieg Peer Gynt Suite

**Sunday 24 April**

**Ensemble Resonanz: Derya's Songbook**

**Saint Lukes, 8pm**

**UK Premiere**

**Ensemble Resonanz presents a vibrant evening of performance crossing cultures, centuries, genres and styles, featuring guest performers including Derya Yıldırım (vocals / bağlama) and Deniz Mahir Katal (duduk and other instruments).**

For this special collaboration between Ensemble Resonanz and the Hamburg-born vocalist and bağlama player Derya Yıldırım, twelve composers were asked to write a new work: new compositions incorporating traditional Turkish, Anatolian, Kurdish and Greek songs, as well as new works for Derya's voice, the bağlama (a Turkish stringed instrument, similar to the lute, also called the saz) and the string musicians of Ensemble Resonanz.

The result is a new, trans-cultural song cycle, combining old folk songs with contemporary compositions, performed in modern cultural settings and creating a new experience of music from across Europe and across centuries for today’s audiences.

Performed by some of Europe’s finest musicians from across traditional and classical spheres, across a vibrant night of music, audiences will hear subtle echoes and celebratory extracts from folk songs from across the continent’s heritage alongside contemporary classical writing.

Derya’s Songbook features works by composers including Taner Akyol, Antonis Anissegos, Ketan Bhatti, Ali N. Askin, Sven-Ingo Koch, Yannis Kyriakides, Brigitta Muntendorf and Andi Otto.

**Performers**

Derya Yıldırım (Voice, Bağlama/Saz)
Deniz Mahir Kartal (Duduk)
Sebastian Flaig (Hand Drums)
Max Andrzejewski (Percussion)
Ensemble Resonanz (12 strings)

**Tickets**

All tickets £16 apart from urban string which is 'pay what you think its worth'

**Carers and children under 16** free with a paid ticket

**Unemployed, students, under 30’s, disability allowance £6 tickets**

**G40 postcode residents:** £6 tickets

**Multi Buy**

10% off when buying 2-3 Bridge Festival Events

20% off when buying 4-5 Bridge Festival Events

**Instagram**

Thebridgefestival

**Facebook**bridgestringsfestival

Find out more at the dedicated Festival website: <https://www.bridgestrings.eu>

<https://scottishensemble.co.uk>

**Notes for Editors**

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**The Bridge**
**Project summary**

Supported by Creative Europe, The Bridge is a 4-year project enabling four professional classical music organisations from across Europe to explore, share and develop ideas around artistic innovation and audience diversity in the classical music sector, as well as initiate a European String Ensembles Network.

The Bridge is 1 network, 12 audience development events, a summer academy, a 4-day multi-event festival, a bespoke website, and a film, delivered across Scotland (UK), Germany, Norway and Estonia.

The Bridge celebrates string repertoire and explores innovation in classical presentation as a means of engaging more diverse audiences. The innovative string ensembles at the heart of the project will gather best practice and exceptional projects together to inspire both industry leaders and a wider European public to connect with the debate and access exceptional performance and participation opportunities.

The Bridge aims to inspire long-term change in the classical music sector; enriching our shared European musical heritage and finding ways to make it more accessible, responsive, diverse and innovative.

With the backdrop of the Brexit debate, and ongoing challenging negotiations surrounding the UK’s place in the European Union, it is essential that cultural organisations continue to nurture European ties. A shared cultural heritage is key to a shared European identity; in the face of political discord creative projects can celebrate diversity and act as a powerful voice of social unity. In the context of The Bridge, the rich catalogue of string music that has come out of Europe represents a significant artistic tradition, and the project’s partner organisations seek to celebrate this repertoire and its potential to move, inspire, challenge, and stimulate audiences.

The project will underline the importance of transnational artistic cooperation and learning; with perspectives from a range of European countries, The Bridge will bring together a broad range of perspectives to strengthen collective knowledge and ambition. The initial years of the project will focus on sharing good practice in audience development initiatives – to ensure more people from a range of backgrounds can experience the power of live classical music – and on developing innovative ideas in terms of performance – to ensure that our shared heritage and tradition can continue to appeal to the changing demography of the European continent.

**The partners**
**Scottish Ensemble**

Scottish Ensemble (SE) is the UK’s leading string orchestra; a core of outstanding string players who perform together under Artistic Director **Jonathan Morton**. Based in Glasgow, Scotland, SE inspires audiences in the UK and beyond with vibrant performances which are powerful, challenging and rewarding experiences, crossing genres, styles, musical periods and artistic forms to offer fresh perspectives on classical music.

