

SHEKU
KANNINEH-
MASON

THURSDAY 1 SEPTEMBER at 7.30PM

SHEKU KANNEH-MASON & FRIENDS

Sheku Kanneh-Mason — cello
Zak Abel — vocals
Harry Baker — piano
Hadewych van Gent — cello and vocals
Ashok Klouda — cello
Hannah Roberts — cello
Max Ruisi — cello

“Good times,
these are the good times
Leave your cares behind,
these are the good times.”
— Nile Rodgers & CHIC

Programme

**Bach: Come sweet death
arr for 5 cellos Kanneh-Mason**

**Villa-Lobos: Bachianas Brasileiras no 1, Prelúdio
(Modinha)
arr Simon Parkin**

Edmund Finnis: 5 preludes for solo cello

**Joseph Parry: Myfanwy
arr for 3 cellos Kanneh-Mason**

**Star of County Down
arr for solo cello Kanneh-Mason**

**Evening rise
Trad arr Hadewych Van Gent for cellos and voice**

**Fare thee well my dear
Trad arr Harry Baker**

**Arthur Hamilton: Cry Me a River
arr cello and piano Baker & Kanneh-Mason**

**Messiaen: Quartet for the End of Time (V. Louange à
l'Éternité de Jésus)**

Zak Abel: Deserve to be Loved

Zak Abel/Kanneh-Mason: Same Boat

CHIC: Good Times

BOLD TENDENCIES

“I am so delighted to be performing this very personal programme at Bold Tendencies. This will be my 3rd time performing in this series, and the previous 2 times playing here have been definite highlights in my performing life. I love the intimacy and openness with the audience in this space, and it is those two things that are perfect for this programme.

I am so grateful to be joined for this concert by a group of musicians whom I greatly admire, find to be incredibly inspiring and who each have a unique quality of communication. Last year I performed here with pianist, arranger and composer Harry Baker, and it is great to be collaborating with him again on this project. He is a musician with endless creativity and sensitivity in everything he does. I have admired the soulful voice of Zak Abel ever since I first heard him sing when we were performing on the same TV show about 6 years ago! The combination of his voice with cello is a beautiful pairing. I will also be performing some Bach, Villa-Lobos and other things with a cello ensemble as part of this programme. The sound of multiple cellos playing together is always very special, and I’m especially excited to make music with such a fantastic team of cellists: Hannah Roberts, Ashok Klouda, Max Ruisi and Hadewych Van Gent.

This programme is full of music I absolutely love, starting in the 16th Century with Bach, and going right up to a collection of 5 preludes for solo cello written by Edmund Finnis just last year. Whilst there is much variety, I hope that the audience feel the strong connection myself and the other musicians have to each piece of music we are playing.”

— Sheku Kanneh-Mason

Ashok Klouda is indisputably recognised as the leading half-Indian, quarter-Irish, quarter-Czech (but still actually British) cellist in Buckinghamshire. Ashok has performed in ensembles such as the Artea Quartet and is proud to have been a member of Chineke! - the UK's only orchestra and chamber ensemble made up predominantly of BAME musicians - since its inception in 2015. Ashok's favourite classical musician is Bach and in the 2017-18 season he performed, recorded and filmed a complete cycle of Bach *Cello Suites* on baroque cello at London's Conway Hall. Aside from Bach, and music in general, Ashok is a fan of science fiction, Formula One, table tennis and spending time with his family. As a cellist he has won various competitions and prizes, and jointly runs the Highgate International Chamber Music Festival, as well as the remote recording studio SoundKlouda with his wife, Natalie.

Born in Amsterdam to a family of artists, **Hadewych van Gent** is an international cross-genre cellist and singer. At the age of 12 she was accepted to the pre-college program of the Conservatory of Amsterdam, where she joined distinguished music pedagogue Coosje Wijzenbeek's string ensemble 'The Fancy Fiddlers'. Hadewych has been invited to many concert halls of international significance in the Netherlands and beyond, and performed on national radio broadcasts. She has shared the stage with world renowned musicians such as Menahem Pressler and Friedemann Eichhorn, and has been a returning guest at Janine Jansen's music festival in Utrecht. Because of her multifaceted musical education, Hadewych has taken part in a variety of classical as well as interdisciplinary projects as a cellist and singer, at times combining the two in concert. Currently Hadewych is a masters student at the Royal Academy of Music under the guidance of Robert Cohen.

Hannah Roberts, a prizewinning finalist of the BBC Young Musician of the Year awards and principal cellist of the Manchester Camerata, is one of the outstanding cellists of her generation. Hannah's prolific performance schedule includes regular participation in the prestigious Manchester International Cello Festival, where she was invited to lead a world premiere of a cello sextet work by Sir Peter Maxwell Davies. Alongside her activities as soloist, chamber musician, and principal cellist, Hannah is a committed and internationally sought after teacher - she is professor of cello at both the RAM in London (where she

taught internationally acclaimed British cellist Sheku Kanneh-Mason), and the RNCM in Manchester, and a visiting tutor for the University of Oxford. Hannah has been awarded both an HonRAM and an FRNCM for her work helping to nurture upcoming cellists, and works with some of the world's most gifted young musicians at international masterclasses each summer.

