

HEBRIDES ENSEMBLE

MEDIA RELEASE: 17 October 2014

New season opens on a surprising note

Hints of jazz and a bassoon-playing Elvis push the classical boundaries as Hebrides Ensemble opens its season with a distinctly American flavour. Jazz-influenced works by Bernstein, Adès, Milhaud and Montague join a radical piece by Michael Daugherty for a classical take on American icons.

Hebrides Ensemble has put together a distinctly theatrical programme, both visually and musically, for its November series of performances. The chosen pieces, inspired by jazz or American literature, aim to challenge preconceptions and broaden the audience experience of a classical concert.

Dead Elvis, the programme's title work, draws its inspiration from the legendary star's cultural legacy rather than his music. Composer Michael Daugherty explains:

"When I think about Elvis, he's a character you love but also loathe at the same time. You can see how he becomes a sort of prisoner of his own world because of the contracts Colonel Parker arranged for him, and finally in Vegas, performing in a hotel on a ten-year contract he couldn't get out of. Just a fascinating figure and what's interesting about being a celebrity – and what one has to watch out for, too."

Solo bassoonist Peter Whelan dons the famous white suit as Elvis to join Hebrides Ensemble for the performance.

Soprano Claron McFadden rejoins the Ensemble for three pieces with an American or jazz inspiration. She begins with Thomas Adès's *Life Story*, set to text by author and playwright Tennessee Williams. She follows with Stephen Montague's *Wild Nights*, inspired by American poet Emily Dickinson, and finishes with *Dream with Me* from Leonard Bernstein's *Peter Pan*.

Already well-known in jazz circles, acclaimed trumpeter Ryan Quigley makes his first appearance with Hebrides Ensemble. He rounds off the concert's American theme with *A Fiddler's Tale Suite*, Wynton Marsalis's jazzy tribute to Stravinsky.

Hebrides Ensemble's *Dead Elvis* programme plays on consecutive nights in Glasgow, Dundee, Edinburgh and Gateshead from Monday 10th to Thursday 13th November 2014.

ENDS

Notes to Editors

Available for interview:

Composer Michael Daugherty, trumpeter Ryan Quigley, soprano Claron McFadden and bassoonist Peter Whelan.

Programme details:

Darius Milhaud: *Suite op 157b*

Thomas Adès: *Life Story*
Stephen Montague: *Wild Nights*
Leonard Bernstein: *Dream with Me*
Michael Daugherty: *Dead Elvis*
Interval
Wynton Marsalis: *A Fiddler's Tale Suite*

Dead Elvis concert dates, venues and booking details:

Mon 10 November 2014 at 7.30pm
Old Fruitmarket, Glasgow
Tickets: £14.00 (£12.00 conc. £5.00 under 26)
Box Office 0141 353 8000 /
www.glasgowconcerthalls.com

Tues 11 November 2014 at 7.30pm
Gardyne Theatre, Dundee
Tickets: £14.00 (£12.00 conc. £5.00 students)
Box Office 01382 434 940 /
www.dundeebox.co.uk

Wed 12 November 2014 at 7.30pm
Assembly Rooms, Edinburgh
Tickets: £16.00 (£12.00 conc. £5.00 students)
Box Office 0131 473 2000 / www.hubtickets.co.uk

Thurs 13 November 2014 at 7.45pm
Sage Gateshead
Tickets: £16.00 (£10.00 conc. £5.00 students)
Box Office 0191 443 4661 /
www.sagegateshead.com

Upcoming concerts:

Brahms *Clarinet Quintet*
Ysang Yun *Clarinet Quintet*

2 March 2015 @ 1.00pm
Perth Concert Hall
2 March 2015 @ 6.00pm
Greyfriars Kirk, Edinburgh
3 March 2015 @ 1.00pm
Brunton Theatre, Edinburgh

Mozart *Horn Quintet*
MacMillan *Horn Quintet*

20 April 2015 @ 1.00pm
Perth Concert Hall
20 April 2015 @ 6.00pm
Greyfriars Kirk, Edinburgh
21 April 2015 @ 1.00pm
Brunton Theatre, Musselburgh
21 April 2015 @ 7.30pm
Aberdeen Music Hall

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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