

THE  
MULTI-STORY  
ORCHESTRA

**THE MULTI-STORY ORCHESTRA**

**TUESDAY 14 & WEDNESDAY 15 SEPTEMBER**

**Our Future In Your Hands**

**Kate Whitley – Composer**

**Laura Attridge – Poet**

Welcome to the premier performances of Our Future In Your Hands at Bold Tendencies!

Our Future In Your Hands was inspired by the seismic global youth movement against climate change, championed by Greta Thunberg.

This is our first large-scale performance in over two years, bringing together our orchestra, choir and 3 opera soloists. It is an epic piece imagining the world recovering from climate change and being reborn again in the future – and an optimistic vision that we think we all need at the moment!

There are two choirs – one representing the voice of anger and protest, and one the voice of future optimism and change. The three soloists portray an astronaut, looking down to Earth from space and seeing the world as a whole for the first time, a man deciding whether or not to have a child, and a woman struggling to find water and survive in an apocalyptic future. Through their stories and the choir's protest songs, the piece takes us on a journey from terror and destruction to the imagining of how the world could be if we survived and recovered.

# **BOLD TENDENCIES**

**Christopher Stark — Conductor**

## **Soloists**

**Sarah-Jane Lewis — Soprano**

**Kate Howden — Alto**

**Darren Jeffery — Bass-baritone**

## **The Multi-Story Orchestra**

### **1ST VIOLIN**

Fran Barritt (leader)

Ellie Corr

Ariel Lang

Anna Brigham

Michael Jones

Beatrice Philips

Zanete Uskane

### **2ND VIOLIN**

Oliver Cave

Fra Rustumji

Willemijn Steenbakkers

Lucy Mckay

Liza Tyun

### **VIOLA**

Jenny Coombes

Matt Maguire

Jenny Ames

Zami Jalil

Paul Beckett

### **CELLO**

Corentin Chassard

Jane Lindsay

Abi Hyde-Smith

Hannah Sloane

### **DOUBLE BASS**

Siret Lust

Vera Pereira

### **FLUTE/PICCOLO**

Hannah Grayson

### **OBOE**

Mary Noden

# BOLD TENDENCIES

## **CLARINET**

Anna Hashimoto

## **BASSOON**

Joe Qiu

## **CONTRABASSOON**

Gordon Laing

## **HORN**

Finlay Bain

## **TRUMPET 1**

Catherine Knight

## **TRUMPET 2**

Brendan Musk

## **BASS TROMBONE**

Alexander Kelly

## **TUBA**

Hannah Mbuya

## **PERCUSSION**

Elsa Bradley

Jon French

## **THE MULTI-STORY CHOIR**

Kender Primary

Hollydale Primary

St Mary Magdalene

Harris Academy Peckham

# BOLD TENDENCIES

**Our Future In Your Hands** was commissioned by the Buxton International Festival, in collaboration with the Royal Over-Seas League.

This is a Genesis Kickstart Fund project, supported by the Genesis Foundation.

**We are so grateful to the following funders who have made this event possible:**

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And everyone on The Multi-Story Orchestra Membership Scheme.

**Very special thanks to:**

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Wayne Powell and Jack Page, d&b audiotechnik

Oliver Marns, J&C Joel

Triple E

Locke Hotels

Steinway & Sons, London for the Steinway concert pianos

**Kate Whitley** is composer and pianist based in South London. As well as writing for The Multi-Story Orchestra she composes for concert, ballets, choirs and orchestras around the UK and her music has been broadcast as part of the BBC Proms. Her piece *Speak out to words* by Malala Yousafzai was commissioned by the BBC for International Women's Day 2017 in support of the campaign for better education for girls: 'a powerful statement, full of kinetic energy' (Wales Arts Review) and has since been performed by orchestras around the world. Her pieces for children's choir and orchestra include *Alive to words* by poet Holly McNish, which won a 2015 British Composers Award and was described as "a remarkable feat" (The Telegraph), and *I am I say to words* by Sabrina Mahfouz, described as "a tremendous work" (The Times). In 2018 she was commissioned by the London Symphony Orchestra to write *Sky Dances*, which was performed by an orchestra of over 100 in Trafalgar Square, conducted by Sir Simon Rattle. Winning a 2018 Critics Circle Award she has been described as a composer with "a strong, distinctive voice who, without compromising, communicates directly to a wide audience, within the concert hall and beyond". NMC Recordings released a CD of her music in March 2017, called *I am I say*: "unpretentious, appealingly vigorous and visceral" (The Guardian); a fresh and individual creative voice" (BBC Music Magazine); "make no mistake, Kate Whitley is a composer to watch"(Gramophone).

