

## SCOTTISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA AND GERRY CORNELIUS

The internationally celebrated Scottish Chamber Orchestra is based in Edinburgh, and brings together some of Scotland's finest musicians, performing throughout Scotland and across the world under principal conductor Robin Ticciati. The Orchestra has an extensive catalogue of recordings – most recently of Schumann symphonies and Berlioz's *Symphonie fantastique* under Ticciati – and has a respected history of commissioning new music, from composers including Sir Peter Maxwell Davies, Sir James MacMillan, Sally Beamish, Toshio Hosokawa, Mark-Anthony Turnage and Hafliði Halgrímsson.

London-born conductor Gerry Cornelius has conducted opera and orchestras around the world, including Welsh National Opera, English National Ballet, the Hong Kong Sinfonietta and New York City Ballet, and also has an established reputation for conducting contemporary music, premiering works by George Benjamin, Olga Neuwirth, Thomas Adès, Julian Anderson, Judith Weir and many others.

© David Kettle is a freelance writer and editor

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### MORE FROM THE RUSSIAN STANDARD VODKA HUB SESSIONS

#### Round-Up

Sufjan Stevens's soundtrack performed live by Yarn/Wire to the lovely film of rodeo – in all its bull-riding, calf roping, barrel-racing glory!

**Saturday 29 August, 10.00pm**

[eif.co.uk/roundup](http://eif.co.uk/roundup)

## HIROSHI SUGIMOTO

Revered Tokyo-born photographer Hiroshi Sugimoto has referred to his work as 'time exposed', and has chosen narrow subjects for exhaustive photographic exploration throughout his career – animals in natural history museums; burning candles; old American movie theatres; lightning; portraits of wax figures; modernist architecture. He began his Seascapes series in 1980, using a large-format camera and extremely long exposures (up to three hours) to achieve an almost transcendental effect in his visions of the infinite, all precisely the same size and with an equal division between sea and sky. He took the photographs at locations around the world, from the English Channel to Ireland's Cliffs of Moher, and from the Norwegian Sea at Vesterålen to the Black Sea in Turkey. His 'Boden Sea, Uttwil' from the Seascapes series was used by U2 as the cover for their 2009 album *No Line on the Horizon*. Sugimoto is also an accomplished architect, with his own architecture practice in Tokyo, and has designed a Shinto shrine for the Naoshima Contemporary Art Centre and a sculpture and rock garden in Tokyo.



HUB SESSIONS



## WAVE MOVEMENTS

**Friday 28 August 9.15pm | The Hub**

The performance lasts approximately  
2 hours with two intervals

# WAVE MOVEMENTS

Boundaries are blurring; genres are cross-fertilising. A mere ten years ago, we might have questioned a rock musician writing a string quartet, or raised eyebrows at a conservatoire-trained performer opting for a career in a rock band. Now, we're far more comfortable with musical ideas being passed back and forth between styles. There's a whole generation of musicians – Bryce and Aaron Dessner, Richard Reed Parry, Jonny Greenwood, Sufjan Stevens, Nico Muhly, Owen Pallett – whose work, straddling classical, rock, pop, experimental and folk musics, is almost impossible to categorise. It's partly down to the range of different musics in their respective backgrounds, partly down to their seeing the artistic values of contrasting styles, and also down to a desire to produce music that combines genres, or simply ignores their differences entirely. Tonight's concert features works by two such musicians – Bryce Dessner and Richard Reed Parry – whose backgrounds combine classical training with extensive experience in the rock world. Alongside visiting musicians, the music is performed by the Scottish Chamber Orchestra – which in itself might seem to define the works as classical. In fact, it's music that defies categorisation.

## BRYCE DESSNER

Best known as guitarist in rock band The National, which he co-founded with his twin brother Aaron, Bryce Dessner is also an increasingly sought-after composer and musical curator. He learnt flute and classical guitar as a child, later gaining bachelor's and master's degrees in music from Yale University, and has been commissioned by ensembles and organisations including the Los Angeles Philharmonic, New York's Museum of Modern Art, the Kronos Quartet (for which he has written three string quartets), Brooklyn Academy of Music and London's Barbican. He has created works with Sufjan Stevens and Nico Muhly, scored dance by Benjamin Millepied and Justin Peck, had his music recorded by Deutsche Grammophon, and collaborated with Steve Reich, Philip Glass, David Lang, Antony and the Johnsons, Jonny Greenwood and many others. His music draws on minimalism, Baroque gestures, folk music and late Romanticism, and although he's combined rock instruments with classical ensembles, he says he has little interest in importing the trappings of rock music into classical works.

