

**Manchester Camerata, Dobrinka Tabakova and Hugo Ticciati Present the World Premiere of *The Patience Of Trees* at MIF 21**

**Three world premieres will be staged as part of a site-specific concert.**

**A new work by composer Dobrinka Tabakova is at the heart of this intimate concert inspired by the healing potential and power of the natural world - performed live with Manchester Camerata, one of the UK’s most exciting and versatile orchestras.**

A whisper of melody, played by a lone violin, gradually grows and shapes into the stirring sweep of a full string section – echoing, perhaps, the resolute journey of a seed from the Earth towards the Heavens. This is *The Patience of Trees*, a new concerto for violin, strings and percussion by acclaimed composer Dobrinka Tabakova.

Devised by Hugo Ticciati, designed by Amanda Stoodley, with lighting design by Andy Purves and performed with Manchester Camerata, the programme also features Tabakova’s reflective *Frozen River Flows*, Steve Reich’s pulsing *New York Counterpoint*, *Vulpes Vulpes* a new commission by Paul Saggers the winner of the O/Modernt Composition Award and *Todo Era Vuelo En Nuestra Tierra* by Julieta Szewach who received Special Distinction. Together, the works combine into a timely meditation on nature and the city – and a reflection of sorts on our welcome emergence from our last year.

**Dobrinka Tabakova** said: “*The concept for this new work began when Hugo Ticciati first approached me to write a concerto for him, while we were both artists in residence at the Davos Summer Festival in 2018. I began sketching more intensely, just as the pandemic forced global lock downs. I was reading Max Adams’ 'The Wisdom of Trees' and Peter Wohlleben’s 'The Hidden Life of Trees' as well as poetry which complemented the strong desire to connect even more deeply with nature, as we were isolated from each other.*”

**Hugo Ticciati** said: “*The moment I heard the music of Dobrinka Tabakova I was drawn by its contemplative immediacy. Her music’s elemental nature perfectly evokes the journey of a solitary tree as it looks within to discover that it is in fact connected to everything - a beautiful metaphor of our own journey of searching.*”

**Bob Riley Chief Executive**, Manchester Camerata said: "*Our long relationship and collaboration with MIF is something we are really proud of. Together, we get the opportunity to re-imagine, dream big, and conjure new ways of experiencing music, and most importantly to have such a great platform on which to welcome back our audiences and invite in new ones to a live concert in our home town. This time we have the great privilege of premiering a new piece written by Dobrinka. The orchestra love her music and style and we can’t wait to play this new piece, which is all the more special because it is with our great friend and the mercurial spirit which is Hugo Ticciati*."

Manchester International Festival Artistic Director & Chief Executive, **John McGrath** says*: “MIF has always been a Festival like no other – with almost all the work being created especially for us in the months and years leading up to each Festival edition. But who would have guessed two years ago what a changed world the artists making work for our 2021 Festival would be working in?*

*From legendary Argentinian artist Marta Minujin’s decision to give the world’s most famous clock, Big Ben, a temporary new home in Manchester to Cephas Williams’ celebratory activist artwork Portrait of Black Britain, the ways in which artists have used the opportunity of the Festival to reflect on life now has been inspiring. Our programme is very different to the one we had almost-fully planned at the start of last year, but I hope it feels urgent and right.”*

*“We hope MIF21 will provide a time and place to reflect on our world now, to celebrate the differing ways we can be together, and to emphasise, despite all that has happened, the importance of our creative connections – locally and globally.”*

The winner of the O/Modernt Composition Award 2021 was announced on Tuesday 3 May. The jury for this year’s award was: Tobias Broström, Jill Jarman, Fabián Panisello Matthew Peterson, Caroline Pether Morten Ryelund, Albert Schnelzer Dobrinka Tabakova and Mark Tatlow.

**Creative Team**

Curator / Composer: Dobrinka Tabakova

Curator/Solo

Violin: Hugo Ticciati

Orchestra: Manchester Camerata

Designer: Amanda Stoodley

Lighting Designer: Andy Purves

***The Patience of Trees is commissioned by Manchester International Festival, O/Modernt, Orquestra de Câmara de Cascais e Oeiras and Musik i Dalarna. Produced by Manchester International Festival***

***Competition winners supported by O/Modernt and Manchester International Festival***

**ENDS**

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**NOTES TO EDITORS**

**Listings information**

**Patience of Trees**

**Friday 16 July, 7.30pm**

Manchester Central

£20

**About Manchester International Festival**

Manchester International Festival (MIF) is an artist-led festival of original, new work and special events reflecting the spectrum of performing arts, visual arts and popular culture. MIF21 takes place from 1 - 18 July 2021.

