

ST MAGNUS

# COMPOSERS' COURSE

11 - 21  
JUNE 2017



ORKNEY

# CONDUCTORS' COURSE



ST MAGNUS  
INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL



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**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 performance in an intense and unforgettable experience. There are eight places for each course and these are highly sought after.

ORKNEY

# CONDUCTORS' COURSE 11 – 21 JUNE 2017

**GUEST COURSE DIRECTOR**  
**ALEXANDER VEDERNIKOV**

**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 14th 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 the St Magnus International Festival, Orkney Conductors' Course enables participants to work with outstanding orchestras, ensembles, conductors and soloists. In 2017 these include the Norwegian Radio Orchestra, St Magnus Festival Chorus, the Assembly Project, the BBC Singers and conductors Alexander Vedernikov and Charles Peebles and other festival solo performers. Participants will also work with the St Magnus Composers' Course and conduct in a Festival concert of new works written by student composers.

Initial sessions are with two pianos, focusing on clarity of communication of musical ideas. OCC pianists are Elizabeth Burley, BBC SO, LSO pianist, and Michael Bawtree, Scottish Ballet music staff. These two-piano sessions are video-recorded and time is spent reviewing these recordings. The two-piano work prepares students for a full day of rehearsal with the Norwegian Radio Orchestra. Other sessions include rehearsals of new works with The Assembly Project, a rehearsal with the St Magnus Festival Chorus and work with the BBC Singers. 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:

- Haydn *Symphony No. 103*
- Schumann *Symphony No. 2*
- Rachmaninov *The Rock*
- Shostakovich *Symphony No.9*
- Mozart *Requiem*
- Wagner *Overture to The Flying Dutchman*
- Rimsky Korsakov *Scheherezade*
- New Work *TBC*



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# COMPOSERS' COURSE 11 - 21 JUNE 2017

**COURSE DIRECTOR**  
**ALASDAIR NICOLSON**

**ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR**  
**SALLY BEAMISH**

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*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*

SMCC 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. 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, students will also benefit from sessions with visiting performers including Rafal Luc accordion, and the BBC SINGERS. This year will also see workshops with Hear My Music looking at mixed media and ability performance. The SMCC also offers students the opportunity to participate in a seminar with the Festival Artistic Director, visiting artists and orchestral managers. 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 as well as regular play-through sessions with the ensemble.

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

New works will be developed and rehearsed with the Assembly Project and performed at the St Magnus International Festival Composers' Concert. Each composer's work will be conducted in 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 Festival performance of participants' work by the Festival ensemble
- Workshops with Rafal Luc and the BBC Singers
- Interactive workshop with Orkney Writers' Course.
- Seminars on score presentation and promotion
- Workshop with Hear my Music
- Interaction with Orkney Conductors' Course: OCC conductors to conduct newly composed works in Festival performance
- Session with Orchestra managers





ALEXANDER VEDERNIKOV

**ALEXANDER VEDERNIKOV**  
*OCC Guest Director*

Alexander Vedernikov has recently been announced as Chief Conductor Designate of the Royal Danish Opera, and he will take up his role there from the 18/19 season. His international reputation has gone from strength to strength over the past decade and he is in high demand as a guest conductor. He works regularly with a list of orchestras that includes the Orchestre de Paris, BBC Symphony, Orchestra Verdi Milan, NHK Symphony, Netherlands Radio Philharmonic, City of Birmingham Symphony, Orchestra della Svizzera Italiana (with Martha Argerich at the Martha Argerich Project in Lugano), Netherlands Philharmonic, London Philharmonic, Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France, Gothenburg Symphony, Danish National Symphony, Bergen Philharmonic, and Czech Philharmonic. He has also worked with the Sydney Symphony, Bayerischer Rundfunk Symphony, China Philharmonic, Staatskapelle Dresden, Montreal Symphony, Tokyo Philharmonic, National Symphony Orchestra in Washington DC, among many others. In the field of opera, Alexander Vedernikov has frequently conducted at Berlin's Komische Oper and has worked throughout Italy at La Scala in Milan, La Fenice in Venice, Teatro Comunale in Bologna, Teatro Regio in Turin, and Opera di Roma. He has conducted

productions at the Metropolitan Opera in New York, Bastille Opera in Paris, Finnish National Opera, Zurich Opera, Frankfurt Opera and the Royal Stockholm Opera. Currently Chief Conductor of the Odense Symphony Orchestra in Denmark, Alexander Vedernikov has brought this orchestra to a new level of international recognition and is currently working on a three-year project to perform Wagner's *Ring Cycle* in concert. From 2001 to 2009 he was Music Director and Chief Conductor of the Bolshoi Theatre, and has been credited with rebuilding the Theatre's historical reputation for artistic excellence.

**CHARLES PEEBLES**  
*OCC Associate Director*

Charles Peebles studied at Cambridge University, the Guildhall and as a conducting fellow at Tanglewood. In 1992 he won the first International Cadaques 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. He has conducted highly successful productions of *Carmen* and

*Hansel and Gretel* for St Magnus International Festival.

