

A dimly lit room with a round table, a lamp, and a window looking out at a rainy night. The room is dark, with the primary light source being a lamp with a pleated shade on a round table. The table also holds several glassware items. In the background, a window shows a rainy night scene with blurred lights and foliage. The overall mood is intimate and atmospheric.

RSNO

SCOTLAND'S NATIONAL  
ORCHESTRA

DUNEDIN  
CONSORT

# Songs of Wars I Have Seen

Queen's Hall, Edinburgh  
Thu 12 Oct 2023 7.30pm

Perth Concert Hall  
Fri 13 Oct 7.30pm

New Auditorium, Glasgow Royal Concert Hall  
Sat 14 Oct 7.30pm

# RSNO

SCOTLAND'S NATIONAL  
ORCHESTRA

RECOMMENDED BY  
CLASSIC *fm*

# Scheherazade

**EDN** Fri 1 Dec 2023: 7.30pm

**GLW** Sat 2 Dec 2023: 7.30pm

**Lera Auerbach** Icarus  
**Shostakovich** Cello Concerto No1  
**Rimsky-Korsakov** Scheherazade

**Thomas Søndergård** Conductor  
**Pei-Jee Ng** Cello  
**Big Noise Govanhill** (GLW)

**Pre-concert talk, 6.45pm**

RSNO Principal Cor Anglais Henry Clay  
in conversation with RSNO Concerts  
Administrator Matthias van der Swaagh



Dedicated to **Dr Robert Lillie** in recognition  
of his generous support of the RSNO Foundation

[rsno.org.uk](https://rsno.org.uk)

The RSNO is supported by the  
Scottish Government



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# Songs of Wars I Have Seen

**Queen's Hall, Edinburgh** Thu 12 Oct 2023 7.30pm

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**New Auditorium, Glasgow Royal Concert Hall** Sat 14 Oct 7.30pm

A musical event like no other: the RSNO joins forces with the period instruments of Dunedin Consort to perform Heiner Goebbels' profoundly moving *Songs of Wars I Have Seen*. With staging that transforms the concert hall into a living room, the performance features a mix of music, and spoken word from the wartime diaries of Gertrude Stein.

Following the performance of *Songs of Wars I Have Seen*, all audience members are invited to a post-concert talk with composer Heiner Goebbels, conductor Ellie Slorach and RSNO Artistic Adviser Gillian Moore.

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**HEINER GOEBBELS** *Songs of Wars I Have Seen* [50']

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**Ellie Slorach** Conductor

Musicians from the **Royal Scottish National Orchestra**  
and **Dunedin Consort**



The concert in Perth is kindly supported by the Gannochy Trust.

The Glasgow performance will be recorded for the RSNO Archive.  
Supported by the Iain and Pamela Sinclair Legacy.

If viewing these notes at the concert, please do so considerately and not during performances.

**Please silence all mobile telephones and alerts, and refrain from taking photographs,  
without flash, until the end of each piece.**



Heiner Goebbels (born 1952)

# Songs of Wars I Have Seen

**FIRST PERFORMANCE**

London, 12 July 2007

**DURATION** 50 minutes

Andrew Clements has written in *The Guardian*: 'A new work by Heiner Goebbels is one of the most beguiling experiences contemporary music has to offer. ... a simple description hardly conveys the imaginative power with which Goebbels brings together the most unlikely material and makes it merge in a unique and unforgettable way'.

The setting: A set of table-top and standard lamps, illuminating the stage as a living room. The musicians performing on both period and modern instruments, playing and then reading text from the wartime diaries of Gertrude Stein (1874-1946). The score carefully mixing Matthew Locke's music of the 17th century with that of today, providing a haunting musical commentary to the drama.



Carl Van Vechten

An American Jew living in the Nazi puppet state of Vichy France, Stein detailed everyday life in a neutral, descriptive style, pausing as much on the food she ate as the atrocities engulfing Europe.

'What makes the writing of Gertrude Stein so exciting is she doesn't decide for you what is important or not,' says Goebbels. 'She talks with the same intensity about various personal private things and very heavy political catastrophes. Why does she worry about honey and her boots when she talks about prisoners on a train or bombs on the Italians? Why does she talk about food? It's exactly what in your own privacy you have to deal with. You have to find your way to survive every day in such a situation. And I was excited by her approach of considering history as constantly repeating, and her constant comparisons of what happened in the time of Henry VIII and Shakespeare with her experiences in the Second World War. I wanted to confront that also in a musical way.'

Stein's *Wars I Have Seen* tells us what is happening, without telling us how to feel about it. In *Songs of Wars I Have Seen*, Heiner Goebbels emphasises this meditative neutrality and sharpens our focus on the gendered experience of war.

'We don't need any more theatre which decides for us what to think,' Goebbels says, in what is almost an aesthetic manifesto. 'We need theatre or concerts or performing arts which trust in our own option to judge.'



