

Ensemble Aleph

Members of the acclaimed ensemble will be in Cyprus as part of the Pharos Arts Foundation Contemporary Festival on September 27

“**A** laboratory dedicated to creation” – a term one might more readily associate in the formulation of a new face cream, but in the case of the Ensemble Aleph, this collection of soloists’ search is to explore the possibilities in relationships between sound and text, movement and music.

Created in 1983, the Ensemble Aleph comprises clarinetist Dominique Clement, piano and accordionist Sylvie Drouin, percussionist Jean-Charles Francois, vocalist Monica Jordan, cellist Christopher Roy and violinist Noemi Schindler. With nearly 250 creations, the ensemble has not only established itself as a major relay of musical innovation, but also allows eligible young composers to benefit and share through the International Forum for Young Composers. This project was selected in 2000 by the European Commission Programme with its 61 composers who hail from 26 countries to

be part of the 7th Forum in 2014.

In its thirty year existence, the Ensemble Aleph has given an impressive 900 concerts and continually develops collective projects by pooling efforts and sharing practices. An example of this is the 2013 project titled Live in Lieu, a European Instrumental Laboratory which brings together musicians, ensembles and composers around musical creation.

The members of the ensemble Aleph who will be in Cyprus as part of the Pharos Arts Foundation Contemporary Festival on September 27 at The Shoe Factory include Sylvie Drouin, Monica Jordan, Christopher Roy and founder Dominique Clement who will present his composition from 1988 Poeme incorrect II for voice, clarinet and piano.

A co-founder of the ensemble, Clement has composed mainly chamber and stage music although he also regularly works on paedagogical projects as he is

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particularly interested in teaching and is currently at the Lyons Conservatory and part of the training programme for future teachers in music schools.

He explained that his musical language “developed from reading poets and novelists such as Claude Simon, Georges Perec, Jean-Jacques Viton and Jacques Roubaud.” Clement has received several state commissions and his works have been performed in festivals all over France, as well as Finland, Brazil, USA and Germany amongst others.

The programme is varied and includes music by Xenakis, Cage, Lachenmann, Sammouris’ Ghost Shadows for soprano and piano and two world premieres of Tomi Raisanen and Christina Athinodorou.

Cyprus-born Athinodorou is a highly regarded composer with a varied repertoire and is particularly interested in 20th century and contemporary music. Her compositions have been presented in various festivals, concert series and

venues internationally and she has collaborated with orchestras and ensembles such as the Camerata Europaea, Pierrot Lunaire Ensemble Wien, Elias String Quartet and Contemporary Consort amongst many others.

Athinodorou has many distinctions and prizes including the 2005 Aristotle University Chamber Music Composition Prize, the Aldworth Philharmonic Orchestra Young Composers’ Award and most recently was awarded a one week composer residency at the Centre d’Art Marnay-sur-Seine in France during April 2012 and the Laureate Diploma in the 6th International Prokofiev Composition Competition for her work Alma for Solo Viola and Orchestra.

In early 2011, she completed her PhD in Composition at the Royal Holloway University of London and has taught at the European University Cyprus and the London College of Music. Currently Dr Athinodorou is a freelance composer and conductor.

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