## RICHARD REED PARRY

Multi-instrumentalist, composer and producer Richard Reed Parry is a founder member of Arcade Fire, in which he plays guitar, bass, drums, celesta, keyboards, accordion and many other instruments. He's famous for creating the band's signature thick, deep musical textures, constructed from multiple instrumental layers. Reed Parry grew up in Ottawa and studied electroacoustic music and contemporary dance at Montreal's Concordia University. He has worked with Sufjan Stevens and Little Scream, and has played on two albums by The National, and he has written music for the Kronos Quartet and New York instrumental sextet yMusic, as well as a 'moving surround-sound sci-fi composition for bicycles and boomboxes' called *Drone/Revelations* for the 2012 All Tomorrow's Parties festival.

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## WAVE MOVEMENTS

Scottish Premiere

Composed by **Bryce Dessner** and **Richard Reed Parry**

Inspired by the deep cycles of the world's oceans, and composed directly to rhythms derived from waves and tides, *Wave Movements* is an orchestral work co-written in 2015 by Bryce Dessner and Richard Reed Parry. Its slowly shifting harmonies, hypnotic and restless, are set to a film made by Japanese photographer Hiroshi Sugimoto, based on his iconic seascape images from the 1980s.

Co-commissioned by MET Museum Presents for the NY Philharmonic Contact Ensemble in collaboration with Barbican Centre, Edinburgh International Festival, Cork Opera House, Sydney Festival and St. Denis Festival

## INTERRUPTIONS I–VII (HEART AND BREATH NONET)

Scottish Premiere

Composed by **Richard Reed Parry**

- 1 Miniature
- 2 String Peaks
- 3 Wind's Idea
- 4 Miniature II
- 5 Sticks/Tension
- 6 French Guitars
- 7 Freeform Winds/String Drones

Richard Reed Parry has written several works for varied ensembles based on the performers' own heart and breathing rates. Performers wear stethoscopes over their chests so that they can hear the beats of their own heart, and the music is often necessarily soft and understated, requiring sensitive and delicate performance, to allow the musicians to hear their own unconscious bodily rhythms, with instruments drifting in and out of sync with each other as their players' heart and breath rates fluctuate. No two performances of these pieces are ever alike.

*Interruptions I–VII (Heart and Breath Nonet)* is a set of seven short pieces for flute, clarinet, trumpet, two acoustic guitars, violin, viola, cello and bass, and is led at different points by different instruments from within the ensemble. 'Miniature' is based around a slow viola melody against stuttering accompaniment, while 'String Peaks' is a slow-moving chorale, alternating between a cello-and-bass duet and passages for fuller ensemble. 'Wind's Idea' alternates bass-led string passages with faster-moving repeated notes on wind and guitars, and 'Miniature II' is a duet for viola with bass accompaniment. 'Sticks/Tension' is based around delicate, out-of-sync repeated notes; 'French Guitars' has a slow-moving, gently sighing string melody against rippling guitar accompaniment; and 'Freeform Winds/String Drones', as its title suggests, has a slow, out-of-sync melody on trumpet, flute and oboe, with the string and guitars supplying long-held drone accompaniment.

## MURDER BALLADES

Scottish Premiere

Composed by **Bryce Dessner**

- 1 Omie Wise
- 2 Young Emily
- 3 Dark Holler
- 4 Wave the Sea
- 5 Brushy Fork
- 6 Pretty Polly
- 7 Tears for Sister Polly

Bryce Dessner's 2013 *Murder Ballades*, for instrumental ensemble, is based around US folk songs describing the bloody details of grisly killings, its scintillating music combining Copland's evocations of Americana with the propulsive repetitions of John Adams and the easy-going accessibility of Lou Harrison. It was premiered in Eindhoven's Musikgebouw (where Dessner is composer in residence) in 2013, and has since been choreographed by Justin Peck for LA Dance Project. It is in seven short movements.