

MEDIA RELEASE: 16 October 2015

Hebrides Ensemble to host the Edinburgh instalment of UK-wide Contemporary Music for All Festival

Since 1993 Contemporary Music for All (CoMA) has been at the forefront of a new movement to help contemporary music reach new audiences through its ground-breaking **Open Score** project. Working directly with composers, CoMA has created a rich library of innovative, flexibly-scored works playable by ensembles of all shapes and sizes, which now includes over 1,000 new works composed especially for the organisation.

In **March 2016**, CoMA will link up with organisations across the UK to bring together new music makers of all kinds, from amateur instrumentalists and community music organisations to professional orchestras and music publishers, in a nationwide festival celebrating the Open Score initiative. As Scotland's foremost chamber music ensemble, renowned for its innovative approach to contemporary programming, **Hebrides Ensemble** is delighted to announce that it will host the Scotland event at Stewart's Melville College, Edinburgh.

Hebrides Ensemble invites applications from all instrumentalists and singers aged 16 and over of grade 5 standard or above to take part in a weekend of music-making directed by Artistic Director William Conway. Participants will have the chance to rehearse alongside Hebrides Ensemble players before performing to the public on Sunday evening, with works from the CoMA catalogue (including music by Panufnik, Dianna Burrell, Stephen Montague and Jonathan Hunt) forming the programme.

The concert will celebrate the UK's flourishing new music culture and demonstrate the importance of building partnerships in transforming perceptions about contemporary music. This is an initiative that challenges the traditional relationship between composer, conductor and performer – transforming what has historically been a hierarchical process into a truly collective form of music-making.

Dates: Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th March 2016

Times: Sat 5th: 10:00am-1:00pm, 2:00pm-5:00pm. Sun 6th: 12.00noon-4:00pm with a short break. Concert at 6:30pm

Venue: Tom Fleming Centre for Performing Arts, Stewart's Melville College, Queensferry Road, Edinburgh EH4 3EZ <http://www.esms.org.uk/venue-hire/>

More information and how to apply: <http://hebridesensemble.com/2015/10/16/coma/>

Applications close at midnight on Friday 22nd January 2016.

ENDS

Notes to Editors:

Hebrides Ensemble is renowned for its quality of performance, diversity of programming and its commitment to supporting new composers and commissioning new works. With a changing collective of outstanding musicians, the ensemble's flexibility is its strength, performing a wide range

of repertoire encompassing chamber music, music theatre and chamber opera in new and often unexpected ways. www.hebridesensemble.com

Contemporary Music for All was founded in 1993 with the aim of enabling musicians of all abilities to participate actively in contemporary music. It aims to commission new music that is adventurous and challenging, yet also technically accessible to non-professional players, while giving convincing performances of their works to an increasing and wide-ranging audience. www.coma.org

Open Score is CoMA's ongoing project to generate new repertoire for amateur ensembles of varying size and instrumentation. A different artistic director is appointed each year to commission new works from some of the most inspiring and forward looking composers living or working in the UK, Ireland and continental Europe. Works written for Open Score are flexibly-scored which means that the parts are not instrument-specific; instead, the composer specifies the range of the instruments (for example, high, medium and low) and it is up to each ensemble to distribute the parts to suitable players. Instrumental parts are provided in a range of transpositions. www.coma.org/openscore

The Contemporary Music for All Weekend is a partnership project between Making Music, Sound and Music, Birmingham Contemporary Music Group, London Sinfonietta, Psappha and Sinfonia Cymru.

For more information, images or to arrange interviews, please contact James Coutts on 07510 011 294 or email james@hebridesensemble.com.

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