

## **Time Machine**

Chamber Orchestra with Guitarist Sean Shibe

Aberystwyth Arts Centre – Friday 23.2.24 @ 19:00

Criccieth Memorial Hall – Saturday 24.2.24 @ 19:00

Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama – Sunday 25.2.24 @ 19:30

### **Sinfonia Cymru**

#### **Violin**

Haim Choi (Leader & Director)

Ezo Dem Sarici

Maria Ismini Anastasiadou

Elliot Kempton

#### **Viola**

Georgie Davis

Hannah Lowri Roberts

#### **Cello**

William Clark-Maxwell

Abby Lorimier

#### **Double Bass**

Marcus Silva

#### **Flute**

Mina Middleton

#### **Oboe**

Francesca Cox

#### **Clarinet**

Lucia Porcedda

#### **Bassoon**

Emily Newman

#### **Percussion**

Harry Lovell-Jones

#### **Piano**

Joe Howson

## **About Sinfonia Cymru**

We're all about doing things differently, mixing things up and making sure everyone has a good time. If you're in the audience, on stage, or a newsletter subscriber, we'll do all we can to ensure you get the best experience.

Our mission is simple, we want to make sure everyone in Wales has the opportunity to enjoy quality musical experiences. We go the extra mile to make our concerts affordable and accessible. We bring our music to the heart of Welsh communities, performing in places our audiences feel at home: from village halls to pubs, from fruit and veg shops to care homes, schools and beyond! We do everything we can to ensure you enjoy your time with us.

When it comes to the music, we're just going to say we're really good at it. We work with some of the best under 30s musicians in the world and when they're with us, we help them to grow. We don't tell them what to do. We support them to take the lead. We encourage them to curate and programme their own concerts and we inspire them to explore new ways of collaborating. This is why our concerts are fresh, energising, and memorable for our audiences.

When you come to our concerts, we want you to feel relaxed and welcomed. We hope you find the music thrilling, inspiring and emotional - and we promise it'll never be unremarkable, and never boring. It is mainly classical, but we give our musicians the support to put their own unique stamp on it. You'll often see us mixing styles, by throwing in some jazz, blues, folk, rock, pop, and music from around the world. Expect the unexpected, and always high quality.

**About Sean Shibe**

A former BBC New Generation Artist, Borletti-Buitoni Trust Fellowship 2012 winner, Royal Philharmonic Society 2018 Young Artist Award winner and recipient of the 2022 Leonard Bernstein Award, Sean Shibe continues to prove himself a truly original mind at the frontier of contemporary classical music.

This season sees him in recital at iconic venues across Europe including Concertgebouw Amsterdam, Elbphilharmonie Hamburg, Philharmonie de Paris, Konzerthaus Wien and Wigmore Hall as he takes up the title of ECHO Rising Star. Ever keen to explore new cooperative dynamics, Shibe regularly collaborates with soloists and ensembles alike. In recent years, he has worked with the Hallé, BBC Singers, Manchester Collective, Danish String Quartet, Krzysztof Urbanski, Christoph Eschenbach, Taavi Oramo, Allan Clayton, Ben Johnson, and performance artist Marina Abramović.

Shibe is an ardent supporter of contemporary music, regularly taking a hands-on approach to new commissions and programmes and working with composers to experiment with and expand the guitar repertoire. He is equally committed to traditional repertoire, regularly pairing bold, new pieces with his own transcriptions of J.S. Bach's lute suites and seventeenth-century Scottish lute manuscripts.

Often praised for his programming, Shibe's discography continues to garner recognition from critics and audiences all over. His latest album Broken Branches was nominated for the 2024 GRAMMY Award for Best Classical Solo Vocal Album and his solo album Lost & Found was awarded the OPUS Klassik 2023 Award for Solo Instrument, adding to his OPUS Klassik 2021 Award for Chamber Music Recording, 2019 Gramophone Concept Album of the Year Award and 2021 Gramophone Instrumental Award respectively.

