



ST JOHN'S SMITH SQUARE

PRINCIPAL SOUND

1-4 APRIL 2016



Patron HRH The Duchess of Cornwall

PRINCIPAL SOUND

Taking its name from an organ work by Morton Feldman, Principal Sound celebrates the music of this most individual and influential of composers in what would have been his 90th year.

Bookended by two of Feldman's late, great masterpieces, the four-day festival brings together a number of leading new music performers with some of the UK's most exciting young talent.

In one of the festival's strands, important works from across Feldman's output are placed alongside some of the music dearest to him, including the Webern *Concerto for Nine Instruments* and one of the cornerstones of American Experimentalism, John Cage's *String Quartet in Four Parts* – the latter presented here by the Ligeti Quartet, one of St John's Smith Square's current Young Artists. The festival also offers a rare opportunity to hear the vividly original, but all-too-often overlooked, music of two Feldman associates – Frank Denyer and Jo Kondo.

From there, the scope of the festival widens, taking in a broad range of composers who share something of Feldman's tactile approach to the very substance of sound itself – from pioneering classics by Vivier and Rădulescu to a clutch of recent work, including a striking quartet from Arne

Gieshoff whose own explore ensemble have devised a fascinating programme placing Feldman within a European context. The UK premiere of *Layers of Love*, a major ensemble work by Christian Mason, features at the heart of a mouth-watering three-part concert from The Octandre Ensemble.

Another highlight of the festival is sure to be the unveiling of a new work from that incomparable clairvoyant of the near-silent, Jürg Frey, fresh from his residency at the 2015 Huddersfield Festival. Frey's *Shadow and Echo and Jade* forms the still centre of a programme from EXAUDI and organist James McVinnie which also takes in music by Feldman, Clementi and James Weeks before culminating in *Guide*, a deeply soulful work by the Canadian composer Cassandra Miller, whose generous and refreshingly direct musical voice is also showcased in a piano recital by Eliza McCarthy.

Opening the festival, with Feldman's *Piano and String Quartet*, are some of the greatest Feldman interpreters of our time: the peerless Smith Quartet and John Tilbury (who turns 80 this year). Finally, there is the chance to experience one of Feldman's longest and most beautiful works in live performance, as Jenni Hogan, George Barton and Siwan Rhys present *For Philip Guston* in all of its plaintive, quietly beguiling, vastness.

Do join us for what promises to be an extraordinary four days.

#PrincipalSound

Principal Sound is promoted by St John's Smith Square and curated by Sam Wigglesworth.