SE regularly **collaborates with high-profile guest artists**, from trumpeter Alison Balsom and mezzo-soprano Sarah Connolly to cellist Pieter Wispelwey and violinists Patricia Kopatchinskaja and Nicola Benedetti. SE is also becoming increasingly known for its **international collaborations with artists from other disciplines**, from dance and theatre companies to visual artists. Starting in 2014, their series of annual cross-artform collaborations has so far included immersive projects with **visual artist Toby Paterson**; Swedish contemporary dance company **Andersson Dance**; electronic-classical crossover composer **Anna Meredith** and visual artist **Eleanor Meredith**; and, Scottish theatre companies **Vanishing Point and Untitled Projects**.

Alongside performances across Scotland, SE presents concerts across the UK, London and the globe. Recent invitations to tour abroad have resulted in engagements in Taiwan, China, Brazil, the USA and across Europe, performing at prestigious venues from the **Shanghai Concert Hall** (China) and the **John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts** (USA) as well as festivals including the Edinburgh International, Edinburgh Fringe and Thuringia Bach Festivals.

SE is also **committed to expanding the string repertoire**, with recent commissions including new works from John Tavener, James MacMillan, Sally Beamish, Martin Suckling and Anna Meredith.

**Ensemble Resonanz**

With its unique enthusiasm and artistic quality, the Ensemble Resonanz ranks as one of the world’s leading chamber orchestras. Their programs connect classical and contemporary music, and their vivid interpretations create a special sort of resonance between the pieces, the audience and the stories told around the program.

The string ensemble is organized in a democratic way and works without a permanent conductor. However, partners such as the violist Tabea Zimmermann, the cellist Jean- Guihen Queyras and the conductor and composer Emilio Pomàrico work with the ensemble on a regular basis. Since 2018, the conductor and violinist Riccardo Minasi follows in the position of an Artist-in-Residence.

In Hamburg the musicians perform in two very different locations – Hamburg’s brand new Elbphilharmonie and the resonanzraum St. Pauli. The residency at the Elbphilharmonie includes the concert series resonanzen, joint educational projects and various festivals. The home of the Ensemble Resonanz remains the resonanzraum – Europe’s first chamber music club – located within a converted bunker in the heart of St. Pauli. Here, the musicians present the concert series urban string in co-operation with international DJs.

The musicians also perform at various festivals and leading concert halls worldwide, captivating audiences from Vienna to Amsterdam and from Tokyo to Bangkok.

**Trondheim Soloists**

Passion. Perfection. Raw intensity. With these fundamentals, the chamber orchestra TrondheimSolistene is carving out its own musical territory.

The orchestra was founded in 1988 to give the music students in Trondheim an opportunity to play together and to gain concert experience. It has since established itself as one of the most distinguished ensembles in Norway, and has won international recognition for its own distinctively open and clear orchestral sound, described by the British music magazine "Classic FM" as "The Trondheim Sound".

Teamwork and a lively musical inquisitiveness are core values for the ensemble. From August 2017 the violinist and pedagogue Geir Inge Lotsberg, became the new Artistic Director, and he continues to develop the virtuosity of the orchestra. In recent seasons the orchestra has toured in Germany, the Far East, Russia, Spain, UK and South America, making them one of the most extensive touring ensembles in the whole of Scandinavia. Soloist collaborations in this time have included artists such as Anne-Sophie Mutter, Truls Mørk, Tine Ting Helseth.

At the core of the Trondheim ethos is a responsibility to strengthen and develop not just string ensembles’ core repertoire, but to work on new and innovative collaborations between different artists to develop the whole genre of string music even further. The promotion of Norwegian music and contemporary music is also a strong commitment.

**PLMF Music Trust**

PLMF supports the development of talented professional musicians by organising master classes, opportunities to perform and by introducing them internationally. Since autumn 2004 the PLMF organises chamber-music concerts throughout Estonia presenting top Estonian soloists in the country’s largest towns.

PLMF was founded by opera singer Pille Lill in 2003, with the mission of comprehensively supporting talented musicians in developing their professional skills. As a way of offering performing opportunities, PLMF organises around 200 chamber concerts per season, as well as numerous festivals including the Tallinn Chamber Music Festival, Tallinn Winter Festival, Väike-Maarja Music Festival, (including Vocal Contest) and Eivere Piano Festival (including summer academy for pianists).

PLMF also organises the Rapla Church Music Festival (including Rapla Summer Academy for string players and singers) and is a cooperative partner of the Valga-Valka Festival of Seven Churches.

In 2017 the PLMF Academia Nova Talent's Center was opened in Tallinn, which creates a learning opportunity for anyone interested in music, no matter the age. Several extensive cooperation projects and concerts abroad take place led by PLMF (including European Union and Integration projects). PLMF is also a member of the biggest international organisations in the arts (ISPA, EFA, IAMA).