

SCOTTISH FREELANCERS ENSEMBLE

THE NEW ERA OF CLASSICAL MUSIC

SFE

AUGUST
2020



PICTURE ABOVE:

Scottish Freelancers Ensemble performs our first socially distanced recording: Florence Price's 'Adoration', arranged for strings by Elaine Fine.

OUR STORY



THANK YOU

We wanted to start off our very first newsletter with a big thank you! What an amazing start to the launch - full of positive energy and support from all of our donors and patrons. We really could not make SFE happen without your generosity.

Since the video release of 'Adoration' on Youtube, we have raised £1200, 11 patrons and over 1600 views on the video. We hope this number continues to grow as we plan our next event so if you can, please do share the video with all your friends and family! You can find it on Youtube or our website: www.sfe.scot.

ACHIEVEMENTS SO FAR

- **£1,200 RAISED ON GOFUNDME.**
- **11 MONTHLY PATREONS**
- **1.6K VIEWS ON OUR FIRST YOUTUBE VIDEO PERFORMING ADORATION**
- **INTERVIEW AND AIRED ON BBC RADIO 3**

MISSION STATEMENT

SFE

Classical music must address its role in a world of rising inequality: our promise is to strive to narrow the widening gap between those who have little and those who have plenty.

We are a community of freelance orchestral musicians living and working in Scotland, whose members perform variously for every professional orchestra and classical ensemble in the country. Like others suffering during the coronavirus pandemic, our individual sources of income almost entirely disappeared overnight. Collectively we have noticed the lack of organised support for freelance musicians.

This project is for orchestral freelancers in Scotland who have lost their voice during this difficult time, and who wish to continue creating music together. Initially we will share our music through virtual platforms, with the intention of undertaking physical performances as Covid-19 guidelines are eased.

Classical music must address its role in a world of rising inequality: our promise is to strive to narrow the widening gap between those who have little and those who have plenty. We will play our part in tackling the often elitist and hierarchical culture of classical music, actively championing works by those under-represented in our industry, including BAME and female composers. The group's comparatively small and flexible line-up both opens up diverse repertoire and enables us to reach out to communities

who might not normally attend concert hall performances.

Our first video (premiered on 22 July 2020) features a 36-piece string ensemble, performing 'Adoration' by African-American composer Florence Price, arranged for strings by Elaine Fine. As well as being a beautiful composition, the name of this piece reflects the sentiment of feeling in the Scottish Freelancers Ensemble. We are a network of colleagues and personal friends, having worked together in numerous settings over the years. We are an organisation built on affection and respect.

We hope that by raising awareness of our current circumstances, this project will help to amplify our voices as a freelance community so that ultimately, we can begin to share music again.

We sincerely hope you will consider donating towards our cause.

"We hope that by raising awareness of our current circumstances, this project will help to amplify our voices as a freelance community so that ultimately, we can begin to share music again."

SFE co-founder and violinist Katrina Lee

AN EVENING WITH SFE

We are delighted to announce our next project 'An Evening with SFE'. Our online concert will premiere on the SFE youtube channel at 7:30pm on Wednesday 26th August.

The SFE musicians are currently hard at work recording their parts for an exciting new programme of music. A lot of research and thought went into choosing this repertoire, championing lesser known works by female composers and people of colour.

What to expect? Eighteenth-century composer Joseph Bologne's quartet is full of joyful verve, whilst German Romantic Emilie Mayer's is rich in luscious harmony and quickly changing shades of light and dark. Maddalena Laura Lombardini's music reflects her skill and charming Italian finesse as both composer and virtuosic violinist, and English composer Samuel Coleridge-Taylor's sound world sits firmly in the romantic era, laced with his own unique harmonic language. You can read more about his work in our monthly SFE FOCUS column.

We hope you can join us on the 26th of August, and enjoy this music as much as we do.

