UNIVERSITY OF KENT CHAMBER CHOIR
and STRING SINFONIA

FLORIANE PEYCELON Sinfonia director
ANNA PHOEBE violin/ composer
DANIEL HARDING conductor

BETWEEN WORLDS

Henry Purcell  Chaconne in G minor  arr. Britten
Max Reger  Lyric Andante
Ken Macdonald  cello
Benjamin Britten  Simple Symphony
Boisterous Bourrée
Playful Pizzicato
Sentimental Sarabande
Arvo Pärt  Cantus in memoriam Benjamin Britten

Interval

Anna Phoebe  Between Worlds
Galaxies
Shadows
Chaos
HeLaHalo
Breathe
Vortex
White Lights
In the Silence
Between Worlds

Friday 7 June, 7.30pm
Colyer-Fergusson Hall
The first half of tonight’s concert features music for string orchestra dominated by Benjamin Britten, from Purcell’s profound Chaconne arranged by Britten, to movements from the latter’s early Simple Symphony. Max Reger’s romantic Lyric Andante is a ravishing dialogue between solo cello and ensemble, and the first half concludes with the moving musical memorial written by the Estonian composer, Arvo Pärt, to commemorate Britten's death in 1976. This slow-moving, atmospheric work neatly sets the scene for the second half of the programme, the premiere of Between Worlds, an exciting inter-disciplinary project which brings together music, science, film, live media projection and performance in a new piece for choir and ensemble by composer and performer, Anna Phoebe. Written for the University of Kent Chamber Choir and String Sinfonia, the music responds to spectacular visual imagery provided by the research at the University’s School of Biosciences. The research, led by Dr Chris Toseland, explores Gene Expression, and is used to combat diseases including cancer and Alzheimer's. Funded by Cancer Research UK, Chris’ research is the inspiration behind the 38-minute work for choir, solo violin, string ensemble, piano, synthesiser and percussion.

Bringing together a combination of disciplines, the combination of live music, projections and performers forms a new and highly creative approach to both presenting and engaging with cutting-edge scientific research data, generated by the School of Biosciences and involving high-resolution spectroscopy to undertake investigative research at the cellular level. Field recordings from the laboratories are incorporated into a mesmerising soundscape clothing the live musicians, forming an evocative sonic backdrop to stunning research imagery. Hovering on the intangible boundary between science and art, the unfolding film aspires to something almost spiritual whilst actually depicting biological processes fundamental to life, which are taking place in our cells at the very moment we experience this performance. This dichotomy also finds answer in the fabric of the music, which embraces ethereal textures, mechanistic passages of repetition, clouds of colourful consonance and fierce dissonance, reflecting the conflict between emotion and sensuality and the implacable facts yielded by scientific enquiry.

The mixture of voices, strings, electronic effects and absorbing visuals invites the audience to travel on a unique odyssey, examining the very building-blocks of life from a perspective rarely seen, against a musical landscape that reflects on, responds to and energises the viewing experience. Between Worlds is a chrysalis, cradling a profound meditation on the human condition, conjured at the point where art and science meet, engage, blur and re-emerge as something new.
Anna Phoebe violin / composer

Anna Phoebe is a composer on cross-genre collaborative projects, with poetry, dance, film and art installations. She works as composer for the Royal Ballet School. Anna has recently written the music for WWF Climate Disaster advert, as well as scoring films including Ethel (Miriam Margolyes), and the animated film Harriet and The Matches (Cillian Murphy and Bernice Stegers). Anna is currently scoring soundscapes set to ‘England Poems from a School’ - poetry written by refugee children living in the UK.

As a performer Anna Phoebe has toured throughout the world, both as a solo artist and with multi-platinum selling bands including Roxy Music and Jethro Tull. She has performed as solo violinist on top international stages and festivals across the world including USA arenas, Royal Albert Hall, Royal Festival Hall, Glastonbury, Fuji Rock Festival and Montreux Jazz Festival, and supported Bob Dylan at the Rock Legends Festival in Poland.