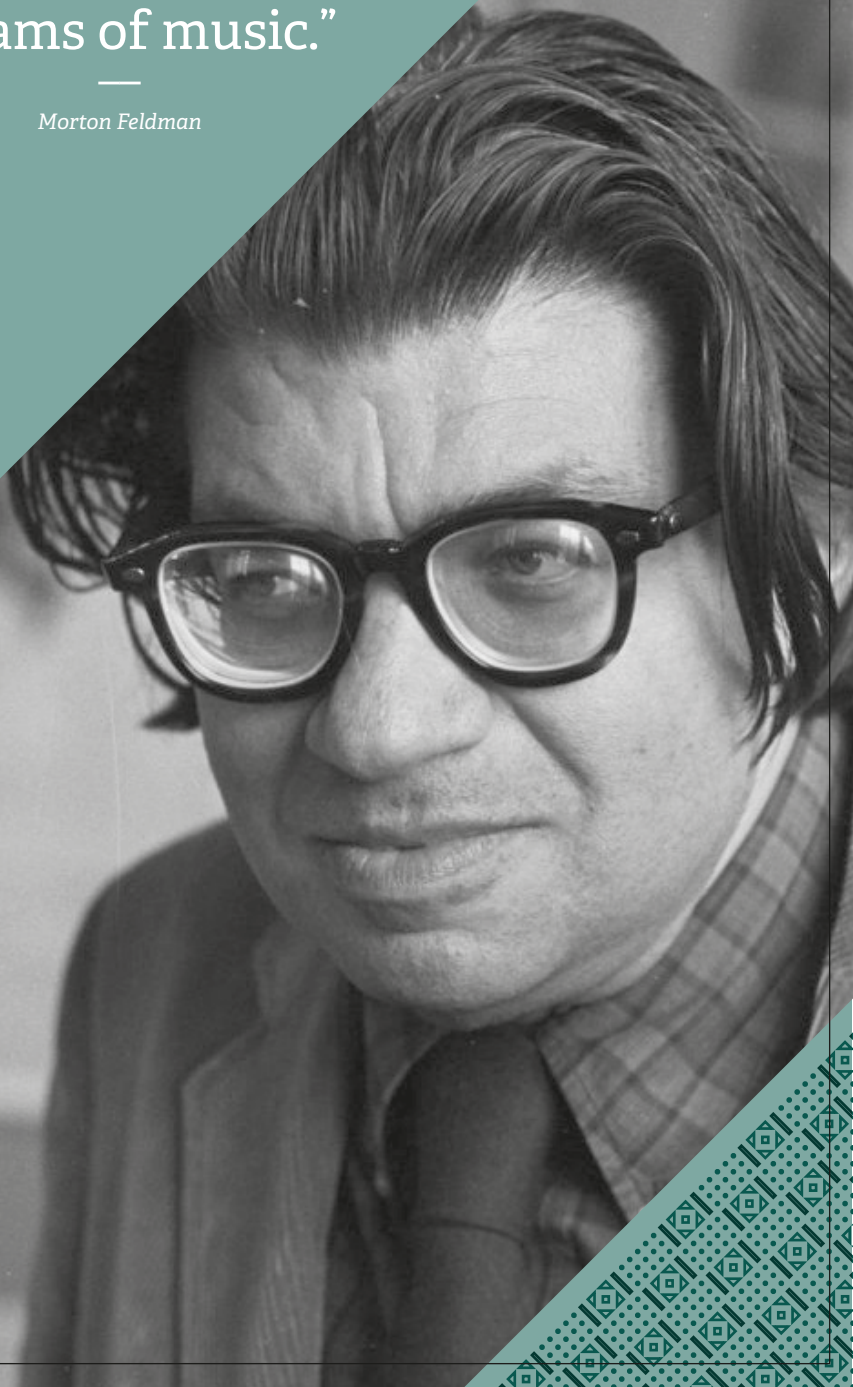
ALL CONCERTS ARE £15 EACH

Buy a £40 Festival Pass to gain entry to all concerts in this festival.

If you are aged 16-25, join our free Young Friends' Scheme and purchase single concert tickets for £5 each, OR gain full access to the entire Festival with a Young Friends' Festival Pass for only £25.

—
“Sound is all our
dreams of music.”
—

Morton Feldman



ST JOHN'S SMITH SQUARE

PIANO AND STRING QUARTET

The Smith Quartet
John Tilbury PIANO

*Feldman Piano and String
Quartet*

To open Principal Sound, the legendary John Tilbury joins The Smith Quartet for a performance of one of Feldman's greatest masterpieces: the intricately patterned, ethereal and hushed *Piano and String Quartet*.

There will be a pre-concert talk at 6.30pm.

Fri 1 April 7.30pm



Smith Quartet © Tas Kyrianiou



John Tilbury

“If any single piece epitomises the beauty and the hypnotic power of Feldman's final works, it is *Piano and String Quartet*.”

—
The Guardian

PRINCIPAL SOUND

PHILIP THE WANDERER

Eliza McCarthy PIANO

John Luther Adams

Nunataks

Cassandra Miller

Philip the Wanderer

Rădulescu *Piano Sonata No.*

3 Op. 86 'You will endure forever'

The fresh, glorious sounds of Canadian composer Cassandra Miller are framed here by the monumental architectures of John Luther Adams' *Nunataks* (Solitary Peaks) and a dizzying sonata from spectral pioneer Horațiu Rădulescu.

Sat 2 April 5.00pm



Eliza McCarthy © Jonathan Sherry

ST JOHN'S SMITH SQUARE

SHADOW AND ECHO AND JADE

EXAUDI

James McVinnie ORGAN
James Weeks CONDUCTOR

Feldman Only
Feldman Principal Sound
*Jürg Frey Shadow and Echo
and Jade (world premiere)*
James Weeks A Tear
*Clementi Im Frieden dein, o
Herre mein*
Cassandra Miller Guide

Principal Sound is delighted to welcome EXAUDI and James McVinnie for this concert juxtaposing a cappella choral works with music for organ. The evening culminates in a new setting of words by the Chinese writer Lu Chi (222–280) by the Swiss composer Jürg Frey, fresh from his recent residency at the 2015 Huddersfield Festival.

Sat 2 April 8.00pm



James Weeks © Helen Maybank



James McVinnie © credit Magnus Andersen



EXAUDI © Matthew Andrews

PRINCIPAL SOUND

KONDO, GIESHOFF & CAGE

Ligeti Quartet

Jo Kondo *Mr Bloomfield, His spacing*

Arne Gieshoff *Unwuchten*
Cage *Quartet in Four Parts*

In this late-night concert, one of St John's Smith Square's 2015/16 Young Artists, the Ligeti Quartet, present the poised, ecstatic stillnesses of early Cage alongside a clangorous quartet with cowbells from Joe Kondo and the rotating imbalances of Arne Gieshoff's *Unwuchten*.

Sat 2 April 9.15pm

“Gieshoff understands something many of his seniors don't, which is that the life-giving mystery of art can't be seized by a full-frontal assault. You sneak up on it from behind.”

The Telegraph

“I was always fascinated by Feldman's attention to working with small blocks... much of what I did in the 90s is Feldman on the Autobahn, a rapid Feldman.”