PROGRAMME PREVIEW

- JOSEPH BOLOGNE STRING QUARTET IN C MAJOR - FIRST MOVEMENT
- JOSEPH BOLOGNE STRING QUARTET IN C MAJOR - SECOND MOVEMENT
- EMILIE MAYER - STRING QUARTET - FIRST MOVEMENT
- LOMBARDINI STRING TRIO - SONATA I - TEMPO GIUSTO
- LOMBARDINI - STRING DUO - DUETTO 5 - ANDANTINO
- SAMUEL COLERIDGE-TAYLOR - STRING QUARTET - PRELUDE
- SAMUEL COLERIDGE-TAYLOR - DEEP RIVER ARRANGED FOR BASS INSTRUMENTS
- SAMUEL COLERIDGE-TAYLOR 'A TALE' - STRING ENSEMBLE ARRANGED BY AARON MCGREGOR

SCOTTISH P

OUR TEAM

SFE



Alice Allen

Co Founder

Alice Allen is from Banchory and works with many of Scotland's leading performing groups including the BBC Scottish symphony Orchestra, Scottish Ensemble, London Concertante, Concerto Caledonia, Scottish Chamber Orchestra and the Brodick Quartet. Alongside this she has played traditional scottish music on cello from a young age having studied with leading instrumentalist Natalie Haas. Alice has recorded with many leading folk artists including former BBC young traditional musician of the year Robyn Stapleton and MG ALBA Scots Singer of the year Iona Fyfe. She teaches Scottish Cello at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.



Katrina Lee

Co Founder

Katrina Lee is a violinist from Yorkshire, who began studying at the Kirklees Music School with Ralph Barker under the generous sponsorship of Stephen Bell. After winning numerous prizes in local competitions, Katrina decided to pursue a career in music and in 2010 received a scholarship to study at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland; graduating with first class honours in 2014 and masters of music in 2016 under the tutelage of Andrea Gajic. As well as orchestral playing, Katrina loves chamber music and is one half of duo GAIA with co-founder Alice Allen, Brodick String Quartet and the Escocia duo, a Violin and Classical Guitar duo. Her playing work has taken her to lots of countries including most recent the Lincoln Centre in New York. Other places include China, South America, Hong Kong, Canada, Iceland, Italy and Prague.



Dr Aaron McGregor

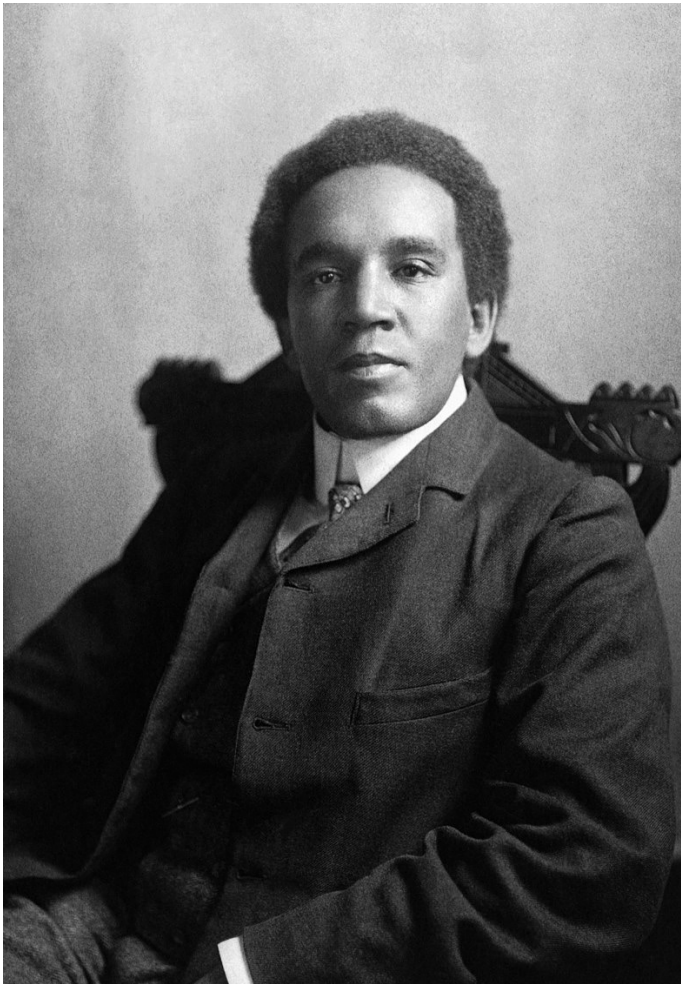
Development & Research Manager

Aaron McGregor is a violinist and researcher from Orkney. He recently completed a PhD at the University of Glasgow on the early history of the violin in Scotland. His performance background ranges across modern classical, baroque and trad styles, performing with groups such as Concerto Caledonia, Dunedin Consort, Ludus Baroque, RSNO, Ex Cathedra, Les Musiciens de Saint Julien (France), and the Evergreen Ensemble (Australia). At SFE, Aaron brings a wealth of experience in researching early and little-known repertoires, and in managing projects such as the West End Baroque concert series.

