



MEDIA INFORMATION: For Immediate Release

Psappha: Two performances as part of the New Music North West Festival:

- ***Wonderland* - music inspired by fantasy, surrealism and Led Zeppelin: Friday 17 November 2017 at 7.30pm, St Michael's, Ancoats, M4 5DG**
- **A special joint concert with the BBC Philharmonic showcasing North West composers: Tuesday 14 November 2017 at 7.30pm, The Studios, MediaCityUk, Salford Quays, Salford, M50 2EQ**

Wonderland concert:

Part of the New Music North West Festival *Wonderland* features the world première of Manchester-born composer, Philip Cashian's *Leonora Pictures*. Written to showcase Psappha's virtuosic musicians, the work takes its inspiration from the fantastical characters and landscapes of Lancashire-born surrealist artist Leonora Carrington.

Tim Williams, Psappha's Artistic Director says this of Cashian: "We are excited about this project as it breaks away from the traditional commissioner/composer relationship. We have worked with Phil through a series of workshops to support the development of the piece. Phil is from Manchester, making it timely and appropriate for us to work together given our Ancoats residency."

Composer Philip Cashian says this: "Over recent years a number of my pieces have taken the work of twentieth century British artists as inspiration. This has been a true collaboration with the musicians of Psappha; I have worked closely with them, trying out ideas and material over a period of four months."

The programme is conducted by Nicholas Kok and also includes: Brian Elias's *Geranos*, which imagines Theseus' dance after his escape from the Minotaur with music that mirrors the mazes of the Labyrinth, Richard Whalley's *Wonderland*, which celebrates the miracle of nature, and two works

by this year's Festival composer-in-residence, Mark-Anthony Turnage: *Grazioso!* and *Slide Stride* - inspired by Led Zeppelin's guitarist and the extrovert jazz of Fats Waller.

Before the concert, in the first of Psappa's new series: Demystifying New Music, audiences are invited to a special screening of Barrie Gavin's documentary film portrait of composer Brian Elias. 6.00pm - free to ticket holders.

Tickets for this concert: £5.50 to £16 (including concessions), available through [Psappa's website](#)

Joint Psappa/BBC Philharmonic concert:

In a special concert with the BBC Philharmonic on 14 November at The Studios, MediaCityUK, Psappa gives well-deserved second performances of the ensemble's 25th anniversary commissions: David Horne's rhapsodic and volatile *Resonating Instruments*, which entwines the ensemble around a commanding solo cimbalom; and Tom Coult's *Two Games and a Nocturne* a work that, in Coult's own words, "does what it says on the tin" with its two playful games followed by a gently swaying night-time reverie.

The BBC Philharmonic, conducted by Mark Heron, will perform Laura Bowler's *3811 Nautical Miles*, a new work by Larry Goves, Mario Duarte's *Metztli* and Grace-Evangeline Mason's *Kintsukouroi*.

Tickets for the concert are free but must be booked in advance through www.Skiddle.com (search on Psappa) or through Psappa's website www.psappa.com. Tickets will be allocated on a first come first served basis and are not available on the door.

ENDS

For further information, interviews and images contact: Shona Galletly PR on behalf of Psappa
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Notes to editors:

▪ Psappa is an Arts Council England (ACE) National Portfolio Organisation and a PRS for Music Foundation Talent Development Partner.

- Philip Cashian's new work is supported by the PRS for Music Foundation Composers' Fund.
- Formed in 1991 by Artistic Director Tim Williams, **Psappha** specialises in the performance of work by living composers and music of the 20th and 21st centuries. Psappha has an extensive and varied repertoire of hundreds of works and a reputation for technical assurance and interpretive flair.

Psappha is unique in its artistic offering as the North of England's only stand-alone, professional contemporary classical music ensemble. A National Portfolio Organisation for Arts Council England and a Talent Development Partner for PRS for Music Foundation, Psappha is based at St Michael's, the former Italian Chapel in Ancoats, an inner-city area of Manchester that was once the cradle of the Industrial Revolution.

Sir Peter Maxwell Davies was Psappha's Patron for 20 years until his death in March 2016 and the ensemble's inspiration. Psappha gave a special 80th birthday concert for Max in Manchester in 2014 and have performed much of his chamber repertoire including the award-winning music-theatre work *Mr Emmet Takes a Walk* which he wrote for Psappha in 2000.

Psappha has appeared throughout the UK, featuring regularly at most of the country's major music festivals and has made highly successful tours to North and South America, Australia, and throughout Europe, also appearing in the United States and Hong Kong through residencies at Princeton University and the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts. Most recently Psappha toured to the Jerusalem Festival in June 2017.

Psappha launched its own CD label in 2004 and has released seven recordings, most recently a unique, limited edition vinyl recording supervised by Peter Maxwell Davies of his iconic *Eight Songs for a Mad King*.

Psappha supports composers at all stages of their careers, offering a range of opportunities to work with its expert musicians as well as a number of online film-based resources; Composition Lab supports GCSE and A-level music and Psappha Kids supports the music curriculum for 7 to 11 year-olds.

Psappha continually seeks to develop new audiences and break fresh ground. Through its websites Psappha provides more than 120 free-to-view films of live performances. The ensemble's YouTube Channel had over 44,000 views in the last 12 months making Psappha one of Europe's leading providers of new music online.

- [Further information on Psappha](#)
- [Further information on New Music North West Festival](#)
- [Further information on the BBC Philharmonic](#)