

ORKNEY
CONDUCTORS'
COURSE

ST MAGNUS
COMPOSERS'
COURSE

13 - 24 JUNE 2015



SUPPORTED BY

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ST MAGNUS
INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL





ST MAGNUS INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

is one of the UK's most exciting events bringing extraordinary performances to the remote and inspiring landscape of the Orkney Islands around midsummer every year. These two courses offer unique and unrivalled opportunities for composers and conductors to work with professional ensembles, to meet fellow musicians and to experience high quality performances in an intense and unforgettable experience.



ORKNEY

CONDUCTORS' COURSE

13 - 24 JUNE 2015

COURSE DIRECTOR
SIAN EDWARDS

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR
CHARLES PEEBLES

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Thanks to everyone at the Festival. It was an amazing experience and I believe I owe my current position to what I learned in Orkney with Martyn and Charles. Previous course participant

Now in its 13th year, this course provides a stimulating and supportive environment in which conductors can share in an intensive period of study. Most importantly, as part of St Magnus International Festival, the Orkney Conductors' Course enables participants to work with outstanding orchestras, ensembles, conductors and soloists. In 2015 these include Scottish Chamber Orchestra and The Assembly Project ensemble, conductors Sian Edwards and Charles Peebles and other festival solo performers. Participants will also work with the St Magnus Composers' Course and conduct a Festival concert of new works written by students of the St Magnus Composers' Course at the culmination of both courses.

Initial sessions are with two pianos, focusing on clarity of communication of musical ideas. OCC pianists are Elizabeth Burley, BBC SO, LSO and Michael Bawtree, RSNO, BBC SSO. These two-piano sessions are video-recorded for personal review by participants. The two-piano work prepares students for a full day of work with Scottish Chamber Orchestra. Other sessions include rehearsals of new works with The Assembly Project, a rehearsal with the St Magnus Festival Chorus and work on accompaniment with a Festival soloist. In addition, the course provides students with the opportunity to hear composers speak about their work as well as seminars with orchestral musicians and orchestral managers. Participants are also offered free tickets for a number of Festival concerts and a Festival Club pass, where they can socialise with professional performers, directors and managers.

REPERTOIRE WILL INCLUDE:

- Mendelssohn *Symphony No. 5*
- Brahms *Serenade No. 2 in A*
- Haydn *Symphony No. 44*
- John Adams *Shaker Loops*
- Kurt Weill *Symphony No. 2*
- Verdi *La traviata* (preludes to Act I and Act III)
- Peter Maxwell Davies *Ebb of Winter*
- Mozart *Vesperae Solennes de Confessore K. 339*
- Plus new works by St Magnus Composers' Course participants

ST MAGNUS

COMPOSERS' COURSE

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COURSE DIRECTOR

ALASDAIR NICOLSON

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

SALLY BEAMISH

“

The ensembles were outstanding in our workshop sessions. The tutors were excellent, and the sense of community amongst all of the composers and conductors was very inspiring - as was the location.

Previous course participant

St Magnus Composers' Course is an intense experience for composers in the magical and inspiring surroundings of the Orkney Islands and is directed by composers Alasdair Nicolson and Sally Beamish. Now in its 9th year, the course includes opportunities to hear, meet and work with professional musicians performing at St Magnus International Festival and, in addition to writing a substantial work for The Assembly Project ensemble, students will also benefit from sessions with other Festival performers. The Festival's founder, and eminent composer, Sir Peter Maxwell Davies will join the course for some of the practical sessions and give a talk to the students. The course also offers students the opportunity to participate in a seminar with the Festival's Artistic Director and orchestral managers.

Running concurrently with the Orkney Conductors' Course, the course provides a unique opportunity for the student composers to collaborate with eight emerging professional conductors. There is also a collaborative workshop with the Orkney Writers' Course. Students are offered complimentary tickets to many Festival performances.

Individual tuition gives each composer the chance to present scores to both Course Directors, allowing for critical comment and feedback on a one-to-one basis.

Prior to attending the course, each composer will have started work on a new piece of music (5-7 minutes) for an ensemble of 5 players. The work will then be developed and rehearsed with the Assembly Project Ensemble and performed as part of St Magnus International Festival's Composers' Concert. Each composer's work will be conducted in the final rehearsals and performance by an Orkney Conductors' Course participant and a recording of the resulting Festival Concert will be available to students on completion of the course.

