

23 October 2009
For immediate release



Reverb

Roundhouse Concerts

22-31 January 2010

Biosphere * Britten Sinfonia * Charles Hazlewood * Rolf Hind * Katia & Marielle Labeque * London Contemporary Orchestra * Vladimir Jurowski * Joanna MacGregor * Nico Muhly * The Night Shift * Rachel & Becky Unthank

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Pianos, percussion, orchestral encounters, musical mechanics, virtuoso vocals and folk pioneers. *Reverb* explores the many sides of music at the Roundhouse through world and UK premieres, genre-defying performances and a refreshing approach to classical music.

Classical music returns to the Roundhouse in a series of *Reverb* concerts that offer a fresh, informal approach to the genre, aiming to recapture – drink in hand if desired – some of the inquisitive, pioneering spirit of the venue's classical music past. Highlights include: a chance to hear one of New York's brightest composing talents, **Nico Muhly**, in concert with **Britten Sinfonia**; pianist **Joanna MacGregor**'s journey from Tudor laments to South American dance music; a re-imagining of John Gay's **Beggar's Opera** by **Charles Hazlewood** and an outstanding line up of classical, folk and indie musicians including **Rachel and Becky Unthank** and **Adrian Utley** (Portishead); **Vladimir Jurowski** and the **Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment** taking up 'The Night Shift'.

Rolf Hind in a day of 'Many Hands', features mass pianos, percussion and a host of new works. **Katia and Marielle Labeque** return to the Roundhouse 37 years after they made their UK debut at the venue. Young orchestral ensemble, the **London Contemporary Orchestra**, present a programme of genre-crossing firsts.

Music ranges from **Beethoven, Purcell and Handel** to **Steve Reich, Philip Glass** and premieres of works by **John Cage**, Norwegian ambient music specialist **Biosphere** (aka Geir Jenssen), young composing talent including **Shiva Fesharaki** and a new commission from **Oliver Bettison** for multiple hands.

Call for Scores invites young composers (aged 16-25) to submit pieces to be played during the 'Many Hands' day and at an afternoon workshop with the London Contemporary Orchestra and a panel of composers, critics, performers and promoters. For full details please see listings below or visit www.roundhouse.org.uk.

Further Reverb events include: French musicians/performers **Zic Zazou** perform an explosive 'workshop' of musical combustion where objects – unusual, strange and at times, downright dangerous – are turned to musical use. Part music, part theatre, part comedy and part engineering, they explore the musical possibilities of hammers, nails, drainpipes, axle-grinders, power drills, frying pans, bottles, bricks, explosions, chair legs and the occasional trumpet, building up a head of steam in the London premiere of the internationally acclaimed *Brocante Sonore: The Mechanics*.

The Magnets are bringing a cappella to a whole new audience. Six men, sharp suits and stunning harmonies combine with beat box drumming to create an extraordinary live spectacle of musical sophistication, showmanship and soul. For this special one-off performance, they revisit the Roundhouse's illustrious back-catalogue of performers giving The Magnets' 'treatment' to classics by Jimi Hendrix, Pink Floyd, The Doors, The Ramones, David Bowie, Kraftwerk and more. A special collaboration with the Roundhouse Choirs is just one of an array of associations during the season between *Reverb* performers and the Roundhouse's pioneering ensembles for young people aged 11-25.

Reverb celebrates 30 years of *fRoots* magazine with **Roots at the Roundhouse** – a celebration of the best of folk and roots music, including **Justin Adams, Juldeh Camara and special guest, Billy Bragg and the Acoustic Blokes, Oyster Band with June Tabor, Devon Sproule, Ian King Band, Martin Simpson** and many more.

All performances will be streamed live on the Roundhouse website and on Roundhouse Radio www.roundhouse.org.uk/radio

All performances (except Zic Zazou) will be accompanied by live visuals created by young people from the Roundhouse Studios.

PRESS ENQUIRIES

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REVERB: ROUNDHOUSE CONCERTS CLASSICAL LISTINGS

Roots at the Roundhouse

Friday 22 January at 7.30pm, £20-£28

Joanna MacGregor and Britten Sinfonia

Saturday 23 January at 6.30pm, £15-£30

Pianist **Joanna MacGregor** directs **Britten Sinfonia** in a wide-ranging programme, including her own arrangements of Dowland's haunting English songs alongside music from Brazil (Gismonti) and Argentina (Piazzolla), and timeless works by Bach and Stravinsky.

London Contemporary Orchestra

Saturday 23 January at 9.30pm, £7.50-£15

London Contemporary Orchestra is a large orchestral ensemble dedicated to performing large-scale contemporary works. The orchestra was founded in 2008 by 23 year old conductor Hugh Brunt and violist Robert Ames, and features the newest generation of young orchestral talent (average age just 25). For **Reverb**, LCO joins forces with emerging composing talent **Shiva Fesharaki** and **Biosphere** (aka Geir Jenssen), the Norwegian pioneer of ambient Arctic sound, in a programme packed with first performances. Fesharaki takes centre stage for the world premiere of *TT Konzert*, her concerto for Turntables and Orchestra. The orchestra is joined by the Roundhouse Choirs for Jenssen's *Shhoctavoski*. John Cage's final work, *Seventy-Four*, receives its UK premiere.

