



AUDIOVISABILITY

presents

Two Hearts' Concert

Featuring Dame Evelyn Glennie, Nao Masuda, and the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra

Programme

Drum Intro

Evelyn Glennie

'Laurentia and Sherlock's Theme Tune'

Tom Hunt

'La Peregrinacion'

Ariel Ramirez arranged by Tim Jackson

Featuring dressage riding footage by Dana Keith, USA Rider

'BOND: Sugar Plum Fairy and Senorita'

Tchaikovsky and Bizet arranged by Tim Jackson

Featuring Visual Vernacular, Zoe McWhinney

(During this performance, Zoe wears a SUBPAC Jacket which is a patented tactile audio system that provides a new high-resolution immersive experience to all media.

SUBPAC quietly and accurately transfers deep bass frequencies to create an immersive, physical, full-body experience)

'East meets West'

Improvisation by Evelyn Glennie and Nao Masuda

'Two Hearts'

Paralympic Commission by Tom Hunt

featuring Creative Sign Interpreter, Angie Newman, and film footage



AUDIOVISABILITY

About Two Hearts:

This ground-breaking project follows profoundly deaf Paralympic medalist Laurentia Tan as she prepares to compete in the 2021 Olympics in Japan. London-based Singaporean Laurentia and her horse, Sherlock, will be working with a team of deaf musicians, technology specialists, artists, and writers at Audiovisability to explore ways of supporting her full understanding of music.

Laurentia is a Paralympic equestrian medal winner but her scores in the third discipline, Dressage, have always been lower than the other disciplines. Laurentia knows that to improve she must interact with music.

Dressage music specialist and renowned composer, Tom Hunt, will work with Ruth, Laurentia and Dame Evelyn Glennie to create a new track which speaks to the heart of what it is to be a deaf rider. This track will explore the contrasting themes of sound and silence, hearing and deafness, and East and West. Composed with significant deaf input it will truly be a unique piece full of deaf culture. This track will be performed at the Paralympics and broadcast to a world audience.

Technology will play a key role in supporting Laurentia in achieving her aim of a second medal-winning performance in Tokyo. Always ones to push boundaries, Audiovisability had to lobby the Paralympic committee to allow Laurentia to wear a Subpac to enable her to follow the music.

This project is kindly funded and supported by

Arts Council England, City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Decibels, Deaf Explorer, Eubel Volker at Dressurhall, Lerchenhof, Singapore Sports Institute and SUBPAC.

Dame Evelyn Glennie is the first person in history to successfully create and sustain a full-time career as a solo percussionist, performing worldwide with the greatest orchestras, conductors and artists. Evelyn paved the way for orchestras globally to feature percussion concerti when she played the first percussion concerto in the history of the Proms at the Royal Albert Hall in 1992.

A leading commissioner of new works, Evelyn has vastly expanded the solo percussion repertoire with more than 200 pieces to her name from many of the world's most eminent composers. "It's important that I continue to commission and collaborate with a diverse range of composers whilst recognising the young talent coming through". Evelyn composes music for film, television, theatre and music library companies and is a double GRAMMY award winner and BAFTA nominee. She regularly provides masterclasses and consultations to inspire the next generation of musicians. The film 'Touch the Sound' and her enlightening TED speech remain key testimonies to her innovative approach to sound-creation.

Leading 1000 drummers, Evelyn had the honour of a prominent role in the Opening Ceremony of the London 2012 Olympic Games.



AUDIOVISABILITY

“Playing at an event like that was proof that music really affects all of us, connecting us in ways that the spoken word cannot”. Evelyn’s solo recordings, which now exceed 40 CDs, are as diverse as her career on-stage. These range from original improvisations, collaborations, percussion concerti and ground-breaking modern solo percussion projects.