SESSIONS WILL INCLUDE:

- One-to-one tuition by the course directors
- Presentation/discussion of participants' music
- Rehearsal and workshops of participants' work by the Assembly Project ensemble
- Workshops and talks
- Collaboration with Orkney Writers' Course
- Seminars on score presentation and promotion
- Seminar with Sir Peter Maxwell Davies
- Interaction with Orkney Conductors' Course
- A première performed in St Magnus International Festival



SIAN EDWARDS

SIAN EDWARDS

(OCC Director) studied at the RNCM and with Professor A.I. Musin at the Leningrad Conservatoire. She is Head of Conducting at the Royal Academy of Music. She has worked with many of the world's leading orchestras including Los Angeles Philharmonic, Cleveland Orchestra, Orchestre de Paris, Berlin Symphony, Vienna Symphony Orchestra, Rotterdam Philharmonic, Finnish Radio Symphony, St Petersburg Philharmonic, London Sinfonietta, the Hallé, and City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. She has a close relationship with Ensemble Modern in Germany. She has worked at all the major UK opera houses and made her operatic debut in 1986 conducting Weill's *Mahagonny* for Scottish Opera and her ROH debut in 1988 with Tippett's *The Knot Garden*. From 1993 to 1995 she was Music Director of ENO for whom her repertoire included *Khovanshchina*, *Jenufa*, *Queen of Spades* and *Blond Eckbert*. Other operatic engagements include Munich, Opéra Comique, Frankfurt, Copenhagen, Helsinki, Vienna and Aspen.



CHARLES PEEBLES

CHARLES PEEBLES

(OCC Associate Director) studied at Cambridge University, the Guildhall and as a conducting fellow at Tanglewood. In 1992 he won the first International Cadéaques Conducting Competition and has since conducted virtually every Spanish orchestra. He has worked with the Vienna Chamber Orchestra, Latvian National Symphony and National Orchestra of Mexico as well as with many of the leading British orchestras. In the opera house Charles has conducted productions for English Touring Opera, Broomhill, Garsington, Glyndebourne and the Bavarian State Opera.



ALASDAIR NICOLSON

ALASDAIR NICOLSON

(SMCC Director) was brought up on Isle of Skye and is regarded as one of Scotland's most significant contemporary composers drawing on his roots in traditional music as well as his early career as a working musician in opera and theatre. He has written music for leading orchestras, ensembles and soloists and his works have been performed in concert halls and festivals all over the world, as well as being broadcast extensively on BBC Radio 3. Commissions have included works for the BBC orchestras, English National Opera, London Symphony Orchestra, Nash Ensemble, Sydney Symphony Orchestra and Scottish Chamber Orchestra. Alasdair was Composer in Association with the City of London Sinfonia from 1998 to 2005 and he has been Artistic Director of the Sound Inventors project. He has taught at the Britten Pears Summer School and co-hosted the composition summer school which preceded this course held by Sir Peter Maxwell Davies on Hoy. He has also led workshops at many UK universities and conservatoires. Recent works have included pieces for Fidelio Trio, Trondheim Soloists, Scottish Ensemble and BBC Symphony Orchestra. As well as being course director he is currently Artistic Director of the St Magnus International Festival.



SALLY BEAMISH

SALLY BEAMISH

(SMCC Associate Director) was born in London. Initially a viola player, she moved from London to Scotland in 1990 to develop her career as a composer. In 1994 and 1995 she was assistant to Sir Peter Maxwell Davies on the Hoy Composers' Course. Her music embraces many influences; particularly jazz and Scottish traditional music. She has written for many soloists, including Tabea Zimmermann, Håkan Hardenberger and Steven Isserlis, and more recently a percussion concerto for Colin Currie. Her music is performed and broadcast internationally, and since 1999 she has been championed by the BIS label, which has recorded much of her work. Recent commissions include *Flodden*, for the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, which was short listed for a Royal Philharmonic Society Award and a new oratorio for the LSO co-commissioned by the RSNO, conducted by Gianandrea Noseda, with poems by Sir Andrew Motion, which premièred at the Barbican as part of the World War One commemorations. She is also writing a new full-length ballet for the choreographer David Bintley and Birmingham Royal Ballet to be premiered in 2016. In February 2012 Sally Beamish was BBC Radio 3 Composer of the Week.