Anna’s instrumental duo AVA will release their debut album Waves in July 2019 on One Little Indian Records (home of Bjork, Poppy Ackroyd, Tusks). She is also currently touring and recording with Ivor Novello Lifetime Achievement recipient, Nitin Sawhney CBE, and multi-instrumentalist Erland Cooper.

Daniel Harding conductor

Daniel joined the University of Kent as Deputy Director of Music in 2008. He read Music at York University, where he was awarded a Major Research Fellowship in Conducting, after conducting Britten’s first operetta, Paul Bunyan, and Kurt Weill’s The Seven Deadly Sins, as an undergraduate. As a postgraduate, he went on to conduct the University Symphony and Chamber Orchestras, the University Choir and Chamber Choir, as well as various New Music ensembles. Other roles have included Director of the Senior and Junior Choirs at York Minster Songschool, and a Lecturer in Music for ten years in Further Education.

Since arriving at Kent, he has founded the University Cecilian Choir, the String Sinfonia, the ‘Lost Consort,’ and General Harding’s Tomfoolery, a 12-piece dance orchestra playing from original 1930’s band-parts. He launched the #EarBox project in collaboration with School of Arts’ Studio 3 Gallery in the Jarman Building, to explore the meeting-point between music and visual art.
University Chamber Choir
The University of Kent has a flourishing programme of music-making and students of all subjects have the opportunity to get involved in the wide range of extra-curricular music activities.

The Chamber Choir is an auditioned group of students which rehearses weekly during term-time, and performs throughout the year, including singing at Canterbury Cathedral for Choral Evensong and as part of the University Carol Service each December, and in Studio 3 Gallery on the University’s Canterbury campus. In December 2017, the Choir sang live on BBC Radio 4’s *Today* programme when it was broadcast from the University, and also came in the top five for the Oxford University Press Choral Advent Competition.

**Soprano**
- Felicity Bourdillon
- Hannah Ost
- Alice Shires
- Hattie Sibson
- Helen Sotillo
- Fleur Sumption

**Alto**
- Edie Brennan
- Floris Claassens
- Fiona Dobson
- Carmen Mackey
- Elle Soo
- Amy Tokel

**Tenor**
- Joseph Bryant
- Marek Iwaniak
- Nicholas Whittel

**Bass**
- Peter Coleman
- Will Inscoe
- Robert Loveless

University String Sinfonia
Comprising student and staff musicians, the String Sinfonia was founded in 2012, and has previously performed in lunchtime concerts, *A Baroque Christmas* in Colyer-Fergusson, and at St Peter’s Methodist Church, Canterbury, and St Michael’s, Harbledown. Last year, the Sinfonia visited Canada to participate in the Chinese Arts Society of Toronto’s annual Saturday Gala concert alongside the CAST Philomusica and soloists, and also performed at the city’s Varley Art Gallery.
Ensemble

**Violin I**
Floriane Peycelon (leader)
Florence Nightingale Obote
Jennifer Pang
Žaneta Balsevic
Corinna Jung

**Violin II**
Millie Falla
Melody Brooks
Jean-Marc Grussenmeyer
Isabelle Care
Rosie Wright
Will Morgan

**Viola**
Molly Richetta
Adam Dooner
Jeni Martin
Poppy Whymark
Sara Thorpe

**Cello**
Kenneth Macdonald
Rachel Waltham

**Percussion**
Leon Schoonderwoerd

**Double bass**
Alastair Hume

**Oboe**
Dan Lloyd

Anna Phoebe – composer / violin / synthesiser
Jacob Downs – additional arrangements / piano / synthesiser
Skyla Bridges – film / graphics
Ewan Jones Morris – additional graphics

Original research images provided by the School of Biosciences, University of Kent

Anna Phoebe gratefully acknowledges support from PRS for Music Foundation