

The Manchester Collective kicks off Part 1 of their 2018 season with *The Edge of Fantasy*



Thursday 25 - Saturday 27 January 2018

The Edge of Fantasy

Thursday 1 - Saturday 3 March 2018

100 Demons

Thursday 3 - Saturday 5 May 2018

Sirocco

Wednesday 27 - Friday 29 June 2018

Rakhi / Katya

[Watch the season trailer here](#)

The Manchester Collective, an edgy new group founded last year by Artistic Director **Adam Szabo** and Music Director **Rakhi Singh**, launch Part 1 of their 2018 Season with a series of genre-bending programmes at the first concert of their residency at **The Stoller Hall**. The Collective, equally at home with the classical masterpieces of the Western canon and the avant-garde repertoire of the contemporary music world, launch four touring programmes - ***The Edge of Fantasy, 100 Demons, Sirocco and Rakhi / Katya*** - to be performed at a range of non-tradition spaces across the north west, including industrial warehouses, restored steel mills, and Manchester's flagship new concert hall, The Stoller Hall.



Free from the constraints of established institutions with a regular subscriber base, The Collective's manifesto is to challenge pre-conceptions and provoke reactions to their fearless programmes of classical and contemporary music, fuelled by

unexpected partnerships. They perform in the round for maximum intimacy, immediacy and engagement. Manchester Collective are also great supporters of British new music, commissioning one major new work to be performed in every season they produce - for their second season, the Collective has commissioned **100 Demons** by award winning film composer **Daniel Elms**, which will be premiered on Thursday 1 March.

'Many of the young people in their audiences have never been to a classical concert before, and watching the players engage with each other and with the music was very much a way in to the repertoire.'

Planet Hugill



Thursday 25 January 2018, 8pm

The Chimney House, Sheffield

Friday 26 January 2018, 8pm

The Stoller Hall, Manchester

Saturday 27 January 2018, 7.30pm

The Invisible Wind Factor, Liverpool

The Edge of Fantasy

Rakhi Singh violin
Caroline Pether violin

Alex Mitchell viola
Nick Trygstad cello

Purcell *Fantasia Upon One Note*

Beethoven "II. Molto Adagio" from *Op.59, No.2*

Janacek *String Quartet No.1, "Kreutzer Sonata"*

Gorecki *String Quartet No.2, "Quasi Una Fantasia", Op.16*

The season kicks off with a programme about fantasies and indulging in one's dangerous desires. This is a project that shows off everything that Manchester Collective can be: a visceral live experience for audiences and performers alike, through music. ***The Edge of Fantasy*** brings together four world class northern-based chamber musicians in a string quartet – a line-up that can convey the whole range of human emotions with the clarity and purity of just four voices; unity, conflict, resolution, uncertainty.

The show presents different types of fantasies. Janacek's "Kreutzer Sonata" is based on the novella by Tolstoy, which describes a musical flirtation that leads the protagonists down a very dark path. The Gorecki *String Quartet No.2* - titled "Quasi una Fantasia", "Almost a Fantasy" - winds its way into the depths of Eastern Europe, and in the final work of the programme, Gorecki's signature "sacred minimalist" sound grows into something twisted and powerful.



Thursday 1 March 2018, 8pm

The Chimney House, Sheffield

Friday 2 March 2018, 7.30pm

The Invisible Wind Factor, Liverpool

Saturday 3 March 2018, 8pm

The Stoller Hall, Manchester

100 Demons

Daniel Elms composer

Vessel Electronics

Rakhi Singh violin

Simmy Singh violin

Ali Vennart viola

Oliver Coates cello

1st Set

Vessel *The Birth of the Queen*

2nd Set

Steve Reich *Violin Phrase*

Jonathan Harvey *Ricercare una melodia*

Iannis Xenakis *Mikka S*

Edmund Finnis *Sister*

Robert Rowe *Melting the Darkness*

Michael Gordon *Industry*

3rd Set

Daniel Elms *100 Demons* (World Premiere)

100 Demons merges live strings and electronics. The programme presents three sets of wild new music - music that is different to that traditionally put on by classical ensembles.