Born in Edinburgh in 1992, Shibe studied at Royal Conservatoire of Scotland under Allan Neave. He studied further at Kunst-Universität Graz in Austria, in Italy

under Paolo Pegoraro, and is now a Guitar Professor at Guildhall School of Music and Drama

## **Player Spotlight**

### **Harry Lovell-Jones, age: 28**

I was born and grew up in Cardiff and enjoyed taking part in various county and national music ensembles. I love the energy that Sinfonia Cymru brings to every rehearsal and performance. As an orchestral percussionist, it can be difficult to forge performance opportunities with smaller groups so the closeness and palpable togetherness that this brings is special for me. This was particularly apparent in our project with Abel Selaocoe last year. The groove-based nature of his music meant that the players had to listen to and trust each other like few other experiences that I've been a part of. Outside of Sinfonia Cymru, I play with various professional orchestras and a particular highlight was playing timpani in Mahler's 'Symphony No.1' at the BBC Proms with the BBC Symphony Orchestra in Summer 2022.

### **Emily Newman, age: 29**

I was born in Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire. I attended Chetham's School of Music followed by The Royal College and Royal Academy of Music. I'm currently based in London but freelancing all over the UK. As well as the modern bassoon I play baroque and classical bassoon which are used for Historically Informed Performances. My favourite type of performance is one where I feel that I have connected with the audience, whether that is as part of a symphony orchestra or with a smaller group. I enjoy playing with Sinfonia Cymru as it's such a great atmosphere and friendly environment. My favourite project with Sinfonia Cymru so far has been the Mainly Village Halls Tour where we performed some of my arrangements and other works for wind trio. I loved seeing how different audiences enjoyed the music and how they connected with it. I have a connection to Bala, North Wales where my grandma was evacuated to in WW2.

The house overlooked Llyn Tegid and her grandparents are buried at a church nearby.

**Lucia Porcedda, age: 24**

I was born in Cagliari, Italy where I lived until I was 19. When I first played with Sinfonia Cymru, I immediately noticed a very special approach to making music. In this orchestra, there is a clear desire to connect with the audience and more broadly with everyone involved in the process of making a concert possible. I feel like all opinions are taken into account in order to always present more innovative and accessible musical projects. and thats such a special and unfortunately still unusual attitude in musical organisations! Being based in London, I juggle my life as freelance musician in this eclectic city and try to explore the UK as much as I can when travelling around for concerts. I love visiting Wales while playing with Sinfonia Cymru, can't wait to see more and more of it!

**Joe Howson, age: 28**

I was born and raised in Bradford (but spent many family holidays hiking and camping in Eryri), then studied in London at Trinity Laban and at the Royal College of Music. Since then I've worked freelance in a variety of different roles, from lied accompanist to ballet pianist to leading music workshops for learners with SEN. Sinfonia Cymru gigs are genuinely the highlight of my calendar, I know there'll always be great musicians to work with and wonderful staff there to support us. What makes SC stand out to me is their inventive programming – the blend of classical and modern, well-known and neglected works, as well as their commitment to programming female composers. For example, my favourite SC concert so far is probably a programme of piano quartets by Frank Bridge, Joaquin Turina, and Dora Pejačević – three fantastic late-romantic composers whose music isn't performed nearly enough.

## About the programme

We are delighted to welcome you to our series of concerts with the extraordinary, virtuosic and subversive multi-guitarist Sean Shibe. We're especially excited to hear him perform a brand-new concerto by Welsh composer David John Roche, a co-commission with Britten Sinfonia. And we are thrilled to be part of the first ever collaboration between two artists who have won awards internationally and have followed each other's work for many years.

Together, we have curated "Time Machine", a mix of pieces which hum with optimism and energy, all written by composers living in the UK and USA today. Music and machines combine, and art takes inspiration from technology, on- and off-screen.

The Truman Show and Plan of the City depict very different escapes to the future. Philip Glass's music was used in the 1998 film to accompany Truman's (spoiler alert!) attempt to flee the only land he has ever known, while Judd Greenstein's music is performed alongside "Plan of the City", a film by Joshua Frankel, which shows the landscape itself taking off...to resettle on Mars.

Glass and Greenstein are joined in tonight's programme by fellow New Yorkers: Pamela Z, whose piece "Ethel Dreams of Temporal Disturbances" references the big and small screen through a surreal relay of captured sounds; Julia Wolfe, whose recording of twirly vocals inspired "Reeling"; and giant of contemporary music Steve Reich, whose "Duet" jumpstarts our show.

Born in York (the original UK one!), Laura Snowden's "Into the Light" and British-American Freya Waley-Cohen's Amulet (premiered by Sean Shibe in Cardiff in 2021) provide time for reflection. Radiohead's Jonny Greenwood transports us back to the USA and music for the big screen, with themes from the Academy Award-winning film "There Will Be Blood".