FREELANCERS ENSEMBLE

SFE FOCUS

SAMUEL COLERIDGE-TAYLOR



SFE committee member and violinist Aaron McGregor discusses arranging the work of the English composer Samuel Coleridge-Taylor.

One of my passions as a musician and an academic researcher is rediscovering works outside the standard classical canon. This corresponds well with the aims of SFE – founded not only to support freelance musicians, but to focus on works by under-represented groups in classical music, notably people of colour and female composers. It has been a privilege to explore a number of composers whose work deserves to be heard far more often: Joseph Bologne, Maddalena Lombardini, Florence Price, Amy Beach, and Marie Dare, to note but a few.

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor (1875-1912) is a composer I've long admired, but I've never had the opportunity to play his work, or indeed to have heard it performed publicly. Coleridge-Taylor was one of the leading musical lights of his generation – and should be ranked alongside the other greats of the English musical renaissance of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, such as Vaughan-Williams, Elgar, and Delius. Indeed, Coleridge-Taylor's most famous work, the triptych set of cantatas *Hiawatha* became one of the most performed concert works during his lifetime, and up until the 1940s was only rivalled by Handel's *Messiah* and Mendelssohn's *Elijah* in popular choral works. Coleridge-Taylor was born in London to an English mother (Alice Hare Martin) and a father from Sierra Leone (Dr. Daniel Hugh Taylor).

He studied violin and composition at the Royal College of Music, notably under the tuition of Charles Villiers Stanford, teacher of many of the most celebrated English composers in the early twentieth century, including Vaughan Williams, Frank Bridge, Rebecca Clarke, Gustav Holst, and John Ireland. In his short life (living only to 37), Coleridge-Taylor left a substantial body of work – notably several large-scale works for chorus and orchestra, many standalone orchestral works, a violin concerto written for Maud Powell, and a large body of songs, piano music, and chamber works. Coleridge-Taylor's music is firmly rooted in the late Romantic European style – his rich harmonic language has rightly been compared to Mahler – but he also took inspiration from Brahms and Dvořák in introducing folk elements to his work. Rather than European-based folk idioms, Coleridge-Taylor turned to African-American inspiration, setting many spirituals and black American folk songs, and with their melodic-harmonic inflection referenced in many of his concert works.

Whilst Coleridge-Taylor wrote several pieces for strings – a movement of his early work *Fantasiestücke* for string quartet is featured in our virtual concert – for our string ensemble piece we chose to arrange a work originally written for violin and piano. 'A Tale' is the first of three short pieces of Coleridge Taylor's *Hiawatha Sketches* op. 16, a set of salon pieces again taking inspiration from *Hiawatha*, the famed Native American leader. I came across the piece on a wonderful record of Coleridge-Taylor's violin and piano works by David Juritz and Michael Dussek.

The choice to play an arrangement for our full socially-distanced ensemble has some practical reasons. Our recordings involve the complicated task of stitching together recordings by 30+ musicians, all recorded in their individual homes. Playing to a click-track means

that certain things are difficult, if not impossible – changes of tempo or metre, or pieces depending on lots of rubato. The task of arranging Coleridge-Taylor's piece was actually very straightforward: its exuberant dance style fits well with our socially-distanced requirements, and the composer's rich harmonic language and use of larger textures are easily translated to five-part string writing.

SFE's recording of 'A Tale' by Coleridge-Taylor will be premiered in our virtual concert on 26 August 2020.

SPECIAL THANKS

We would like to extend a special thanks to our current sponsor through both Gofundme and Patreon accounts.