Staged every two years in Manchester, MIF has commissioned, produced and presented world premieres by artists including Marina Abramović, Damon Albarn, Laurie Anderson, Björk, Boris Charmatz, Jeremy Deller, Idris Elba and Kwame Kwei-Armah, Elbow, Philip Glass and Phelim McDermott, David Lynch, Wayne McGregor, Steve McQueen, Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy, Yoko Ono, Thomas Ostermeier, Maxine Peake, Punchdrunk, Skepta, The xx, Robert Wilson and Zaha Hadid Architects.

These and other world-renowned artists from different art forms and backgrounds create dynamic, innovative and forward-thinking new work, staged in venues across Greater Manchester – from theatres, galleries and concert halls to railway depots, churches and car parks. MIF works closely with venues, festivals and other cultural organisations globally, whose financial and creative input helps to make many of these projects possible and ensures that work made at MIF goes on to be seen around the world.

MIF supports a year-round Creative Engagement programme, bringing opportunities for people from all backgrounds, ages and from all corners of the city to get involved during the Festival and year-round, as volunteers, as participants in shows, through skills development and a host of creative activities, such as Festival in My House.

MIF will also run The Factory, the new landmark cultural space currently being built in the heart of Manchester and designed by the internationally-renowned architect Ellen van Loon of Rem Koolhaas’ OMA. The Factory will commission, present and produce one of Europe’s most ambitious and adventurous year-round creative programmes, featuring bold new work from the world’s greatest artists and offering a space to create, invent and play.

Attracting up to 850,000 visitors annually, The Factory will add up to £1.1 billion to the economy over a decade and create up to 1,500 direct and indirect jobs. Its pioneering programme of skills, training and engagement will benefit local people and the next generation of creative talent from across the city, whilst apprenticeships and trainee schemes are already underway during the construction phase.

MIF’s Artistic Director and Chief Executive is John McGrath.

[mif.co.uk](https://mif.co.uk)

**Dobrinka Tabakova** is among the most influential current composers, named one of the ‘10 Young Composers Who Are Redefining Classical Music’ (by Culture Trip, USA), following the 2014 Grammy nomination of her debut profile album String Paths on ECM Records. In 2017 she was appointed composer-in-residence with the BBC Concert Orchestra.

Born in the historic town of Plovdiv, Bulgaria, Tabakova has lived in London since she was 11. She graduated from the Guildhall School of Music & Drama and holds a PhD in composition from King’s College London.

Her music has been described as ‘exciting, deeply moving’ (Washington Times), with ‘glowing tonal harmonies and grand, sweeping gestures [which] convey a huge emotional depth’ (The Strad). She has been commissioned by the Royal Philharmonic Society, BBC Radio 3, Sorel Organisation USA and the European Broadcasting Union.

Recent residencies have included working with the MDR Symphony Orchestra in Leipzig and the Davos Summer Festival. Her orchestral work Orpheus’ Comet opened the 50th anniversary celebrations of the Music Exchanges of Euroradio and the major commission of her double piano concerto Together Remember to Dance was premiered by Arthur and Lucas Jussen at Amsterdam’s Muziekgebouw. In 2019, Tabakova’s Timber & Steel was premiered at a special Prom concert celebrating 150 years since the birth of the festival’s co-founder Sir Henry Wood.

Forthcoming projects include a large-scale choral commission for the St Louis Chamber Chorus, the set work for the ARD String Quartet competition 2022 in Munich and the completion of a Concerto for Orchestra as part of Tabakova’s residency with the BBC Concert Orchestra.

As violinist, leader and conductor, **Hugo Ticciati** imbibes all possible forms of creativity, whether it be performing world premieres in the most prestigious venues around the world, improvising with monks in India, or devising innovative programmes for O/Modernt Orchestra and Festival which he founded in 2011. Alongside his passion to discover and learn from the music of previous epochs and non-western traditions, Hugo embraces the world of contemporary music. To date, over forty works have been written for and dedicated to him by a host of eminent composers, including Erkki-Sven Tüür, Pēteris Vasks, Victoria Borisova-Ollas, Albert Schnelzer and Dobrinka Tabakova.

As the Artistic Director of his own O/Modernt Orchestra, and Artistic Partner with Manchester Camerata, Hugo collaborates regularly with Kremerata Baltica, Basel Chamber Orchestra, Scottish Chamber Orchestra, Lithuanian Chamber Orchestra, Tallinn Chamber Orchestra and Orchestra da Camera di Perugia. Most recently, he has been invited to work with Swedish Chamber Orchestra, Australian Chamber Orchestra, Franz Liszt Chamber Orchestra and Vienna Chamber Orchestra.

