

ALBA ENSEMBLE

We are a group of amateur and professional musicians. Our debut concert in March 2024, featuring Max Richter's *Four Seasons Recomposed*, marked the beginning of the ensemble. Our aim is to create a space where our members can continue to play ambitious repertoire to a high standard, including works that are less-frequently programmed, from contemporary classical to folk and jazz. Now that many of us have taken up careers outside of music, this project offers a way to remain playing, performing and arranging, particularly alongside old friends. The ensemble was formed by Helena Napier and Angus Bain, who were both in Ealing Youth Orchestra as teenagers.

Angus Bain is a freelance violinist based in London. After initially reading engineering at the University of Cambridge, he made the excellent decision to pursue a career as a musician, completing a Master's with distinction at the Royal Academy of Music in 2021. He now works with orchestras across the UK including the Royal Opera House Orchestra, the Royal Northern Sinfonia, the Hallé, and the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, amongst others, and recently completed a six-month contract with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. Angus also loves chamber music - whether it be performing in public or playing informally with friends - and writing arrangements for small ensembles, especially of folk tunes. Outside of music, he spends his spare time learning languages and running (occasionally at the same time), as well as playing football and ice hockey (not at the same time).

Helena is a digital producer who enjoys organising creative events which bring together talented musicians. While studying English at the University of Bristol, she spent most of her days outside of the lecture theatre, producing and publicising musical performances including Bernstein's *Candide* and *Reefer Madness*, which went up to the Edinburgh Fringe. After University, she joined the Royal Albert Hall's Young Producers Scheme, where she curated a weekend of events in 2019. Although her career has since pivoted to film production, organising such projects offers an opportunity to keep playing and collaborating with friends. She is also partial to some graphic design, running around London and her black cat Baloo.

Violin 1 Angus Bain, Jen Statham, Kerry Berry,
Tamsin Ireland, Helena Napier, Orla McGarrity

Violin 2 Leni Sewart, Gemma Cselko, Charlotte Cummings,
Aamir Walwyn, Lo Augusta, Claudia Dehnke

Viola Joe Lucas, Jess Cselko, Will Emery, Dorothy Hoskins

Cello Orla Papadakis, Rachel Flint, Phoebe Cselko, Nathan Jackson-Turner

Bass Theo Malka-Wishart

Leader Angus Bain

Vocals Fran Cummings and Ailsa Campbell

Guitar Jeremy Barclay

Keys Henry Binning

Arrangements Ruairidh Wilkinson, Angus Bain, Henry Binning

Producer Helena Napier

THE PROGRAMME

This evening's programme weaves together contemporary and traditional folk influences, with music arranged by various members of the ensemble. It features an hour of some of our favourite tunes, spanning a wide cross-section of the folk tradition.

We begin with *Prelude to the Sun* by Danish folk/jazz trio Dreamers' Circus - a reimagining of *Bach's Partita No. 3* in E Major, blended with Scandinavian folk elements and newly arranged for full ensemble by Angus. From there, we nip over to central Europe for *Romanian Dances* by Béla Bartók, the composer and ethnomusicologist known for collecting and reworking folk music and dances from across the region.

We then return to Scandinavia with music by the Danish String Quartet, an ensemble we're especially fond of, and whose music may well have featured at your wedding (feel free to enquire about future bookings).

The programme also features two vocal arrangements by Ruairidh, along with a nod to film music that fans of Dreamworks may recognise. We follow with a pairing of tunes by American folk violinist Hanneke Cassel, before closing the evening on a gentle note with the Danish String Quartet's arrangement of a traditional hymn.

Prelude to the Sun Dreamers' Circus (arr. Angus Bain)

Romanian Dances Béla Bartók

Sekstur from Vendsyssel / The Peat Dance Danish String Quartet

Unst Boat Song Danish String Quartet

The Dromer Danish String Quartet

Wichita Lineman Glen Campbell (arr. Ruairidh Wilkinson)

Nine Moons Dreamers' Circus (arr. Henry Binning)

Marie Louise / The Chat / Gale Warning Danish String Quartet

Themes from How to Train Your Dragon John Powell (arr. Angus Bain)

What He Wrote Laura Marling (arr. Ruairidh Wilkinson)

The Captain / Dancing with Bryce Hanneke Cassel (arr. Angus Bain)

Now Found is the Fairest of Roses Danish String Quartet

**Please join us for a pint at the Hansom Cab,
Earls Court Road, after the concert**