The first set includes underground electronic artist **Vessel**, who presents a collection of live tracks from his latest album, *Queen of Golden Dogs*, together with a motley sample of music that influenced the record. The show presents the chance for audiences to hear some of this new work for the first time, before

Sebastian Gainsborough (Vessel) takes his show to some of the biggest festivals in Europe. Sebastian has recently scored the trailer for Park Chan-Wook's award-winning film, *The Handmaiden*.

The second set features Manchester Collective's Music Director, **Rakhi Singh**, and special guest **Oliver Coates**. Oliver embodies the Collective's approach; he comes from a classical background, however, he has just finished an international tour where he supported Radiohead – he is a "classical" musician who is constantly pushing the envelope, working at the cutting edge of the field. The two musicians will be accompanied by a set of electronic sounds as they perform a set of works both familiar, and new.

The sets will be concluded with the heart of the show, *100 Demons*, the titular commissioned work, written for Manchester Collective by **Daniel Elms**. The piece is based on the Hyakki Yagyō ("Night Parade of One Hundred Demons"), a concept in Japanese folklore. It is a parade composed of a hundred kinds of yōkai (a class of supernatural monsters, spirits and demons).



Thursday 3 May 2018, 8pm

The Chimney House, Sheffield

Friday 4 May 2018, 7.30pm

The Invisible Wind Factor, Liverpool

Saturday 5 May 2018, 8pm

The Stoller Hall, Manchester

Sirocco

Abel Selaocoe Guest
Director/cello

Rakhi Singh violin

Simmy Singh violin

Ali Vennart viola
Alastair McMath double bass
Sidiki Dembele percussion

Original music, African folk, and music by Bach, Sollima, Lawes, Debussy and Crumb



[Watch the teaser trailer for Sirocco here](#)

Manchester Collective welcomes **Abel Selaocoe** as Guest Director for this project alongside Abel's band, **Chesaba**. Abel, Sidiki Dembele, and Alastair McMath specialise in music from the Ivory Coast. Together with Manchester Collective's musicians, they create an extended quartet to form a musical melting pot - mixing together a diverse range of genres from baroque to African folk and original music. *Sirocco*, literally defined as a hot wind blowing from North Africa across the Mediterranean to southern Europe, brings together two continents with ferocious and intense musical traditions. Above all, this show is about joy - it's a celebration of life, of diversity, and of African culture.



Wednesday 27 June 2018, 8pm

The Stoller Hall, Manchester

Thursday 28 June 2018, 8pm

The Chimney House, Sheffield

Friday 29 June 2018, 7.30pm

The Invisible Wind Factor, Liverpool

Rakhi / Katya

Rakhi Singh violin

Katya Apekisheva piano

Prokofiev selections from "*Visions Fugitives*", *Op.22*

Cage *6 Melodies*

Beethoven *Violin Sonata No.7 in C minor, Op.30 No.2*

Kurtag solo violin works TBA

Bach solo violin works TBA

Prokofiev *Violin Sonata No.1 in F minor, Op 80*

Described by Gramophone as “a profoundly gifted artist who has already achieved artistic greatness”, **Katya Apekisheva** joins Manchester Collective’s **Rakhi Singh** in the smallest, most focused show of the season. Closing the Collective’s first season as Ensemble in Residence at The Stoller Hall.



The intimate setting strips it back to the aural experience, allowing the audience to get as close to the mastery as possible with 360° seating. Katya and Rakhi conjure up a whole world of sound from just two instruments – an evening of music of tremendous scope and passion performed by artists at the peak of their careers.