Writer and director **Laura Attridge** is fast becoming known for the richness and clarity of her storytelling. She is a published poet, and her songs and song cycles have premiered at the Royal Opera House, Glyndebourne, the Royal College of Music and Bard College (New York). Laura's ongoing creative partnership with composer Lewis Murphy - as duo Murphy & Attridge - has thus far produced numerous works for the stage, including *A Different Story* (2019, Royal Opera House); *Then to the elements* (2018, Scottish Opera); *Belongings* (2017, Glyndebourne); and *Now* (2014, RCM and Tête-à-Tête Festival). Laura's upcoming premieres include new operas for Lammermuir Festival, English Touring Opera and Leeds Youth Opera.

**The Multi-Story Orchestra** is more than just an Orchestra. It is a community of professional musicians and young people who create extraordinary performances, tell stories and unleash creativity. "We perform in unexpected spaces and bring powerful and meaningful music to life. We believe creating the best art means involving and valuing absolutely everybody." Since The Multi-Story Orchestra's first performance here at Bold Tendencies ten years ago, they've performed in Gloucester, Birmingham, Ipswich and East Riding, and broadcast the first ever BBC Proms performance from the car park in Peckham. "They play heroically, they play loudly, and they'll play anything...The response was ecstatic, and it deserved to be" (The New York Times); "Forget fusty concert halls, The future of music is emerging in a municipal car park" (The Times).

# BOLD TENDENCIES

## **Upcoming Live Events at Bold Tendencies**

Tuesday 14 September & Wednesday 15 September

The Multi-Story Orchestra — Kate Whitley & Laura Attridge, Our Future in Your Hands

Thursday 16 September

Fitzcarraldo Editions — Alice Hattrick, Vanessa Onwuemezi, Alaa Abd el-Fattah

Friday 17 September

Alina Ibragimova, Samson Tsoy, Nicolas Baldeyrou, Andrei Ioniță — Olivier Messiaen, Quartet for the End of Time

## **HUGE THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO HAS SUPPORTED THE BOLD TENDENCIES 2021 PROGRAMME**

Southwark Council

Selfridges

Paul Hamlyn Foundation

Bloomberg Philanthropies

Big Issue Invest Access

Art Fund

Phillips

Lisson Gallery

Dice

Vanguardia

d&b audiotechnik

J&C Joel

Steinway & Sons

Locke Hotels

CMS-CMNO

Hallett Independent Art Insurance

All those individuals who have generously donated to Bold Tendencies

## WHERE AM I?

Since 2007 these rooftop spaces at Peckham Multi-Storey Car Park have been home to not-for-profit organisation Bold Tendencies which is unique in terms of the rich mix of what it does, and where and how it does it.

Bold Tendencies supports artists to develop their ideas and to realise site-specific projects. We commission new visual art — 114 works have been shown here to date — and produce a live programme of music, dance and opera.

The live programme takes place in our covered spaces, deliberately preserving 42,000 sq ft of raw concrete floors and ceilings with panoramic London views.

Bold Tendencies has also commissioned new architecture for the site — Frank's Cafe in 2009, the Straw Auditorium in 2010, and the Peckham Observatory in 2017.

Bold Tendencies is for everyone. We have welcomed more than 2 million people in 13 summer seasons since 2007. We animate the programme and the site for the neighbourhood through standalone education and community initiatives that take culture and civic values seriously.

Bold Tendencies celebrates the free enjoyment of public space in the city, participation in a rich, experimental programme and open access to this special, spectacular place.