Enno Poppe



Ligeti Quartet © Carluca de Giralamo



exploreensemble © Sheila Burnett

FELDMAN ON THE AUTOBAHN

exploreensemble

Arne Gieshoff DIRECTOR
Nicholas Moroz DIRECTOR

Enno Poppe *Gelöschte Lieder*
(UK premiere)

Feldman *Spring of Chosroes*
Romitelli *Domeniche alla periferia dell'impero*
Grisey *Talea*

This inventive and ambitious young ensemble present a fascinating investigation of the connections between the music of Feldman and two generations of younger European composers.

Sun 3 April 5.00pm

ST JOHN'S SMITH SQUARE

LAYERS OF LOVE

The Octandre Ensemble

Webern *Concerto Op. 24*
Vivier *Samarkand*
Feldman *Routine*
Investigations
Frank Denyer *After the Rain*
Thomas Smetryns *This could be the most beautiful piece in the world*
Christian Mason *Layers of Love (UK premiere)*
Sinan Savaskan *Green Plastic Vase (for Morton Feldman)*
Feldman *Durations III*
Tenney *Forms IV (for Morton Feldman)*

Highlights of this compendious three-part concert from The Octandre Ensemble include a UK premiere from Christian Mason, music by Feldman's great inspiration Anton Webern and a rare chance to hear the music of Frank Denyer in the form of an extraordinary work for shakuhachi, violin, seven ocarinas and percussion.

Sun 3 April 8.00pm



Christian Mason © Manu Theobald



The Octandre Ensemble © Daniela Goyes Jeller



PRINCIPAL SOUND

FOR PHILIP GUSTON

Jenni Hogan FLUTES

Siwan Rhys PIANO/CELESTE

George Barton PERCUSSION

Feldman For Philip Guston

What better way to close the festival than with Feldman's extraordinary, elegiacal memorial to his estranged friend the painter Philip Guston. Unfolding very quietly and uninterrupted over a vast stretch of four and a half hours, this intimate lament is like nothing else in the repertoire.

Sun 4 April 5.45pm



Morton Feldman



Jenni Hogan @ John Clark



George Barton @ Chris Gloag



Siwan Rhys @ Lemon Yellow Photography

BOOKING INFORMATION

PHONE

020 7222 1061

Monday to Saturday 10.00am–5.00pm

£2 booking fee applies

ONLINE

sjss.org.uk

£1.50 booking fee applies

IN PERSON

Monday to Saturday 10.00am–5.00pm

(until 6.00pm on public concert days).

The Box Office opens one hour before the start of Sunday and Bank Holiday concerts.

POST

**Box Office, St John's Smith Square,
London SW1P 3HA**

Please enclose a stamped addressed envelope. Cheques should be made payable to St John's Smith Square.

CONCESSIONS AND REDUCTIONS

Available for many of our concerts to senior citizens, full-time students, registered unemployed, school children (under 16) and people who are registered disabled. Westminster CitySave card holders are entitled to a 10% discount on a pair of tickets for any public concert.






Parties of ten or more qualify for a 10% discount.

ACCESSIBILITY

If you have access requirements, please let our Box Office staff know when booking your tickets to help us provide you with the best possible service and choice of seats. We allocate an additional seat free of charge to disabled patrons who require a carer to accompany them.

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

#PrincipalSound

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Please Note

We may need to substitute artists and to vary our concert programmes from the published information without warning.

Latecomers are admitted only at a suitable pause in the concert.

Please note that tickets may not be refunded.

© Matthew Andrews



YOUR VISIT

St John's Smith Square is just off Millbank between Westminster and Lambeth Bridges, close to the Houses of Parliament and Westminster Abbey, and a short walk from Westminster tube station.

TUBE

Westminster, St James's Park & Victoria

BUS

3 and 87 to Horseferry Road
C10 and 507 (limited hours) to Millbank
88 to Horseferry Road
11, 211, 148 and 24 to Westminster Abbey

SANTANDER CYCLES

A docking station is located in Smith Square and there are also stations on Horseferry Road, Page Street and Great College Street.

CAR PARKING

St John's Smith Square is within the congestion charging zone. Parking meters are in operation during the day Monday–Friday until 6.00pm. In the evenings and at weekends there are usually ample spaces locally. There is Westminster City Council car parking on Great College Street and Arneway Street.

RAIL

Victoria, Waterloo, Vauxhall & Charing Cross



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YOUNG FRIENDS' SCHEME

If you're aged 16-25, make sure you sign up for our Young Friends' Scheme!

Members are entitled to purchase £5 tickets to selected events throughout the season.

Alongside £5 ticket offers, our Young Friends also receive invitations to special events throughout the year, as well as other targeted discounts.

There's no catch and it's entirely FREE to join!

Please call our Box Office on 0207 7222 1061 or visit [sjss.org.uk/friends-st-johns](https://www.sjss.org.uk/friends-st-johns) to sign up.

Box Office **020 7222 1061**
[sjss.org.uk](https://www.sjss.org.uk)

St John's Smith Square Charitable Trust
Registered Office: St John's Smith Square
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Registered in England
Company No. 3028678
Registered Charity No. 1045390