With this programme, we pose the questions: What does the classical guitar sound like today? And what will it sound like in the future? As we enter a time when AI could threaten the future of live music, are machines our friend, or a foe from which to escape?

**Programme**

Steve Reich    Duet (1993) 5'  
*Violins: Haim Choi & Maria Ismini Anastasiadou*

Laura Snowden    Into the Light (2021) 6'

Julia Wolfe    Reeling (2012) 6'

Pamela Z    Ethel Dreams of Temporal Disturbances (2005) 7'

Judd Greenstein    Change (2011) 13'  
*Written to accompany Plan of the City (2011),  
created and directed by Joshua Frankel*

**Interval – 20 minutes**

Freya Waley-Cohen    Amulet for Guitar (2021) 6'

Philip Glass arr. David John Roche    Truman Suite (World Premiere) 10'

Jonny Greenwood    Themes from "There Will Be Blood (2007)" 13'  
I.    Prospector's Arrive  
II.    Oil  
III.    Hope of New Fields  
IV.    Prospector's Quartet

David John Roche    Chorus in Alto (World Premiere) 14'

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The experiences we create are only made possible by the continued support of Arts Council of Wales and our sponsors for 2023/24. To ensure a bright future for our audiences and our musicians, you can support us by donating through the 'Support' page on our website or contact [caroline@sinfonia.cymru](mailto:caroline@sinfonia.cymru) to talk about leaving Sinfonia Cymru a gift in your will.

For more information and to sign up to our newsletter, visit: [www.sinfonia.cymru](http://www.sinfonia.cymru)

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**Regenerate: Seasons for Change Summer Tour**

““Watching this performance by Sinfonia Cymru was truly inspiring. To think that a work that is centuries old can live with such vitality and joy... I’m incredibly moved by it.” – Errollyn Wallen CBE

Breathing new life into the timeless beauty of Vivaldi, Vaughan Williams and traditional folk music, Simmy Singh, Delia Stevens and Will Pound use the concert platform to reimagine the future of our planet.

This extraordinary programme unveils a world where music becomes a catalyst for hope and imagination, fearlessly challenging the status quo facing the next generation.

Programme features reimagining a of Vivaldi’ Four Seasons and Vaughan Williams’ Lark Ascending.

14.06.24 - Neuadd Goffa Criccieth Memorial Hall

15.06.24 - Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama

16.06.24 - Neuadd Goff Pontyberem Memorial Hall

27.07.24 - MusicFest Aberystwyth

Further dates to be announced.

**Hafan Spotlight: February 2024**

In 2023, we vacated our office and became a nomadic-working organisation. Instead of paying for an office, the Sinfonia Cymru team now works from home, from tour, and from “Hafan” locations (schools and performance venues) around Wales, local to where we live. This week, we have been rehearsing our programme with Sean Shibe at Aberystwyth Arts Centre, which is one of our Hafan venues.

The Hafan relationship enables us to get to know our communities better – the money we save in office rent is invested instead in community projects local to those spaces, putting more money in the pockets of our young professional musicians, and enabling us to meet more people in the community.

We LOVE our Hafan relationship with Aberystwyth Arts Centre. One of the first things that happened once we’d embarked on this partnership was that they invited Sinfonia Cymru Marketing Consultant, Heulwen, to work regularly from their Marketing office – providing a desk, a mug, and even an invitation to the staff Christmas party!

This week Sinfonia Cymru players have been working alongside “town and gown” community orchestra Philomusica of Aberystwyth. They’ve been workshopping music written by composers from around Wales as part of the Cerddwn composer development scheme run by Aberystwyth University, in collaboration with conductor and Aberystwyth University Director of Music Iwan Teifion Davies and composer David John Roche. We are really looking forward to performing the music written by the Cerddwn composers when we return to Aberystwyth in July as Artists in Residence at Musicfest (20-27 July 2024), where we’ll also be performing our Regenerate: Seasons for Change programme (see page 9).

You might notice that our wind players aren't performing in every piece in tonight's concert – but they have nevertheless been busy this week, not only rehearsing with Sean and workshopping the new Cerddwn compositions, but also performing for patients and families at Bronglais General Hospital in Aberystwyth, through our Hafan relationship.

Thanks for being a Hafan for us, Aberystwyth Arts Centre! And we'll tell you about our other Hafan locations in a future programme.