

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LIMINAL @ THE QUEEN'S HALL

The Queen's Hall announces its first Associate Artist in Residence: Michael Begg



We are delighted to welcome experimental musician and composer Michael Begg to The Queen's Hall family.

Michael will be working with us through 2020 to develop the LIMINAL programme; a series of performances and development events exploring the crossover territories of classical and experimental music.

As well as LIMINAL 'showcase' performances featuring special invited guests, and Michael's own Black Glass Ensemble, there will be LIMINAL NIGHTS in The Queen's Hall bar in which artists present new works in progress, new experiments, new collaborations, in an informal, intimate environment. Also programmed, will be a number of LIMINAL LABS: a series of exploratory investigations into the territory where data, composition, sound art and programming come together. The Liminal Labs open the door to new partnerships with staff and students at the University of Edinburgh and Napier University.

Michael Begg: *"With Liminal, I am attempting to draw together folk who have an interest in identifying new musical approaches for the anthropocene. The structure of the programme allows for an incredibly*

wide palette to come in to play, including geophysical and environmental data, programming, sonification, playful experimenting, as well as the exceptional musicianship and spirit of generosity I expect to run through the programme.

"I have always resisted the commonly held notion that experimental approaches should be contained within the margins of culture. It is hugely significant, therefore, that this activity should be supported by The Queen's Hall – the very embodiment of a trusted and established capital venue. And to have the proposal enabled by Creative Scotland's open lottery funding is an incredible opportunity. I am deeply indebted to all concerned who have helped bring Liminal to light."

Evan Henderson, Chief Executive of The Queen's Hall says, *"2019 marks the 40th anniversary of The Queen's Hall opening as a music venue. As we look towards the next phase of the Hall's life, we're expanding our horizons through new artistic directions to encourage new audiences to engage with us, whilst continuing to programme across all musical genres for our existing audiences. I'm excited to be able to have someone of Michael's stature work with us on this over a year and look forward to seeing where it takes us."*

This show has been made possible thanks to funding from Creative Scotland. Alan Morrison, Head of Music at Creative Scotland says, *"Michael Begg is one of Scotland's most innovative and emotionally affecting musicians. His work bridges science and art, classical and contemporary, breaking new ground while thrilling audiences with a live in-the-moment experience. Creative Scotland is proud to support this unique and ambitious combination of artist and venue. Liminal puts The Queen's Hall at the centre of Scotland's experimental music scene – and pushes Scotland's experimental music scene into a global spotlight."*

Details of the Liminal showcase performances and Labs will be published in early 2020.

Tickets for Liminal Nights #2 in The Queen's Hall bar on Wed 16 Oct, 7.00pm are now currently on sale, £10 via this link <https://www.thequeenshall.net/whats-on/liminal-nights-2> or by calling +44 (0)131 668 2019. With **a focus on the cello** and the beguiling relationship it has with electronics, composer **Ben Chatwin** is joined by cellist **Pete Harvey**, whilst Michael Begg will be joined by cellist **Clea Friend**.

For interviews, hi-res images and press tickets please contact:

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NOTES FOR EDITORS

Michael Begg is an experimental composer and sound artist based in East Lothian, Scotland. He won the 2018 New Music Scotland Award for electroacoustic / sound art work for his work, Titan, a commission for Cryptic's Sonica Festival. Previous commissions include "A Moon That Lights Itself" for National Galleries Scotland, and Fragile Pitches, performed with collaborator Colin Potter in St Giles Cathedral.

Michael has released several records, and is a core contributor to Clodagh Simonds's Fovea Hex. This cult ensemble also numbers Brian Eno, Robert Fripp and Steven Wilson among its contributors and has performed live at the Cartier Foundation in Paris at the invitation of film-maker David Lynch.

In 2018, Michael completed a composer residency at CMMAS, Morelia, Mexico in a programme supported by CMMAS, Cryptic, Anglo Arts and the British Council, and has recently been appointed Associate Artist in Residence at Edinburgh's Queen's Hall.

He is the founder of the Black Glass Ensemble, a collective of classical players and experimental musicians, whose consolidation and further development is a core outcome of the Liminal programme.

Liminal website - <https://omnempathy.com/liminal/>

Michael Begg website – <http://michaelbegg.omnempathy.com>

Twitter - [@liminalnights](https://twitter.com/liminalnights) | [@michaelbegg](https://twitter.com/michaelbegg)

The Queen's Hall (Scottish Charity No SC012294) was officially opened by HM Queen Elizabeth II on 6 July 1979 and is celebrating forty years as Edinburgh's foremost mid-sized live music venue throughout 2019 with an extraordinary range of world-class artists from all musical fields: classical, jazz, folk and roots, rock and pop and Americana including a series of QH@40 gigs with guest curators, supported by Creative Scotland. The perfectly-proportioned, intimate auditorium, flawless acoustics and adaptability make it a unique and valuable resource in Edinburgh's cultural life. The Queen's Hall has provided facilities for the International, Fringe, Jazz, Film, Fiddle and Science Festivals and for many local amateur and professional groups, as well as being a key venue for music, comedy and spoken-word acts touring (inter)nationally. Annual audiences total around 90,000 and the venue works with up to 3,000 artists and support staff as well as partnering on year-round music learning and community engagement projects with the City of Edinburgh Council, The City of Edinburgh Music School, Drake Music Scotland and other schools and education providers.

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