## Our Future In Your Hands

THE WORLD CRIES OUT

Choir

I cry  
I howl  
I roar

I wail  
I scream  
I bellow

The world cries out:  
with the last of its voice,  
with the last of its strength  
with the last of its life  
but there is no answer

Sky  
I am Sky  
Flaming  
Cracking  
Falling

I cry out  
but there is no answer

Water  
I am Water  
Rising  
Rushing  
Raging

I cry out  
but there is no answer

Earth  
I am Earth  
Burning  
Breaking  
Dying

I cry out  
but there is no answer

# BOLD TENDENCIES

## ARIA: DIGGING

I must walk the miles to the river each day for water as the sun rises  
My feet blister on the hot rocks

I must dig on my hands and knees each day for water in the dried-out  
river-bed  
The earth is as thirsty as I am.

I must wait for the rain to come each day for water, but there is only dust  
The seasons are shifting too quickly.

We must leave our home soon to search for water  
But where should we go? Where can we go?

## CHORUS: THERE IS SILENCE

Where truth should be  
there is silence.

Where action should be  
there is ignorance.

Where unity should be  
there are walls.

Where hope should be  
there is darkness.

## ARIA: DREAM

I dream of a violent sky,  
trembling at thunder and lightning,  
the brutal weight of the wind.  
And I dream of a child.

I dream of a drowning island,  
watching the dreadful rise of the tide  
as it swallows coastlines

I dream of a forest alight,  
fleeing the flames on foot,  
only smoke for miles and for miles.  
And I dream  
though I should not, cannot, will not, dream of  
having my own child.

# BOLD TENDENCIES

## CHORUS: LEGACY

You thought  
that the world turned  
for your money, those  
thin pieces of paper;  
but when you have stolen  
the food from our hands,  
no one can eat money.

You left  
it in bags and in bundles  
those dry pieces of paper;  
but when you have  
dried up the water from our lips,  
no one can drink money.

And what  
are they worth  
to us now, these dirty  
pieces of paper?  
Because when you have  
poisoned the air in our lungs,  
no one can breathe money.

## THE WORLD WEAKENS

Choir  
The world weakens  
and time always  
treads onwards

Sky  
Clouds build, charged with current –  
again and again the air tears itself apart;

Water  
White ice sweats under the sun,  
shrinking, leaving only barren rock.

Earth  
The angry earth - quaking, convulsing -  
disturbs everything living on its surface;

Tutti  
The world weakens  
and time always  
treads onwards

# BOLD TENDENCIES

## CHORUS: THE MARCH

Wake up  
wake up and see  
the chaos you have caused:  
the damage and debris.  
Our future is in your hands,  
Wake up and set us free.

Look up,  
look up and see  
the choices that you make  
which shape reality.  
Our future is in your hands,  
Look up and set us free.

Speak up  
Speak up and see  
the power that you have  
to save sky, land and sea.  
Our future is in your hands,  
Speak up and set us free.

## ARIA: EARTHRISE

And suddenly  
the lip of the world  
rises to meet me:  
the white and the blue  
and the green of it.

It feels as if  
I am opening my eyes  
for the first time,  
as if I have never seen  
the earth before.

From far above  
I witness cloud rivers,  
storms forming,  
the sun's bright reflection,  
all of humanity.

It feels as if  
I am opening my eyes  
for the first time,  
as if I have never seen  
the earth before.

# BOLD TENDENCIES

## CHORUS: THE GARDEN

now  
as the present  
stretches away  
from the past  
it grows as frail  
and as delicate  
as truth  
you must  
hold it gently  
in your upturned palms  
take it outside  
find a soft patch of earth  
under the sky  
waiting for you  
under the sky

together  
we will plant it  
and water it  
with hope  
help it  
to grow stronger  
to grow branches  
and leaves  
unfolding  
spreading wider  
growing rich and green  
reaching  
to the sun and  
to the future  
to the sun and  
to the future

## THE WORLD AWAKENS

Choir

The world awakens and begins to open  
The world awakens, opens like a flower  
The world awakens, opens like an eye  
The world awakens, opens like a mouth

uttering its first sounds  
unfurling its new leaves

to begin again

# BOLD TENDENCIES

and again and again

Water

Across my hands  
currents flow,  
tides rise and fall  
like breath.

Earth

Under my feet  
roots growing deeper  
reaching into the earth  
taking hold.

Sky

Above my head  
stars appear  
radiant through  
clear, bright air.