Spitalfields music festival

The Protecting Veil

by John Tavener

Sunday 6th July | Round Chapel Hackney

Solo Cello
Raphael Wallfisch

Violin I
Paris Rizas Pintzopoulos
Anna Zaffagni
Issac Williams
Iryna Marchuk
Grace Byrne
Sachin Beaman-Patel

Violin II
Christina Schuetz
Sophia Devenport Jackson
Louisa Broad
Mar Mitrovic Campos
Lilly Ho

Dancers
Kaya Blumenthal-Rothchild
Mary Sweetnam
Timea Szalontayova
Sandy Yip

Viola
Ivan Illingworth
Bianca Munzi
Dana Goncear
Anna Ferrarese

Cello
Morgan Key
Georgina Viu
Amelia Callard
Victoria Finstad

Double Bass
Max Lamprecht
Liza Bahlai
Nicholas Watt

Music Director
Nic Pendlebury

Director
Anna Morrissey

Assistant Director
Alyssa Carter

Assistant Movement Director
Cecilia Donaldson-King

Designer
Carla Goodman

Lighting Designer and Production Manager
Jonathan Samuels

Stage Manager
Imogen Adshead

Project Management
Caroline Ferry, Cheryl Horne

Performance Operations
Marianne Chapman, Vincent Chu

With thanks to Hilary Stainsby, Programme Leader MA/MFA Dance Performance, and the Trinity Laban Production and Costume Departments.

JOHN TAVENER
The Protecting Veil (1988)

The feast of the Protecting Veil commemorates the appearance of Mary, Mother of God to Saint Andrew (the fool-for-Christ), his disciple Epiphanius and their congregation in the Church of Blachernae, Constantinople in the early 10th century. During an all-night vigil to protect religious artifacts (Mary's robe, veil, and part of her belt) from a Saracen invasion Mary appeared high above them surrounded by a host of saints. She prayed for their safety and cast a protecting veil over the gathered community protecting them from enemies both visible and invisible.

Inspired by this miraculous event Tavener wrote The Protecting Veil capturing the cosmic power of the Mother of God, her voice and life represented by the cello which never stops singing throughout. The music and our staged production is told in eight continuous chapters depicting various moments of her life; birth, annunciation, incarnation, the death of her son and her lament at the cross, his resurrection and her dormition.

Tavener describes his work as a "lyrical icon in sound". Our work is a visual representation of that sound which we hope captures the mystic spirituality of this stunningly beautiful piece of music and speaks to the power of motherhood and the giving of life and its subsequent journey.

Nic Pendlebury

Trinity Laban is grateful to the Jerwood Foundation for its generous support of The Protecting Veil project

Raphael Wallfisch – Cello
Raphael Wallfisch is one of the world's most celebrated cellists performing on the international stage, renowned for his curiosity and commitment to exploring and broadening the full range of repertoire for the instrument, and drawing on a rich musical heritage. Having honed his craft studying

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with distinguished tutors including Russian cellist Gregor Piatigorsky, Wallfisch has played with many of the great orchestras worldwide and at major festivals such as the BBC Proms, Edinburgh and Aldeburgh.

Wallfisch has an extensive discography, having recorded nearly every major cello work, and has worked with leading British composers including Sir Peter Maxwell Davies and John Tavener. He also has a long-standing and distinguished duo with pianist John York and tours with his very successful piano trio, Trio Shaham Erez Wallfisch.

With a passion for teaching, London-born Wallfisch is also in demand globally as a respected educator. He has taught at Zurich Hochschule der Kunst in Switzerland and is currently a professor at Royal College of Music. In his new role as International Chair of Cello and Chamber Music at Trinity Laban, Wallfisch delivers one-to-one teaching on the conservatoire's selective Artist Diploma programme, as well as leading masterclasses and chamber music coaching.
www.raphaelwallfisch.com

