

## Music from Alexander the Great's empire

Friday 17 June 2016, 18.00–20.30

Rooms 1, 22 & 34

Free, just drop in, limited seating

Violinist Peter Sheppard Skærved presents an evening of music inspired by Alexander the Great's travels. Come and hear new music by composers Mihailo Trandafilovski, Michael Alec Rose and Sadie Harrison, bringing together traditions and instruments from India, Afghanistan and Europe.

### 18.00, Room 22

Peter Sheppard Skærved (violin/viola) and Mihailo Trandafilovski (violin) explore contemporary music from, and inspired by, Macedonia, Turkey, Lebanon, Afghanistan, Albania, Greece and Cyprus. All of the works have been written for them, including world premieres responding to the idea of Alexander the Great.

Mihailo Trandafilovski	Sharenilo* Čekori
Michael Alec Rose	Diaphany* Il Ritorno
Sadie Harrison	Bavad khair baqi! Duos Alaa Hou
Dafina Zeqiri	Dream The Temple of Artemis
Thomas Simaku	Capriccioso
Yiğit Kolat	Taksim
Naji Hakim	Sonata
Sıdıka Özdil	Variations on a Turkish Folk Theme
Evis Sammoutis	Nicosia Etudes

\* world première

Peter Sheppard Skærved has collaborated with the British Museum since 2006, when he presented a week-long intervention in the Enlightenment Gallery (Room 1). He is the dedicatee of hundreds of new works for violin, has recorded over 70 CDs, and regularly performs in over 30 countries. He has compiled the programme of music for this evening.

Macedonian-born composer, violinist and educator Mihailo Trandafilovski studied at Michigan State University and the Royal College of Music in London. He is violinist in the award-winning Kreutzer Quartet. His first portrait CD featured chamber music performed by the Kreutzer Quartet and Lontano (LORELT, 2011). His music has also been released by Clarinet Classics, SOCOM/ Macedonian Radio-Television and Innova Recordings (in the USA).

Sadie Harrison's music has been performed and broadcast across the globe, with works released to critical acclaim. Formerly an archaeologist specialising in the Irish Neolithic and Bronze Age, many of her compositions have been inspired by the traditional music of ancient cultures including Afghanistan, Lithuania, the Isle of Skye, and the northern Caucasus. She is Visiting Research Fellow to the Afghan Music Centre, Goldsmiths, London, Cuatro Puntos' Composer-in-Residence and ANIM's Composer-in-Association.

Michael Alec Rose's music has been performed widely in the USA, Europe and South America. He has received 30 consecutive annual awards in composition from ASCAP (1986–2015) and teaches at Vanderbilt University's Blair School of Music. A CD of his music for strings and horn appeared in 2013 on Toccata Classics. He is currently working on a string quartet, a symphony and an opera.

### 18.30, Room 1

The *rubab* is a short-necked lute with 3 main strings and 14 sympathetic strings, and is the national instrument of Afghanistan. The Herati *dutar* is 2-stringed long-necked lute of with western Afghanistan. The *daireh* is a frame drum with rings and bells associated with Afghan women's music-making. The north Indian tabla became important in Afghan urban music-making in the late 19th century.

Together John Baily (*rubab* and *dutar*) and Veronica Doubleday (voice and *daireh* (frame drum)) have dedicated their life's work to the music and people of Afghanistan, and have actively supported Afghan music and musicians throughout the last 35 years of conflict. John is Emeritus Professor of Ethnomusicology and Head of the Afghanistan Music Unit at Goldsmiths, University of London. Between 1973 and 1977 he and Veronica lived in Afghanistan, mostly in Herat, where they undertook detailed research on the local musical traditions.

In order to understand Afghan music culture, they studied with local musicians and became skilled performers in their own right. John plays the Afghan *rubab* and Herati *dutar* (types of lute), and Veronica sings Afghan traditional songs in Dari (Afghan Persian) and plays the *daireh* (frame drum). John is a world expert on Afghan music, and his most recent major work, *War, Exile and the Music of Afghanistan: The Ethnographer's Tale*, appeared in 2015. Veronica is the author of the celebrated memoir *Three Women of Herat*, and other publications on Afghan music and poetry.

Sulaiman Haqpana (tabla), from Herat in Afghanistan, worked as Programme Manager for the International Rescue Committee in Afghanistan, then joined UNAMA and UNIFEM as Project Coordinator 2004–2008. In 2007 he was a member of the Oxfam International Youth Parliament. He has a BA in Global Politics and International Relations from Birkbeck, University of London, and is currently at the London School of Economics completing an MSc. He has studied tabla with several ustads and gurus.

### 19.00, Room 34

Alice Barron (violin) and Saied Silbak (oud) explore the string-based sound world of the Palestinian oud and the violin, enriched by Saied's roots in Arabic music and Alice's experiences in South India and London. Saied and Alice first worked together with iyatraQuartet, creating original music drawing on many cultural and stylistic influences.

Saied Silbak is a Palestinian oud player and composer. Silbak composes music for solo oud as well as various traditional Arabic ensembles and contemporary ensembles and is known to bring together new musical colours by fusing elements from Arabic, Turkish, jazz and other styles combined with oriental rhythms, providing the listener an authentic world-crossing experience.

Alice Barron is a violinist and collaborator based in London, performing and researching a wide range of musical styles. Focusing on contemporary and world music, recent performances have been with Nigel Kennedy, London Sinfonietta, Sam Lee & Friends and at WOMAD festival in Australia and New Zealand. Alice is a founding member of iyatraQuartet, and is also a member of the folkly-classical Duo Folclore and contemporary group Dr K Sextet, who are a resident ensemble at the Cheltenham Festival 2016.