

Seasonal Quartet

New European Ensemble ft. Ali Smith

Thursday 2nd July | The Dutch Church, Austin Friars

Anna Thorvaldsdóttir Spectra (excerpt)

Reading from *Autumn*

Kate Moore Fall Falling

Reading from *Autumn*

Anna Thorvaldsdóttir Spectra (excerpt)

Reading from *Winter*

Alice Yeung Inabsolute Zero

Reading from *Winter*

Peter Maxwell Davies A Sad Paven for These Distracted Tymes

INTERVAL

Seung Won Oh In Spring: Echoes of a Silent Cry

Reading from *Spring*

Kinan Azmeh Essays on Solitude

Reading from *Summer*

Sara Zamboni Hymn to an English Summer

Felicia van den End	Flute
James Meldrum	Clarinet
Hanna Shybayeva	Piano
Rada Ovcharova	Violin 1
Alva Holm	Violin 2
Emlyn Stam	Viola
Willem Stam	Cello
Ali Smith	Narrator

The New European Ensemble (NEuE) tells stories that deepen, challenge, and inspire our understanding of the human experience and the world around us through the power of new music. Bringing music together with film, literature, theatre, dance, and visual arts, the ensemble creates interdisciplinary projects and collaborations. NEuE has worked with a wide range of partners, including Edward Snowden, Opera2Day, the National Theatre, Amnesty International, and the International Criminal Court.

Founded in 2009 by passionate musicians from across Europe, NEuE is known for its imaginative programming and high-quality performances. Widely regarded as one of the Netherlands' leading ensembles, it received the Kersjes Prize in 2019. Composers including Mark Anthony Turnage, Anna Thorvaldsdóttir, and Martijn Padding have created new works for the ensemble.

NEuE performs internationally and works closely with emerging artists under its motto: "Dare to listen, dare to discover."

As a Scottish novelist, playwright, and journalist, **Ali Smith** is widely regarded as one of the most distinctive and influential voices in contemporary English-language literature. She studied English Literature at the University of Aberdeen and later pursued doctoral research on modernism in American and Irish literature at the University of Cambridge.

Smith published her first collection of short stories, *Free Love and Other Stories*, in 1995 and has since written regularly for publications including *The Guardian*, *New Statesman*, and *The Times Literary Supplement*. A member of the Royal Society of Literature, she has received numerous literary awards and nominations. Her acclaimed novels include *How to Be Both*, winner of several major prizes, and *The Accidental*.

Between 2016 and 2020, Smith published her celebrated *Seasonal Quartet* – *Autumn*, *Winter*, *Spring*, and *Summer* – further establishing her as one of the leading figures in contemporary literature.

Kate Moore is an internationally acclaimed Australian-Dutch composer, sound artist, and musician known for creating immersive musical worlds that blend acoustic and electroacoustic sound. Based in the Netherlands since 2002, her work explores themes of nature, architecture, resonance, and the physical experience of sound.

Her music has been performed internationally by leading ensembles and orchestras including AskolSchönberg, Bang on a Can, Slagwerk Den Haag, and the Netherlands Radio Philharmonic Orchestra, with performances at major venues such as Carnegie Hall, the Sydney Opera House, and the Concertgebouw Amsterdam.

Moore received the prestigious Matthijs Vermeulen Prize in 2017 for The Dam and the Gieskes-Strijbis Podium Prize in 2022. Her distinctive body of work, including pieces such as Sacred Environment, has established her as one of the leading voices in contemporary music.

Alice Hoi-ching Yeung is a Swiss-based composer-performer from Hong Kong. She works in the field of contemporary music composition, théâtre musical, videography, experimental vocals, audiovisual installation, and any grey areas in between.

Yeung's music has been internationally featured in professional presentations, such as La Biennale di Venezia, De Doelen Rotterdam (Stichting Rizoom), Hong Kong Sinfonietta, New European Ensemble, Dutch National Opera & Ballet, Gaudeamus Festival, Orkest de Ereprijs, Les Percussions de Strasbourg, ICTUS Ensemble, among others.

Her works are prone to show what is fun for her to do, and bring her whimsical mind to life. Besides her music, her short film 'sans-visage' was screened in Concours Nicati 2025 as a finalist.

Seung-Won Oh is a South Korean composer whose work transcends traditional musical boundaries and explores the relationship between sound, space, ritual, and human interaction. Described by De Volkskrant as "a name to remember," her music combines elements of Eastern and Western traditions with a distinctive contemporary voice.

Performed throughout Europe, North America, and Asia, her works have been presented by leading orchestras, ensembles, and festivals around the world. A recurring theme in her compositions is the tension between individual expression and collective experience, often creating dramatic musical landscapes in which movement, theatre, and audience interaction play an important role.

Alongside her composing practice, Oh is active as an educator and collaborator, continuing to expand the possibilities of contemporary music through innovative and interdisciplinary work.

Sara Zamboni is an Italian composer, pianist, and creative coach based in the Netherlands. Her work creates musical ecosystems that bring together instrumental, electronic, and vocal practices, often crossing disciplinary boundaries through collaborations with theatre, dance, movement research, and contemporary performance.

Zamboni's compositions have been performed internationally across Europe and Asia, and her work

explores the relationship between sound, imagination, and physical experience. She has been selected for major international programs and festivals, including the Royaumont Academy, and was nominated for the Dutch submission to the ISCM World New Music Days.

Alongside her work as a composer, she founded the experimental label Cytokine Records and is active as a teacher and creative coach at the Royal Conservatoire in The Hague, supporting new generations of artists and interdisciplinary makers.

This concert is generously supported by the Bliss Trust, the Hinrichsen Foundation, the Finzi Trust, and the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

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