

Press Release

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Britten Sinfonia's *At Lunch* series starts 2018 with a generous serving of chamber music from the past four centuries.

New commission for recorded voices and string trio by Leo Chadburn, performed alongside music by Biber, Mozart and Philip Glass.

23- 26 January – Cambridge; Wigmore Hall London; Norwich

A new work by **Leo Chadburn** for recorded voices and string trio is on the menu in the opening *Britten Sinfonia At Lunch* concert of 2018. Chadburn's work, ***My Five Loops for the Bathyscaphe***, co-commissioned with Wigmore Hall, is inspired by a journey to deepest part of the ocean, the Mariana Trench, by oceanographers Jacques Piccard and Don Walsh on 23rd January 1960 (exactly 58 years before the world premiere of Chadburn's work). Their vessel for the five-hour descent was the *Bathyscaphe Trieste*, a tiny sphere built to withstand the enormous pressure of the water. Chadburn comments: *"My Five Loops' are intended to give the impression of near stasis, analogous to the emptiness of the deep, dark ocean where sunlight is unable to penetrate and the temperature approaches freezing point. While the ensemble plays this motionless music, the recorded voices act as timekeepers, speaking numbers, fragments of scientific text and lines derived from Piccard's poetic recollection of the experience"*.

Performed by an exceptional trio of Britten Sinfonia Principals - **Jacqueline Shave** (violin); **Caroline Dearnley** (cello) and **Huw Watkins** (piano), with the recorded voices of Chadburn and **Gemma Saunders** – *My Five Loops* features in the "At Lunch" concerts alongside music spanning 350 years: **Biber's *Anunciacion Sonata***, **Mozart's *Piano Trio in B flat***, **Arvo Pärt's *Spiegel im Spiegel*** and **Philip Glass's *Orbit***.

Performance dates and booking details

Tuesday 23 January – West Road Concert Hall, Cambridge

Tickets - £9, £3 under 18s and students www.cambridgelivetrust.co.uk/tickets

Wednesday 24 January – Wigmore Hall, London

Tickets - £13 (£5 under 18s and students) www.wigmore-hall.org.uk

Friday 26 January – St Andrew's Hall, Norwich

Tickets - £9, £3 under 18s and students www.brittensinfonia.com 01603 630 0000

About Leo Chadburn

Leo Chadburn is a composer and performer of experimental and electronic music, 'avant-pop' and music for the gallery. His unpredictable music has been broadcast on BBC Radio 1, 3 and 6 Music. His most recent works are preoccupied with the ideas of 'found text' and the musicality of speaking voices, including *The*

Indistinguishables (2014) for Quatour Bozzini, *Affix Stamp Here* (2016) for EXAUDI and *Freezywater* (2016) for Apartment House, which won a 2016 BASCA British Composer Award. As a vocalist, he has presented his own work internationally, under his own name and the pseudonym Simon Bookish, in works such as *RED & BLUE* (2015), a solo performance based on the Cold War correspondence between Margaret Thatcher and Ronald Reagan. His collaborative work with visual artists including Jennet Thomas, Cerith Wyn Evans and Marianna Simnett has been shown at Matt's Gallery, the Irish Museum of Modern Art, Whitstable Biennale and Serpentine Gallery. His discography includes four solo albums besides remixes for Owen Pallett, Grizzly Bear and Seb Rochford. www.simonbookish.com.

About Britten Sinfonia At Lunch

Britten Sinfonia's At Lunch Series offers a chance to hear the orchestra's principals – some of the finest chamber musicians in the UK – in more intimate repertoire. As with all the orchestra's work, concerts offer surprising juxtapositions, with a newly commissioned work at its centre. This season the orchestra has commissioned new works from distinctive voices of a new generation of international composers, and for the first time, jazz and electronics feature on the lunchtime menu. Still to come in the 2017-2018 season are a new piano quartet by Pulitzer Prize-winning American composer **Caroline Shaw** (17-20 April) and a new work for Britten Sinfonia Academy, featuring talented young musicians from the East of England, by UK composer **Tom Coult** (12 & 13 July). All concerts start at 1pm, last an hour and serve up a musical feast without breaking the bank, with commissioned composers discussing their work in free pre and post-concert events in London (12.15pm) and Cambridge (2.15pm).

Full details www.brittensinfonia.com

Further press information from: Sophie Cohen on 020 7482 3466 07711 551 787
sophie@sophiecohenartspr.com