# Heiner Goebbels

## Composer



German composer and director Heiner Goebbels lives in Frankfurt am Main and Berlin and is one of the most prominent exponents on the contemporary music and theatre scene. He has created internationally celebrated compositions for ensemble and large orchestra (*Surrogate Cities*, *A House of Call*), music-theatre pieces (*Max Black*, *Eraritjaritjaka*), staged concerts (*Songs of Wars I Have Seen*), radio plays, and sound and video installations, including at Documenta in Kassel, the Centre Pompidou in Paris and Museo Reina Sofía in Madrid. His music appears on the ECM Records label.

Between 1999 and 2018 he was Professor at the Institute for Applied Theatre Studies at Justus-Liebig-University, Gießen, then first holder of the University's Georg Büchner Professorship at the Center of Media and Interactivity. He was the Artistic Director of the Ruhrtriennale – International Festival of the Arts (2012-14) and published an anthology of writings and lectures, *Aesthetics of Absence*, in 2015. He has won numerous international awards, including the Prix Italia, European Theatre Prize and International Ibsen Award, and has been nominated twice for a GRAMMY Award.

# Ellie Slorach

## Conductor



Ellie Slorach is a conductor based in Manchester. She is the Founder and Artistic Director of Kantos Chamber Choir and works in the UK and internationally with orchestras and choirs.

In the 2023/24 season, Ellie makes her debut with Royal Northern Sinfonia at Sage Gateshead and with New Adventures' production of *Edward Scissorhands* at Sadler's Wells. She returns to the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, BBC Philharmonic, BBC Singers, RSNO, Orchestra of Opera North and Manchester Camerata.

Specialising in concerts for schools and young people, Ellie has worked with orchestras including The Hallé and the Orchestre Philharmonique Royal de Liège, where she was the Assistant Conductor to Gergely Madaras in 2021/22. She is often invited to work with youth and student orchestras and choirs, including having been Musical Director of the Hallé Youth Orchestra.

Ellie regularly works on opera productions; she conducted Northern Opera Group's production of Handel's *Silla* in 2022 and returns as Musical Director for their headline production of *Sherlock* in 2024 at the Leeds Opera Festival. She was co-Musical Director for the Royal Opera House's production of *Lost & Found* at St Pancras International station in 2022 and was the Assistant Conductor for Opera Holland Park's *Rigoletto* in June 2023.

In 2015 Ellie founded Kantos Chamber Choir. This trailblazing vocal ensemble is at the cutting edge of choral singing in the UK. Kantos performs unique and innovative concerts, devised by Ellie, to sell-out audiences, in venues ranging from nightclubs to concert halls. The choir regularly performs and records with orchestras including the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra and the BBC Philharmonic, on labels including Decca Classics.

Ellie studied Conducting at the Royal Northern College of Music, having previously studied Music at the University of Manchester.

# Gillian Moore

## RSNO Artistic Adviser



Until 2022, Gillian Moore was Director of Music and Performing Arts at Southbank Centre, London, where she oversaw an extensive programme of classical, jazz and contemporary music in one of the world's largest cultural institutions. She is currently the Centre's Artistic Associate.

Born in Glasgow, she studied Music at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, and subsequently the universities of Glasgow and York. In 1983 she became the first Education Officer at a UK orchestra, taking the London Sinfonietta into schools and prisons in a piece of pioneering creative work. She became Artistic Director of the Sinfonietta in 1998.

Throughout her career, she has been committed to changing the landscape for music and encouraging wider conversation and action to improve diversity and equality in the industry. She has collaborated with many of the great musical and artistic figures of our age, and is a writer and broadcaster for a number of major outlets, including BBC Radio 3, BBC Radio 4 and *The Guardian*.

In 2019 she was awarded the CBE and named as one of the ten most powerful women in music globally in BBC Radio 4's *Woman's Hour* Power List. Her book, *The Rite of Spring – Music and Modernity*, was published to critical acclaim the same year.

# Royal Scottish National Orchestra



The Royal Scottish National Orchestra is one of Europe's leading symphony orchestras. Formed in 1891 as the Scottish Orchestra, the company became the Scottish National Orchestra in 1950, and was awarded Royal Patronage in 1977. The Orchestra's artistic team is led by Danish conductor Thomas Søndergård, who was appointed RSNO Music Director in 2018.

The RSNO is supported by the Scottish Government and is one of the Scottish National Performing Companies. The Orchestra performs across Scotland, including concerts in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, Perth and Inverness, and appears regularly at the Edinburgh International Festival and the BBC Proms. The RSNO has made recent tours to the USA, China and Europe.

The RSNO has a worldwide reputation for the quality of its recordings, receiving a 2020 Gramophone Classical Music Award for Chopin's Piano Concertos (soloist: Benjamin Grosvenor), conducted by Elim Chan, two Diapason d'Or awards (Denève/Roussel 2007; Denève/Debussy 2012) and eight GRAMMY Award nominations. Over 200 releases are available, including Thomas Søndergård conducting Strauss (*Ein Heldenleben*, *Der Rosenkavalier Suite*) and

Prokofiev (Symphonies Nos 1 and 5); two discs of African American Voices featuring the music of George Walker, William Levi Dawson, Margaret Bonds and more, conducted by Kellen Gray; the complete symphonies of Sibelius (Gibson), Prokofiev (Järvi), Bruckner (Tintner) and Roussel (Denève); as well as further discs championing the music of William Grant Still (Eisenberg), Xiaogang Ye (Serebrier) and Thomas Wilson (Macdonald).

