London Sinfonietta 
conducted by Jonathan Berman 

SPECTRALISMS 

featuring guest composer 
Tristan Murail
London Sinfonietta
SPECTRALISMS
Jacqueline du Pré Music Building
Wednesday 15 March 2017, 19.30

PROGRAMME

Tristan Murail  
*Les Ruines circulaires*  
for clarinet and violin

Tristan Murail  
*Feuilles à travers les cloches*  
for flute, violin, cello and piano  
conducted by Jonathan Berman

Olli Koskelin  
*Exalte*  
for solo clarinet by Scott Lygate (UK premiere)

Gérard Grisey  
*Talea*  
for flute, clarinet, violin, cello and piano  
conducted by Jonathan Berman

Kaija Saariaho  
*Oi Kuu*  
for bass clarinet and cello

Tristan Murail  
*La Barque mystique*  
for flute, clarinet, violin, cello and piano  
conducted by Jonathan Berman

All of the works by Tristan Murail performed in this concert are published by  
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The Oxford Faculty of Music and the Jacqueline du Pré Music Building are delighted to welcome the London Sinfonietta and Tristan Murail for this programme of music under the heading ‘spectralisms’. The concert is significant in its own terms in bringing to Oxford an exciting repertoire that has hardly been heard in this city. But it also forms the centrepiece of a two-day international conference taking place in the Faculty of Music, which aims to explore spectral music in its widest historical, critical and practical contexts.

While ‘spectral music’ first emerged in a particular time and place (Paris in the 1970s), it has come to mean something much more plural, looking back deep into the twentieth century, looking forward to a range of new musical practices across the globe. At its broadest, one could say that spectral music challenges us all to think afresh about the musical fundamentals of sound, time and listening, it encourages us to listen to and engage with the world around us in new ways.

I am thrilled that the outstanding musicians of the London Sinfonietta are here to present such beautiful music to us this evening, music that really invites us to listen. And by choosing to listen, we engage actively with our environment. In an increasingly unstable and fragile world, taking the time to listen critically – ecologically, even – becomes an important and empowering act.

We are extremely grateful for the generous support of tonight’s concert by the Oxford University Faculty of Music, the OUP John Fell Fund, Diaphonique (the Franco-British Fund for Contemporary Music) and the Maison française d’Oxford.

Jonathan Cross
Professor of Musicology
‘Spectralisms’ Conference Director
Curator of this evening’s London Sinfonietta programme
Tristan Murail, guest composer

Born in Le Havre in 1947, Tristan Murail received advanced degrees in classical and North African Arabic from the École Nationale des Langues Orientales Vivantes, as well as a degree in economic science, while at the same time pursuing his musical studies. In 1967, he became a student of Olivier Messiaen at the Paris Conservatory, and also studied at the Institut d'études Politiques in Paris, graduating three years later. In 1971, he was awarded the Prix de Rome, and later received a First Prize in composition from the Paris Conservatoire. He spent the next two years in Rome, at the Villa Medicis.

Upon returning to Paris in 1973, he co-founded the Ensemble L'Itineraire with a group of young composers and instrumentalisits. The ensemble quickly gained wide recognition for its fundamental research in the area of instrumental performance and live electronics.

In the 1980s, Tristan Murail used computer technology to further his research in the analysis and synthesis of acoustic phenomena. He developed his own system of microcomputer-assisted composition, and then collaborated with Ircam for several years, where he taught composition from 1991 to 1997, and took part in the conception of the computer-assisted composition program ‘Patchwork’. In 1997, Murail was named professor of composition at Columbia University in New York, teaching there until 2010.

Back in Europe, he continued giving master-classes and seminars all over the world, was guest professor at the Mozarteum University in Salzburg for three years, and is currently guest professor at the Shanghai Conservatory.
Jonathan Berman is an award winning young English conductor who lives between Amsterdam and London, and already has an impressive repertory of operatic, orchestral, and contemporary music. He has an international reputation working in Germany, UK, US, Italy, the Netherlands and has been broadcast and appeared numerous times on radio and television.

Jonathan has received return engagements from Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra, Nationale Reis Opera, London Sinfonietta, Tanglewood Festival, New European Ensemble, the Dutch National Opera Academy, Aldeburgh Festival, Birmingham Contemporary Music Group, Dartington International Summer School and Southbank Sinfonia. Upcoming debuts include Kammer Ensemble Neue Musik Berlin, the Philharmonia Orchestra Stravinsky Festival, Billkent Symphony, Basel Sinfonietta, National Philharmonic Orchestra of Lithuania, Gaida Festival & the Turku Philharmonic Orchestra.
London Sinfonietta

Ileana Ruhemann  flute/piccolo/alto flute/bass flute
Scott Lygate  clarinet/bass clarinet
Alexandra Wood  violin
Lionel Handy  cello
Rolf Hind  piano

London Sinfonietta is one of the world’s leading contemporary music ensembles. Formed in 1968, the group’s commitment to making new music has seen it commission over 350 works and premiere many hundreds more. Its ethos today is to constantly experiment with the art form, working with the best composers, conductors and players whilst collaborating with musicians from alternative genres and artists from different disciplines. The ensemble is committed to challenging perceptions, provoking new possibilities and stretching audiences’ imaginations, often working closely with them as creators, performers and curators of the events we stage.

Resident at Southbank Centre and Artistic Associates at Kings Place, with a busy touring schedule across the UK and abroad, London Sinfonietta’s core is 18 Principal Players representing some of the best musicians in the world. The group also works with talented Emerging Artists, to ensure the unique expertise of its Principals is passed on to the next generation.

Holding a world-leading position in education work, the London Sinfonietta believes that arts participation is transformational to individuals and communities, and new music is relevant to people’s lives. This belief is enacted through primary and secondary school concerts across the UK and interactive family events, as well as the annual London Sinfonietta Academy, an unparalleled opportunity for young performers and conductors to train with its Principal Players. The ensemble also has an extensive back catalogue of recordings made across its 50 year history.
ANIMA: New Music with Animation
Friday 5 May 2017, 7:30pm

ANIMA presents a concert of film music alongside projections of abstract animated films in a collaboration between St Anne’s and St Hilda’s composers and video artists from the Ruskin School of Art.

Piano Weekend 2:
Maki Sekiya | Jonathan Powell
Friday 12 & Saturday 13 May 2017, 7:30pm

On Friday 12th May, Maki Sekiya will give a recital of Russian contemporary pieces alongside pieces by Shostakovich. On Saturday 13th May, Jonathan Powell will perform ‘a milestone in the history of the piano’, Sorabji’s Opus Clavicembalisticum.
For more information about upcoming concerts and events, please visit the JdP website:

jdp.st-hildas.ox.ac.uk

Tickets are available from Tickets Oxford:
www.ticketsoxford.com | 01865 305 305

This concert and many others are live-streamed from our website. Please visit jdp.st-hildas.ox.ac.uk/livestream for more information and to browse our archive of on-demand videos.

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