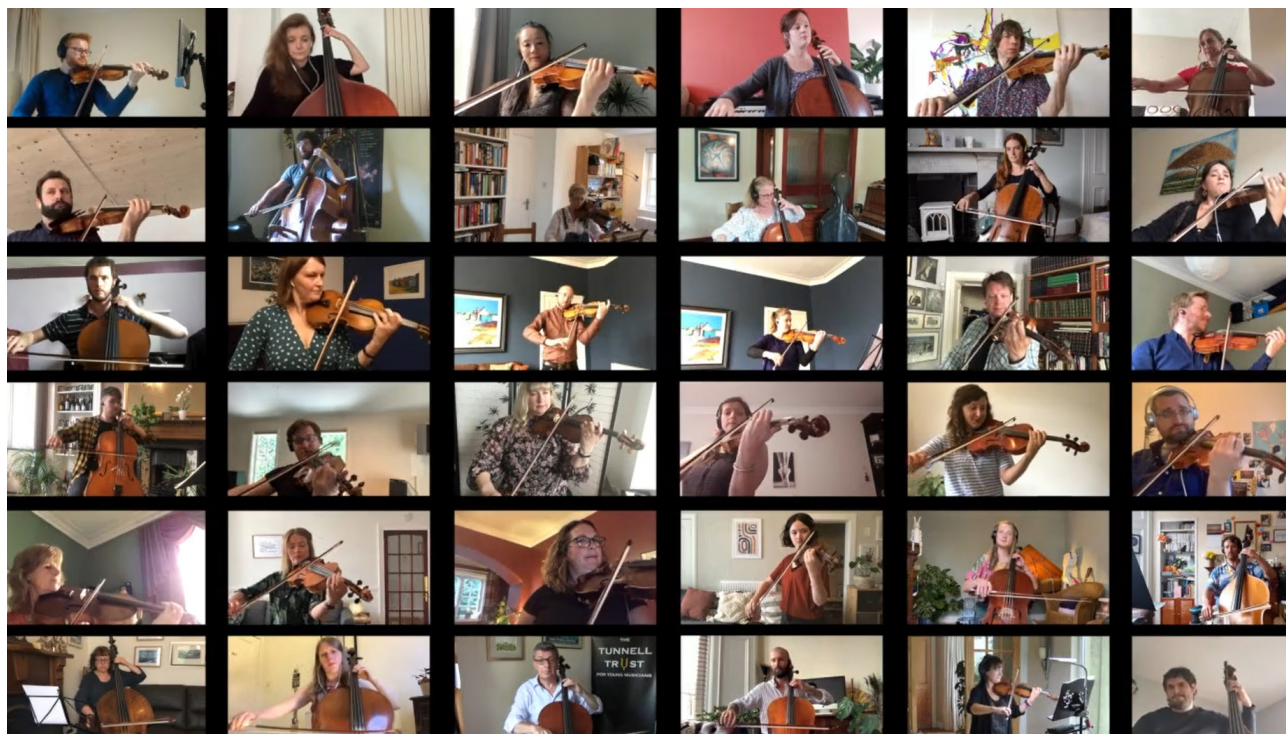
- Ralph Lee
- Roger Foxwell
- Philippa Wilson
- Patrick Hetherington
- Brid Hetherington
- Geoff Paul
- Josiah Walters
- Meredith McCracken
- Kirsten Hunter
- Anna Watson
- Tim cooper
- Liz Reeves
- Henry Allen
- James Munro
- Colin Brockie
- Bob Strachan
- Elaine Fine
- Roberto Kuhn Versluys
- Noel Burke
- Kathleen Lyle
- Alan Barr
- Zoe Yuile
- Adrian Lee

- Meg Peebles
- Matthew McAllister
- Liz Reeves
- Henry Allen
- Ken Peebles
- Liz Lane
- Paul Tracey
- Lynne Connell-Smith
- Fraser Sutherland
- Sean Shibe
- Kin
- Christopher Ffoulkes

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OUR MUSICIANS

SFE



VOLINS

Seonaid Aitken
Kirstin Drew
Feargus Hetherington
Catherine James
Katie Jackson
Katrina Lee
Liam Lynch
Aaron McGregor
Colin McKee
Kirsty Orton
Emma Pantel
Gillian Risi
Justine Watts
Stewart Webster
Abigail Young

CELLO

Alice Allen
Sonia Cromarty
Feargus Egan
Andrew Huggan
Jessica Kerr
Miranda Phythian-Adams
Elias Rooney
Laura Sergeant
Rosie Townhill

VIOLA

Liam Brolly
Emma Connell-Smith
Maggie Montgomery
Charlotte Penketh

BASS

Lynette Eaton
Dan Griffin
May Halyburton
Christopher Sergeant
Stewart Wilson

FREELANCERS ENSEMBLE

The logo consists of the letters 'SFE' in a bold, sans-serif font. The 'S' and 'E' are white, while the 'F' is orange. This logo is centered within a black square, which is itself centered on a larger orange background.

SFE