Alongside the sonatas by Prokofiev and Beethoven, the show also gives Rakhi and Katya the chance to shine as soloists - with works on an intimate scale by Kurtag and Bach. Finally, Manchester Collective’s wild card is John Cage’s *Six Melodies for Violin and Piano*, music of exquisite beauty and construction.

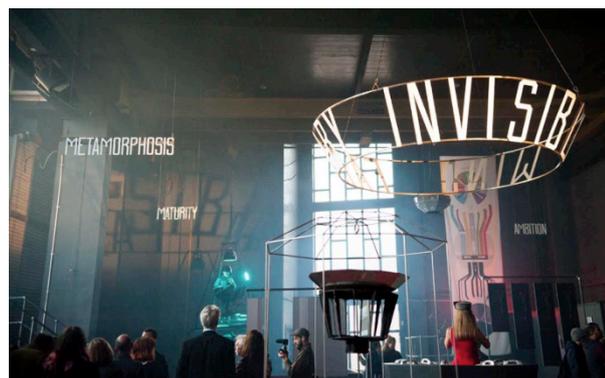


The Chimney House Sheffield is a red-brick, former industrial building, traced back to 1886. Used regularly for meetings, private dining and events, the venue offers an unusual, intimate venue for Manchester Collective’s alternative sound.

“This is a lovely, intimate venue and the concert was possibly the most exciting and stimulating chamber music concert I’ve ever been to. This ‘collective’ music group has a bright future”

Audience response from Cabaret with Manchester Collective
The Chimney House 2017

The Invisible Wind Factory, another former industrial building, is located in the heart of the North Docks, Liverpool. It is set within two inter-connected ex-warehouse buildings, offering an extraordinary arts space on the Liverpool waterfront. Both venues follow the trend of turning old abandoned buildings into buzzing creative hubs. Providing mobile



structures and moveable seating areas used to modify and cordon-off zones to create intimacy or openness to suit each event.



Manchester Collective are Ensemble in Residence at Manchester's flagship new hall, **The Stoller Hall**. The Stoller Hall provided Manchester with a space designed for chamber music, combining the intimacy of a small venue with impressive visual and acoustic design.

Manchester Collective



Radical human experiences through live music for everyone.

"Their obvious love of the music and the pleasure they took in playing together was infectious"

Yorkshire Post

Manchester Collective is redefining how a new generation of audiences engage with the arts in the UK. Recently described by the Yorkshire Times as a "*powerful, moving, & extraordinary*" addition to the UK music scene, Manchester Collective produces world-class, innovative, and outward facing musical experiences for new audiences across Britain. Their thrilling live performances, allied with daring programming and a brazen approach to convention, have seen the Collective reach more than 65,000 people so far with their debut 2017 season.

Comprising some of the most exciting musical talent from a new generation of international instrumentalists, Manchester Collective are equally at home with the classical masterpieces of the Western canon and the avant-garde repertoire of the contemporary music world.

As part of their work this year, MC have produced a critically acclaimed tour with accordion virtuoso Bartek Glowacki ("*The Accordion*"), commissioned a major new song cycle by Huw Belling for the Anthony Burgess centenary, ("*Intimate Letters*"), and started their tenure as Ensemble in Residence at The Stoller Hall in Manchester with a performance of Messiaen's *Quartet for the End of Time*.

Manchester Collective is NOT: empty calories, safe, feel-good programming, a subscriber based organisation beholden to an existing audience base or a heritage art.

Adam Szabo artistic director & general manager

Rakhi Singh music director

'I loved the contrasts of sweetness and tenderness with the extremes they created in this music.'

Manchester Classical Music

www.manchestercollective.co.uk

For more information on any of the above, please contact:

Nicky Thomas Media

101 Bell Street, London NW1 6TL

+44 (0)20 3714 7594 | +44 (0)20 7258 0909

[**info@nickythomasmedia.com**](mailto:info@nickythomasmedia.com)

[**www.nickythomasmedia.com**](http://www.nickythomasmedia.com)