The RSNO's Engagement strategy, Music for Life, sees the Orchestra work with schools and community groups, connecting its music with the people of Scotland. Since March 2020, the RSNO has created multiple online Engagement programmes and Digital Seasons, ensuring the RSNO continues to bring world-class music to its audiences in Scotland and around the world on stage and on screen.

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# On Stage

**OBOE**

Peter Dykes  
ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL

**CLARINET**

Rebecca Whitener  
GUEST PRINCIPAL

**HORN**

Paul Klein  
GUEST PRINCIPAL

**TRUMPET**

Christopher Hart  
PRINCIPAL

**TROMBONE**

Dávur Juul Magnussen  
PRINCIPAL

**TIMPANI & PERCUSSION**

Scott Vassie  
GUEST PRINCIPAL

**PERCUSSION**

Simon Lowdon  
PRINCIPAL

**HARP**

Pippa Tunnell

**KEYBOARD SAMPLER**

Mark Hindley

A portrait of a woman with dark hair, smiling, holding a violin. She is wearing a dark, patterned top. The background is a solid dark purple.

# RSNO

SCOTLAND'S NATIONAL  
ORCHESTRA

# Dvořák String Sextet

**Mendelssohn-Hensel** String Quartet

**Dvořák** String Sextet in A major

**RSNO String Sextet**

New Auditorium  
Glasgow Royal Concert Hall  
Sun 12 Nov 2.30pm

# Dunedin Consort



Dunedin Consort is one of the world's leading Baroque ensembles, recognised for its vivid and insightful performances and recordings. Formed in 1995 and named after Din Eidyn, the ancient Celtic name for Edinburgh Castle, Dunedin Consort's ambition is to allow listeners to hear early music afresh, and to couple an inquisitive approach to historical performance with a commitment to commissioning and performing new music. Under the direction of John Butt, the ensemble has earned two coveted Gramophone Awards, a BBC Music Magazine Award and a GRAMMY nomination. In 2021 it was the recipient of the Royal Philharmonic Society Ensemble Award.

Dunedin Consort performs regularly at major festivals and venues across the UK and abroad, and enjoys close associations with the BBC Proms, Wigmore Hall, Edinburgh International Festival and Lammermuir Festival. Alongside its performance and recording work, Dunedin Consort is committed to a wide-ranging education programme both in schools and in the wider community. In inspiring and encouraging

musical participation, developing vocal skills and fostering a love of classical music, historical performance and new music, Dunedin Consort aims to develop and nurture its potential audience and to encourage the performers of the future.

Dunedin Consort is an enthusiastic champion and commissioner of contemporary music, and in recent years has premiered a new set of orchestral dances at the BBC Proms, a new opera by Errollyn Wallen at the Barbican Centre and new choral music for its a cappella consort. In 2024 it will premiere a new guitar concerto by Cassandra Miller for Sean Shibe, the first instalment of a three-year co-commissioning series which will see further new music by David Fennessy and Tansy Davies.

Partnership Ensemble

**DUNEDIN  
CONSORT**

# On Stage

**VIOLIN 1**

Ellen Bundy

**VIOLIN 2**

Sarah Bevan-Baker

**VIOLA**

Katie Heller

**CELLO**

Sarah McMahon

**DOUBLE BASS**

Christine Sticher

**THEORBO**

Elizabeth Kenny

**HARPSICHORD**

Jan Waterfield

**FLUTE**

Katy Bircher

**BASSOON**

Inga Maria Klaucke

**PERCUSSION**

Lauren O'Malley

**Directors**

Jenny Stewart  
CHAIR

Mark Batho  
Courtney Beck  
Cathy Bell MBE  
Susie Gray  
Kate Molleson  
Philip Rodney  
Kalvir Sangha

**Music Director**

John Butt OBE FBA FRSE

**Associate Director**

Nicholas Mulroy

**Management**

Edward Edgcumbe  
INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Jennie Baillie  
MARKETING MANAGER

Lucia Capellaro  
LEARNING AND PARTICIPATION MANAGER

Sanne Dijkstra-Downie  
DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

Aedín Donnelly  
ARTISTIC PLANNING COORDINATOR

Amy Strachan  
LEARNING AND PARTICIPATION MANAGER

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**DUNEDIN  
CONSORT**

**15 - 19 November**  
Greenock • Edinburgh  
Glasgow • Aberdeen • Perth

# ČIČIĆ DIRECTS VIVALDI

**Bojan Čičić** director & solo violin  
**Dunedin Consort**

**dunedin-consort.org.uk**

Painting: 'Vivaldi: Violin Concerto in A major' [www.kirstymatheson.com](http://www.kirstymatheson.com)



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