Evelyn was awarded an OBE in 1993 and now has over 100 international awards to date, including the Polar Music Prize and the Companion of Honour. She was recently appointed the first female President of Help Musicians, only the third person to hold the title since Sir Edward Elgar and Sir Peter Maxwell Davies and will take the mantle of Chancellor of Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen, Scotland from July 2021.

The Evelyn Glennie Podcast was launched in 2020 featuring popular personalities from the worlds of music, television and academia. The episodes centred around what listening means to different people and its importance in everyday life. Subsequent series are being planned with a wider range of guests. Evelyn is currently creating The Evelyn Glennie Collection with a vision to open a centre that embodies her mission to Teach the World to Listen. She aims to ‘improve communication and social cohesion by encouraging everyone to discover new ways of listening as proven in her book ‘Listen World!’. We want to inspire, to create, to engage and to empower’.

Nao Masuda. Born in Nara, Japan. Being prompted by an encounter with African-American Music, Nao started learning and singing in English at the age of 11, determined to become a professional singer-songwriter one day. At age 13 she began composing and performing on stage at school events.

She bought her first multi-track recorder when she was 15, and immersed herself into writing, arranging and recording her own materials. To create all the tracks on her own she started teaching herself to play several different instruments.

In 1993 she formed a band with musicians twice her age with hundred times more experience and started performing at clubs in Tokyo. With various guest musicians she recorded two indie albums.

As all the lyrics in both albums were written in English, major production companies and producers kept telling her to rewrite them in Japanese. Having no intention to oblige, Nao decides to have a break from Japan and plans a trip across Europe to see musicians and discover sounds from different cultures and styles.

In February 1998 Nao arrived in London, the first of many planned destinations, where she ended up staying to this day.



AUDIOVISABILITY

For the following few years Nao sang, played bass and keyboards in bands and jam sessions, but increasingly felt stuck in and disillusioned with music-making within the framework of existing categories such as pop, rock and blues.

In 2002, Nao joined a London-based Taiko Drumming group and extensively toured throughout Europe, Turkey, Sri Lanka, and so on. In 2005 she became a solo Taiko drummer in search of her own way. In 2007 Nao took part in her first theatre piece as a solo live musician and has since provided various types of live and recorded music and sound effects for theatre projects of diverse disciplines, as a musical director, composer, programmer, singer and multi instrumentalist.

In 2013 Nao was funded by Arts Council England to lead a project to precisely “physicalise music” and create “musical sign language” with both deaf and hearing artists (Music in Motion project) and has since continued working with deaf artists of various disciplines both as a musician and an access to music. In 2017 Nao directed and edited a short art/music film ?Way? in collaboration with Re-cycle Style. In 2018 Nao took part in Berlin Alternative Fashion Show to direct, compose for, and open the “Colours for Green Collection” of Re-cycle Style with martial art performance. In 2019 in collaboration with a Japanese dance company Nao composed and performed not only as a Taiko Drummer but also as a dancer for the first time in her career.

As a Taiko drummer and a percussionist, Nao performs solo and in ensembles in both national and international concerts, festivals and special events.

As a qualified martial artist (Shotokan Karate) and instructor, Nao has also assisted dancers in developing movements and choreographing stylised fight scenes in several projects. Currently on national tour with an acrobat company as a composer/live musician/performance artist.

Ruth Montgomery, Artistic Director of Audiovisability:

Through her work as a professional musician, Ruth proves that music is not just auditory in nature. Coming from a musical family and having studied at the Royal Welsh College of Music for her B.Mus honours degree in music and flute performance, she is a flautist, music teacher and workshop practitioner. For 20 years, Ruth has established a successful teaching practice from early years to working with young musicians at advanced levels. As a visionary artist and Clore Leadership fellow, she has also developed professional relationships with arts, music and media organisations locally, nationally and worldwide.

At Audiovisability, Ruth’s vision is of a more cohesive society, which recognises the innate talent of deaf musicians and visual artists through the forging of partnerships and innovative thinking.

www.ruthmontgomery.co.uk