Gaining a growing reputation for his innovative and adventurous programming, Hugo is frequently asked to devise and present concerts and festivals with a unique twist. This has led to ongoing collaborations with Wigmore Hall and Kings Place in London. Pursuing his passion for chamber music, Hugo has developed special artistic partnerships with members of the O/Modernt Soloists as well as other internationally renowned artists, notably Evelyn Glennie, Anne Sofie von Otter, Nils Landgren, Steven Isserlis, Angela Hewitt and Olli Mustonen.

Hugo frequently gives master-classes and lectures on music-related subjects both at Scandinavia’s leading specialist music school Lilla Akademien, where he holds the post of Deputy Artistic Director, and other educational institutions around the world.

**Manchester Camerata** is a registered charity working and performing in Manchester and worldwide since 1972.

Be it opening Glastonbury festival in front of 40,000 people or working intimately in care homes with people living with dementia, we believe in the transformative and connecting nature of music. That connection drives us, and we work with the best creative talent to make this happen.

With our live performances, we play music with no boundaries. From an orchestral rave performed in isolation to over one million people during the Covid-19 pandemic, to touring Mozart in the most beautifully intimate concert halls, or re-imagining classical music with electronic producers at the top of their game, we believe great music is great music and we present this to you at the highest level.

To achieve our artistic excellence and forward-thinking ethos, collaboration is at the heart of everything we do. Led by our visionary Music Director, Gábor Takács-Nagy, we collaborate with diverse international artists, from New Order to Martha Argerich to Aziz Ibrahim to Lewis Capaldi.

Collaboration is just as evident in our award-winning health and wellbeing work. Our specialist Camerata in the Community team works with world-leading researchers and practitioners in the field of dementia to deliver impactful and meaningful music therapy. This sector-leading approach has led us to teach best practice in Japan, Taiwan and Sweden with the British Council through years of experience and research in association with the University of Manchester. <https://manchestercamerata.co.uk/>

**O/Modernt** (Swedish for ‘Un/Modern’) is the innovative concept devised a decade ago by violinist, conductor and artistic director Hugo Ticciati. Combining old and new in unexpected ways, O/Modernt celebrates connectivity in and through the arts, aiming to bring about a heightened awareness of connections that span times, cultures and peoples. Our international programme of activities is focused on exploring artistic links between contemporary culture and the cultures of previous epochs, bringing together people from all walks of life, and re/connecting people with themselves by promoting active, imaginative engagement with music and the arts. Outward-looking, inclusive and passionate about breaking down boundaries, O/Modernt’s philosophy is encapsulated in our motto, borrowed from John Cage: Invent the past. Revise the future.

Taking the past as an inexhaustible source of inspiration for artists working in every creative field, the O/Modernt spirit of reinvention finds expression in an expansive array of performances, events and projects.

**Musik i Dalarna** is a regional music foundation with a mission. This mission, as well as most of the financing, comes from the Swedish National Council for Cultural Affairs and Region Dalarna. Our purpose is to support, stimulate and develop the musical life of Dalarna. Musik i Dalarna initiates, produces and promotes musical events all year around.

Musik i Dalarna works in two areas, the small Symphony Orchestra Dalasinfoniettan and Live music in schools.

**The Cascais & Oeiras Chamber Orchestra** is an ensemble funded by the Cascais and Oeiras Council Chambers and by the Portuguese Ministry of Culture through Direção Geral das Artes, a governmental entity for the management and promotion of Culture and Art.

OCCO is considered today as one of best ensembles of its kind in Portugal, and quickly assumed an essential cultural role in the boroughs of Oeiras and Cascais. The orchestra has a season of more than 60 concerts per year, also performing at many venues throughout Portugal and presenting various concerts abroad. OCCO has a core of 20 strings and a fixed group of wind musicians, which grants OCCO to form a full orchestra whenever required.

Within its extensive and comprehensive repertoire, OCCO includes works of composers from various eras and styles, always promoting Portuguese composers. But it is also part of OCCO's agenda to promote young composers, frequently performing pieces less known to the audience, some of which are premiered in Portugal.

OCCO has performed in national music festivals such as in Estoril, Coimbra, Guimarães, Mafra and Leiria. It also represented Portuguese music in the General Assembly of European Festivals in Estoril, September 1998, in Brussels, 2002, and in Valência, 2006. OCCO received soloists such as Paul Badura-Skoda, Lidia Mordkovitch, Alberto Lysy, Márcio Carneiro, Ana Bela Chaves, Darco Brlek, Boyan Vodenicharov and Maria Luísa Cortada, among others.

OCCO has also been directed by distinguished conductors such as Manuel Ivo Cruz (Portugal), Jorge Gomez Perez (USA), Bernardo Adam Ferrero (Spain), Elias Voudouris (Greece) and Giuseppe Lanzetta (Italy), among others.

OCCO was founded by Maestro Nikolay Lalov, who is its current Conductor and Artistic Director.