Nic Pendlebury – Music Director
Nic Pendlebury has been at the forefront of contemporary music for over thirty years and was the founder and violist of the internationally acclaimed Smith Quartet, pioneering the development of the string quartet genre commissioning over 200 new works for the group working with many of the world's most renown composers and musicians. The Quartet performed in major festivals throughout the world and recorded albums for BMG, Decca, Sony and Signum and were featured in several BBC programmes including the documentaries Classic Quartets at the BBC and A Music Memorial Film from Auschwitz which won a BAFTA and International Grammy. In more recent years Nic's pioneering spirit has seen him create a new repertoire for the electric viola not only commissioning new works but also transcribing existing works from the likes of Terry Riley and Steve Reich who, of Nic's Electric Counterpoint transcription commented – "I want to thank Nic for a beautiful surprise. I was moved to tears." His first e. viola album Multiple was released on the Orchid Classics label in 2022.

Nic is also Head of Strings at Trinity Laban where he leads one of the most vibrant departments in Europe. He conducts several ensembles including the String Ensemble with whom he has toured throughout the UK and Europe commissioning and collaborating with a diverse range of artists. In 2018 Nic was awarded the title of professor for his contribution to the arts and education.
www.nicpendlebury.com

Anna Morrissey – Director
Anna works as a director, movement director and choreographer working across theatre, opera and dance. Her work has been shown on West End stages, The National, RSC and internationally. Direction credits include Last Days (Linbury Theatre, Royal Opera House and LA Philharmonic - as co-director), Barber of Seville (Nevill Holt Opera and Sage Gateshead), Carmen (Waterperry Opera Festival), A Midsummer Night's Dream (Nevill Holt Opera), Beyond the Deepening Shadows (Tower of London), Movement direction and choreography credits include London Tide, Middle,Translations, ANNA, World of Extreme Happiness, (National Theatre), Olivier award-winning Emilia (Shakespeare's Globe, West End), The Winter's Tale, Pericles, Anthony and Cleopatra, (RSC), Imperium and Queen Anne (West End), Richard III (Almeida), King Charles III (Almeida, West End, Broadway), Jephtha, Rigoletto (Royal Opera House), Current Rising (Linbury Theatre, Royal Opera House), Amadigi (Garsington Opera), Macbeth (WNO/ NI Opera)
https://www.annamorrissey.co.uk/

Carla Goodman – Designer
Carla trained in Nottingham, London and New York.
Design credits include: The Book of Will (Queen's Theatre Hornchurch, Octagon Theatre Bolton, Shakespeare North Playhouse); Julius Caesar (Guildhall); Footloose, Our House, A Change of Seasons (Trinity Laban); Guy Fawkes (York Theatre Royal); Bystanders (Cardboard Citizens); Martha, Josie and the Chinese Elvis (Stephen Joseph Theatre); Lunatic 19's (Finborough Theatre); Lose Yourself (Sherman Theatre); Don Juan Comes Back from the War (RADA); Romeo & Juliet (Orange Tree); Wolves Are Coming For You (Pentabus/ Everyman Theatre); Joy (Stratford East); Pride and Prejudice (Nottingham Playhouse and York Theatre Royal); Looking at Lucian (Theatre Royal Bath); Gabriel (Richmond Theatre and UK Tour); Ariodante (Royal Academy of Music); Heartbreak Hotel (The Jetty, Greenwich); As the Crow Flies (Pentabus & Salisbury Playhouse); Miss Nightingale (The Vaults); How to Date a Feminist, Kitchen to Measure (Arcola Theatre); Rise (Old Vic New Voices).
www.carla-goodman.com

Jonathan Samuels – Lighting Designer
Jonathan received his professional training at LAMDA and has been working in theatre since 1993. After starting his career at Sadler's Wells Theatre, Jonathan moved on to become Chief Electrician at The Place Theatre and then Head of Lighting at RADA. Jonathan became a freelance Lighting Designer, Production Manager and Theatre Consultant in 2004. He has been lighting dance, theatre and event productions for the last 30 years.

Recently Jonathan has been working with Trinity Laban CMD, Ambika P3, The Old Diorama Arts Centre and artist Luke Jerram.
www.freelance.samprojects.co.uk/

This production is made by arrangement with CHESTER MUSIC LTD.