**ALASDAIR NICOLSON**  
*SMCC Director*

Alasdair Nicolson 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, the Nash Ensemble, the 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 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 Gabriella Dall'Olio, the Fidelio Trio, Pure Brass and the BBC Symphony Orchestra as well as an opera for the Hebrides Ensemble and Piano Concerto for Inon Barnatan and the Academy of St Martin in the Fields. He is currently Artistic Director of the St Magnus International Festival and was formerly Artistic Director of the Bath International Music Festival.



CHARLES PEEBLES



ALASDAIR NICOLSON



SALLY BEAMISH

### SALLY BEAMISH

*SMCC Co-Director*

Sally Beamish 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 95 she was assistant to Sir Peter Maxwell Davies on the Hoy Composers Course. Her music embraces many influences; particularly jazz and Scottish traditional music. The concerto form is a continuing inspiration, and she has written for many soloists, including Tabea Zimmermann, Håkan Hardenberger and Steven Isserlis. Her music is performed and broadcast internationally, and since 1999 she has been championed by the BIS label, who have recorded much of her work. Recent commissions include a concerto for percussionist Colin Currie, with the Bergen Symphony Orchestra, Scottish and Swedish Chamber Orchestras, and Stanford Lively Arts, California. Her string quartet for the Elias Quartet, Reed Stanzas, received its premiere at the 2011 BBC Proms, and won a Royal Philharmonic Society Award. This year sees a new oratorio for the LSO, conducted by Gianandrea Noseda, with poems by Sir Andrew Motion, which will be premiered at the Barbican in November as part of the World War One commemorations. This work is co-commissioned by the RSNO, who will give the Scottish premiere a week later. She is also writing a new full-length ballet for the choreographer David Bintley and



NORWEGIAN RADIO ORCHESTRA



THE ASSEMBLY PROJECT

the Birmingham Royal Ballet to be premiered in 2016. In February 2012 Sally Beamish was BBC Radio 3 Composer of the Week.

### NORWEGIAN RADIO ORCHESTRA

The Norwegian Radio Orchestra's history is also the history of Norwegian broadcasting, and it is a significant part of Norway's cultural history. During the tenure of its first Principal Conductor, the legendary Øivind Bergh, the Norwegian Radio Orchestra won great popularity in Norway for its programming of light music and classical favourites. Since that time the orchestra has steadily expanded its repertoire and its international reputation and Sverre Bruland, Principal Conductor 1976-1988, established the orchestra's commitment to presenting contemporary Norwegian music. In recent years the orchestra has collaborated with international musicians and conductors such as Mario Venzago, João Mena, Kees Bakels, Mikail Jurowski, Anna Netrebko, Truls Mørk, Augustin Hadelich, Yo-Yo Ma, Sarah Chang, Renée Fleming, as well as having the privilege of performing every year at the Nobel Peace Prize Concert. The Orchestra's discography has grown considerably over the last few years, particularly during Miguel Harth-Bedoya's period as Principal Conductor.

### THE ASSEMBLY PROJECT

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. Created by composer Alasdair Nicolson and producer Bethany Alexander, The Assembly Project works with existing repertoire as well as creating, commissioning and developing new work. The ensemble has given performances for Faversham's Magna Carta celebrations, the St Magnus International Festival, Palendriai Composers Course, Lithuania, with Faversham Voices and as part of Scot:Lands at Edinburgh's Hogmanay. Current projects include a brand new chamber opera, a community oratorio work and a concert with narrators and mime artists for children's audiences.

## HOW TO APPLY

There are no age restrictions for either course. Eight students will be accepted on to each course, for which applications must be submitted by Monday 6th March. Successful applicants will be notified of the result in the week beginning 3rd April, and those unsuccessful in the following week.

## APPLICATION FORMS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM

**Conductors:**

[www.stmagnusfestival.com/conductors/apply.htm](http://www.stmagnusfestival.com/conductors/apply.htm)

**Composers:**

[www.stmagnusfestival.com/composers/apply.htm](http://www.stmagnusfestival.com/composers/apply.htm)

## OR ON REQUEST

St Magnus International Festival,  
60 Victoria Street, Kirkwall, Orkney KW15 1DN

**Telephone:** +44 (0)1856 871445

**Email:** [info@stmagnusfestival.com](mailto:info@stmagnusfestival.com)

## 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 £690

### THE FEE INCLUDES:

- All tuition
- Up to 14 nights' self-catering accommodation in Kirkwall within walking distance of the teaching spaces. (the duration of the course is 12 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 £120 by 14th April, and the balance of the fee will become payable by 15th 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 Visit Orkney or VisitScotland's Kirkwall Information Centre.

**Telephone:**

+44 (0) 1856 230300 (Visit Orkney)

+44 (0) 1856 872856 (Kirkwall Information Centre)

**Email:**

[admin@visitorkney.com](mailto:admin@visitorkney.com)

[kirkwall@visitscotland.com](mailto:kirkwall@visitscotland.com)

**Website:**

[www.visitorkney.com](http://www.visitorkney.com)

[www.visitscotland.com/destinations-maps/orkney](http://www.visitscotland.com/destinations-maps/orkney)



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