SIR PETER MAXWELL DAVIES

SIR PETER MAXWELL DAVIES

is universally acknowledged as one of the foremost composers of our time. In a work list that spans five decades, he has written across the broadest range of musical styles. His output of orchestral works includes fourteen concertos, several light orchestral works, five works for chorus and eight symphonies. A number of his most important works have been premièred at the St Magnus Festival, of which he was a founder, including pieces for children and other works for community performers in Orkney. He has held the posts of Conductor/Composer of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and of the BBC Philharmonic, and is Composer Laureate of Scottish Chamber Orchestra. He ran a Summer School for composers on the island of Hoy for eight years until 1996 and is currently a visiting professor at the Royal Academy of Music. He was Master of the Queen's Music until 2014.

SCOTTISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

is one of Scotland's five National Performing Arts Companies, and is internationally recognised as one of the finest chamber orchestras in the world. Formed in 1974 the Orchestra performs throughout Scotland, including annual tours of the Scottish Highlands and Islands and south of Scotland, and appears regularly at the Edinburgh, East Neuk, St Magnus International and Aldeburgh Festivals as well as the BBC Proms. Its busy touring schedule has recently included many European countries as well as India and the USA. Robin Ticciati was appointed to the post of Principal Conductor in 2009 and he has recently committed to the Orchestra until 2018. Current SCO Associate Artists include conductor/keyboardist Richard Egarr and director/violinist Alexander Janiczek and mezzo-soprano Karen Cargill. The Orchestra enjoys close relationships with many leading composers and has commissioned more than a hundred new works. SCO has led the way in music education with a unique programme of projects. SCO Connect provides workshops for children and adults across Scotland and has attracted interest and invitations from overseas. The Orchestra broadcasts regularly and has a discography now exceeding 150 recordings.

THE ASSEMBLY PROJECT

is a flexible ensemble of some of the UK's finest singers and instrumentalists, bringing together artists in collaborative, multi-disciplinary performances. The Assembly Project works with existing repertoire as well as creating, commissioning and developing new work. Current projects include a large scale performance project in the community, a brand new chamber opera and a concert with narrators and mime artists for children's audiences.



SCOTTISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

HOW TO APPLY

There are no age restrictions for either course. Eight students will be accepted onto each course, for which applications must be submitted by Monday 2 March 2015. Successful applicants will be notified of the result in the week beginning Monday 30 March, and those unsuccessful in the following week.

APPLICATION FORMS CAN BE DOWNLOADED FROM

Conductors: www.stmagnusfestival.com/conductors/apply.htm

Composers: www.stmagnusfestival.com/composers/apply.htm

OR ON REQUEST

Email: info@stmagnusfestival.com

Telephone: +44 (0)1856 871445

Post: Amy Allan
St Magnus International Festival
60 Victoria Street
Kirkwall
Orkney, Scotland
KW15 1DN

ALONG WITH THE COMPLETED FORM, APPLICATIONS MUST ALSO INCLUDE:

- Conductors - A DVD recording of your conducting
- Composers - Two contrasting scores
- An audio recording of one of the scores submitted

COURSE FEES £760

THE FEE INCLUDES:

- All tuition
- Up to 14 nights' self-catering accommodation in Kirkwall within walking distance of St Magnus Centre, the base of the courses (the duration of the courses is 11 nights)

STUDENTS ALSO RECEIVE:

- Free admission to some St Magnus International Festival performances
- An invitation to the opening Festival reception

Successful candidates will be required to confirm their acceptance by paying a non-refundable deposit of £150 by 16 April, and the balance of the fee will become payable by 15 May.

A small number of bursaries towards course fees may be available for talented UK candidates who might otherwise have difficulty in meeting the course fees. If you would like to be considered for a bursary, please tell us why in a covering letter.

TRAVEL TO ORKNEY

Orkney can be reached

- By air (via Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen or Inverness)
- By car, coach or train, then ferry (from Aberdeen, Scrabster, John O' Groats or Gills Bay in Caithness)

For advice on travel and other information on Orkney contact VisitScotland's Kirkwall Information Centre or Discover Orkney.

Telephone: +44 (0) 1856 872856 (VisitScotland)
+ 44 (0) 1856 230300 (Discover Orkney)

Email: kirkwall@visitscotland.com
admin@discover-orkney.com

Website: www.visitscotland.com/destinations-maps/orkney
www.discover-orkney.co.uk



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