

COMPOSER IN RESIDENCE

LOTTA WENNÄKOSKI

THURSDAY 27 NOVEMBER 2025, 1PM
ANGELA BURGESS RECITAL HALL



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Lotta Wennäkoski (b 1970)

Ciphers

4th Art (Music)

5th Art (Literature)

7th Art (Cinema)

Josie Wakefield flute/bass flute

Annest Davies harp

Mina Mazur viola

Courtney Cousins (b 2000)

Through the Sky Light (world premiere)

Eloise Hartings flute

Defne Anar harp

Mina Mazur viola

Lotta Wennäkoski

Segla (200 PIECES commission)

Natalie Lo harp

Glimt, skymt

Emma Loerstad, Penelope Cairney-Leeming, Ruby Howells and Joseph Geary flute

György Ligeti (1923-2006)

Six Bagatelles

Allegro con spirito

Rubato. Lamentoso

Allegro grazioso

Presto ruvido

Adagio. Mesto (Béla Bartók in memoriam)

Molto vivace. Capriccioso

Dogoda Quintet:

Sofía Patterson-Gutiérrez flute

Emily Long oboe

Raj Bhaumik clarinet

Chloe Harrison horn

Thomas Donkin bassoon

Lotta Wennäkoski – Composer in Residence

Born in Helsinki, Lotta Wennäkoski studied violin, music theory and Hungarian folk music at the Béla Bartók Conservatory in Budapest. She then studied music theory and composition at the Sibelius Academy, receiving her diploma in 2000. Her teachers have included Eero Hämeenniemi, Kaija Saariaho, Paavo Heininen and Louis Andriessen.

Wennäkoski's output consists of orchestral, chamber and vocal works, and her pieces are frequently performed worldwide. Recent works include *Pige* (2022) for the Danish String Quartet, the harp concerto *Sigla* (2022) for Sivan Magen and the Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra, and the violin concerto *Prosoidia* (2022-23) for Ilya Gringolts and the BBC Symphony Orchestra. Wennäkoski has recently written her first big opera, *Regine*, a commission from Savonlinna Opera Festival. In October 2025, the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra premiered her new recorder concerto with Lucie Horsch as the soloist. The London Philharmonic Orchestra has commissioned Wennäkoski an orchestral piece, *Zelo*, the premiere of which will take place in March 2026.

Wennäkoski was awarded Finland's State Prize for Music in 2020. She is currently an Artist Professor, an honorary title awarded by the Arts Promotion Centre Finland. The Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra has recorded Wennäkoski's *Soie* and *Sigla*, both for the label Ondine. The latter won the Gramophone Award 2023 in the contemporary music category.

Courtney Cousins

Courtney Cousins is an Australian composer and musician based in London. With a strong interest in literature and storytelling, she is interested in music that resonates with people emotionally, intellectually and corporeally. She writes across vocal, choral, instrumental and electroacoustic forms. A first-class honours graduate of the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, she is currently studying for a master's in composition at the Royal Academy of Music with Edmund Finnis and David Sawer, supported by a scholarship. Recent highlights include the UK premiere of her chamber opera, *Echo*, at the Academy, as well as performances of her compositions at the Sydney Opera House and Sydney Town Hall. She is currently working on a choral cycle, a film composition, two chamber trios and the libretto for another opera.