Press Release 29.3.22

**Sinfonia Cymru and Russell Crowe’s Violin explores our need to connect with nature and the outdoors!**

**Sinfonia Cymru** is excited to kick off it’s 2022 programme with ‘**Songs for the Earth’**, on Sunday the 3rd of April, the first of three Curate gigs at **Chapter**, **Cardiff.**

*“Like everything we do at* ***Sinfonia Cymru****, our* ***Curate*** *gigs put our players at the heart of our work, allowing our young musicians to develop important skills at the beginning of their professional careers. These programmes are curated by the young musicians themselves; they come up with the theme, the concept and the music, which makes them truly unique. We support them every step of the way to ensure they develop as musicians and to ensure a great experience for our audiences.****”* Peter Bellingham, Chief Executive, Sinfonia Cymru**

**Songs for the Earth** is curated by Australian born violinist **Bridget O’ Donnell,** who now lives in London. This is her first year with **Sinfonia Cymru**. She started playing the violin at the age of 4 and aged 15 she went to a specialist music high school before taking up a fellowship in the **Sydney Symphony Orchestra** before studying her MA at the **Royal Academy of Music** in London. The violin she’ll be playing at the gig in Cardiff has a very interesting story!

*“My violin was actually played by actor* ***Russell Crowe*** *in the film ‘****Master and Commander’*** *which is really cool! Russell helped me become the custodian, he was keen to ensure it was played on so I’m looking forward to play it in Cardiff!”*

Beyond the famous violin, what can audiences expect from the gig? **Songs for the Earth** was inspired by Bridget’s interest in nature and the outdoors, people’s need to connect with the landscape, plants and wildlife through work, walking, gardening and more.

*“I’ve always been interested in our connection and need to connect with nature and the outdoors and how this varies depending on where we live. I’ve curated a programme that has something for everyone. It’s a folk classic fusion, with music from Celtic traditions including Wales of course and world cultures from South America to Eastern Europe. I’m excited to perform this in Wales, a country whose landscape and nature is abundant.* ***Sinfonia Cymru*** *are great, I love how they allow us to explore new ideas and creative concepts like this”.*

Bridget will be joined by a five-piece string group, and also her boyfriend **Misha Mullov – Abbado,** the guest jazz bassist at the gig. Misha is an acclaimed musician. He’s been a **BBC Radio 3 New Generation Artist** since 2017 and has received many commissions including the **BBC Concert Orchestra**. He loves Wales and can’t wait to perform with **Sinfonia Cymru** for the first time;

*“I love hills and mountains which is very apt for this programme! My favourite place to go on holiday is Snowdonia, with its incredible hill walks and mountain climbing. Our connection to nature is really inspiring for the both of us, and through this programme we explore how people connect with it in different parts of the world. There’s catchy melodies and lots of freedom to be spontaneous and improvise, with jazz elements to the harmony and rhythm. It’s going to be great fun!”*

If you fancy a chilled Sunday afternoon of live music at Chapter, with houseplants and with something for jazz, folk and classical music lovers alike, book your tickets now. This performance is a one-off performance on **Sunday the 3rd of April @4pm**. Suitable for all ages. Tickets available now from £3 - £14 at [www.chapter.org](http://www.chapter.org). The audience will have the opportunity to enjoy a guided tour of Chapter’s garden at 3pm, ahead of the live performance.

For further information or to arrange interviews please contact Heulwen Davies, Marketing Consultant at Sinfonia Cymru on [heulwen@llaiscymru.wales](mailto:heulwen@llaiscymru.wales) / 07817591930.

ENDS

Further information about Sinfonia Cymru can be found at [www.sinfonia.cymru](http://www.sinfonia.cymru)