Harry Baker is an award-winning improvising pianist and composer active in jazz, classical and new-music settings. A key player on the UK jazz and classical scenes, Harry's music looks to unite his diverse influences, centring around improvisation and collaboration. Recent work includes performing his composition *Lament*, a semi-improvised piano concerto, with the Ripieno Players in a programme alongside a new composition by saxophonist Xhosa Cole (BBC Jazz Young Musician 2018). In early 2020, Harry's debut album, *The Floating Boy*, was highly praised, leading Jazz FM presenter Helen Mayhew to comment that "the future of British jazz is in very capable hands." Harry collaborates regularly with Sheku, featuring improvisations around folk songs and jazz standards, in addition to compositions. The duo will make their international debut at the Konzerthaus Dortmund, Germany in November 2022, followed by a tour of English cities in December.

British-Italian cellist **Max Ruisi** has emerged as an innovative and expressive artist dedicated to chamber music. A wide range of influences fuel his artistic output, encompassing his role as cellist in the Ruisi String Quartet and Artistic Director and Principal Cellist of leading chamber orchestra 12 Ensemble. Max, who regularly performs in major concert halls and festivals globally, has featured as a soloist on recordings for Decca, and directed two critically-acclaimed albums with the 12 ensemble. Max enjoys collaborating with a diversity of artists and has worked closely with leading composers, including Jonny Greenwood and Mica Levi. After completing his undergraduate degree at the GSMD, Max studied with Rainer Schmidt (Hagen Quartet) at the Basel Hochschule für Musik and completed an Artist Diploma in Chamber Music at the Royal College of Music. He has participated in numerous public masterclasses, including working with Ferenc Rados + Thomas Adés at IMS Prussia Cove.

Sheku Kanneh-Mason became a household name in 2018 after performing at the wedding of the Duke and Duchess of Sussex. He initially garnered renown after winning the 2016 BBC Young Musician competition, the first Black musician to take the title. A Decca Classics recording artist, Sheku's latest album, *Song*, showcases his lyrical playing with a wide selection of arrangements and collaborations. His most personal album yet, 'Song' presents a musical portrait of the gifted musician, showcasing his skills as both arranger and composer. The album's eclectic mix of styles reflects his breadth as a musician, demonstrating how he takes inspiration from many genres. 'Song' succeeds his 2020 album *Elgar*, which reached No. 8 in the main UK Official Album Chart, making Sheku the first ever cellist to reach the UK Top 10. In the 22/23 season, Sheku appears as Artist in Residence with the Philharmonia Orchestra. In May 2022, he was appointed the London Royal Academy of Music's first Menuhin Visiting Professor of Performance Mentoring. He is an ambassador for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, Future Talent, and Music Masters. In 2020, Sheku was appointed an MBE. He plays a Matteo Goffriller cello from 1700 which is on indefinite loan to him.

Penning his own songs as a 14-year-old and uploading videos of his work to YouTube, **Zak Abel** first signed a record deal in 2014 and met influential music producer, Joker. Zak and Joker released a four-track EP in 2015, shortly followed by Zak's solo project *One Hand On The Future*, where he collaborated with Tom Misch and Kaytranada. Zak's 2017 debut album, *Only When We're Naked*, saw him channel his creativity into pop spheres for the first time, significantly increasing his stock as a writer – since then he has penned hit records for the likes of Kygo, Avicii, R3hab & ZAYN, and Paloma Faith & John Legend. Now signing with BMG, the coming year signifies a new musical era for Zak - with a second album and global tour dates pending, an older and wiser Zak brings a more mature, considered and timeless sound to his dedicated audience, who have waited patiently for new music.

Bold Tendencies is a non-profit arts organisation started in 2007 in Peckham, London. Bold Tendencies supports artists to develop their ideas and to realise site-specific projects and present live performances from its rooftop home, Peckham's Multi-Storey Car Park. Bold Tendencies celebrates the free enjoyment of public space

in the city, welcoming participation in its rich, experimental programme and preserving open access to this special, spectacular place.

Final Event of the Season

Saturday 10 September at 7.30pm

Rachmaninov: *Piano Concerto No. 2 in C minor* – Jeneba Kanneh-Mason & the Philharmonia Orchestra conducted by Roderick Cox

This towering epic is one of the greatest works in the piano repertoire and notoriously difficult to play. It burns and sparkles with yearning, bittersweet intensity. Rachmaninov dedicated the concerto to Dr Nikolai Dahl, a neurologist and musician who enabled him to rebuild himself after his breakdown and begin to compose again. The music notably features throughout David Lean's film *Brief Encounter*. The Philharmonia Orchestra will be conducted by celebrated young American conductor Roderick Cox, joining us specially for this final concert of the season. Twenty year old pianist Jeneba Kanneh-Mason, applauded for her performance of the work of Florence Price at the Proms last year, is the soloist.

We need your help!

Every year we fundraise to keep our programme thriving and to keep tickets affordable. This means ticket sales only cover about 5% of our costs. Every donation, however big or small, has a major impact and helps us to do more and better.

Huge thanks to those who have supported the 2022 Programme

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BOLD TENDENCIES

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