Nico Muhly and Britten Sinfonia

Sunday 24 January at 7.30pm, £15-£25

The concert featuring Muhly's own work alongside that of his musical mentors, Steve Reich and Philip Glass, plus new songs and arrangements with his latest collaborator, American roots singer **Sam Amidon**.

At 28, Muhly is in demand both as a classical composer, with a body of work including commissions for the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Carnegie Hall, where he also featured as part of John Adams' "In Your Ear" festival, ballet scores and a forthcoming opera, *Two Boys*, with librettist Craig Lucas, for New York's Metropolitan Opera. He is also an admired performer, conductor and arranger for artists such as Antony Hegarty, Björk, Sigur Rós and Grizzly Bear, and as a composer of film scores, including the Oscar-winning *The Reader*.

The Beggar's Opera: Reborn

Monday 25 January at 7.30pm, £17.50-£25

Over the years, Gay's 1728 satire against the class system, corruption and the musical establishment lost its bit as the great British folk tunes he employed disappeared from our culture. Charles Hazlewood's re-imagining of these songs injects some 21st century fire into muscular old tunes, as well as the music by Handel and Purcell that Gay so savagely satirized.

Zic Zazou

Tuesday 26-Thursday 28 January at 7.30pm, £17.50-£25

The Night Shift

Friday 29 January at 9.00pm, £7.50-£15

Night Shift concerts to the Roundhouse for the first time, exploring Beethoven's *Seventh Symphony* and *Coriolan Overture*. The orchestra also joins forces with the Roundhouse Music Collective, a group of diverse musicians aged 16-25, directed by vibesman **Orphy Robinson** and pianist **Leon Michener**, for two eclectic sets mixing electronica, alternative classical, folk and funk in the Roundhouse Café (8pm and 10.15pm)

The Magnets

Saturday 30 January at 7.30pm, £12.50-£20

Many Hands

Sunday 31 January

Pianist **Rolf Hind** curates a day of 'Many Hands' stretching the possibilities of the piano with new works, world premiere performances, new collaborations, free events and mass pianos. Highlights include the return to the Roundhouse of **Katia and Marielle Labeque**, returning to the Roundhouse 37 years after they made their UK debut at the venue with a programme including Stravinsky's *Concerto for Two Pianos*, Satie's *Trois Morceaux en Forme de Poire* and Debussy's *En Blanc*.

An evening concert features a new commission from **Oscar Bettison** for musicians and audience, multiple hands and hand-played instruments, including toy pianos, pianos, percussion, keyboards, found objects (in fact whatever the audience has to hand or cares to bring along). The piano count multiplies throughout the evening, from **Poul Rouder's** dramatic duet *De Profundis* to **Jeremy Thurlow's** *A Sense of Touch* for four pianos; **Charlie Piper's** new acoustic arrangement of **John Adams' electronic classic** *Hoodoo Zephyr* for multiple pianos and **Rolf Hind's** *Sunnata*, for a grand piano, four uprights and a honky tonk. A special one-off collaboration brings together **Rolf Hind**, composer **Claudia Molitor**, award-winning dancer **Jonathan Goddard** and choreographer and Artistic Director of Rambert Dance Company **Mark Baldwin** for the premiere of *Tango Two*.

Free daytime events include accordionist **James Crabb** playing Sofia Gubaidulina's dramatic *Chaconne*, **Moritz Eggert's** theatrical *One Man Band* for piano, spoken and sung voice, and a concert featuring unusual machine-like pianos, and piano-like machines. Pianist **Leon Michener** and percussionist **Joby Burgess** put the audience through its paces in *You are the Band*, and new writing for the piano is showcased in *The Shape of Things to Come*.

The Shape of Things to Come at 2.30pm, Free

Piano-like Machines and Machine-like Pianos at 3.45pm, Free

You are the Band at 5.00pm, Free

Katia & Marielle Labeque at 6pm, 12.50-£20

Gubaidulina: Chaconne at 7.30pm, Free

Rolf Hind at 8pm, £12.50 - £20

www.roundhouseorg.uk

NOTES FOR EDITORS

About the Roundhouse

The Roundhouse is one of London's leading performing arts venues and, as a charity, it helps thousands of young people every year.

Following an extensive refurbishment in 2006, more than half a million people have been to music, theatre, dance and circus events, and 15,000 11–25 year olds have developed their talents in the Studios. The Roundhouse delivers creative projects for many of London's young people from all backgrounds including radio (with a dedicated radio station run by and for young people), music production, drama, poetry, TV, sound engineering, photography, VJ skills and much more.

About the Roundhouse Studios and Reverb

Reverb features collaborations between young artists from Roundhouse Studios and Main Space performers, with a particular focus on the work of the Roundhouse Choir and Roundhouse Collective. Roundhouse Choir is a vocal ensemble for young people aged 18 and over, which performs at the Roundhouse and in other arts venues across London. The Roundhouse Collective, a group of talented young musicians, champions new music at the Roundhouse, and features musicians from different musical backgrounds, styles of music and ranges of instruments.

Young people from the Studios are helping to deliver live streaming of all performances on the Roundhouse website and on Roundhouse Radio.

Partnerships

The Roundhouse is delighted to announce the following partnerships for Reverb:

Principal Production Partner - **Steinway & Sons** is lending some of its highest quality instruments and its leading technicians for the event.

Production Partner **PRG Lighting**, the world's leading stage lighting company.

Production Partner **XL Video Ltd** for providing projects and screens.

Media Partner - **Time Out**