



Alex Poots to attend musical premiere at

DAF 2015

Siemens, West Didsbury, 8pm, Thursday 25 June

Alex Poots will be special guest at a unique evening of music-making during DAF 2015.

A talk given by the Manchester International Festival Artistic Director will provide one of the highlights at a charity concert hosted by engineering giants, Siemens, at their West Didsbury site on Thursday 25 June. Alex will be joined by MIF Creative Learning Director, Jennifer Cleary, to discuss MIF's achievements and to preview the MIF15 programme, Alex's last as CEO and Artistic Director.

The evening's exciting musical programme will be headlined by the The Vonnegut Collective, performing for the first time a brand new composition, specially commissioned for DAF 2015. The piece, entitled *..tiny lights...*, explores the space between sleep and wakefulness. Manchester-based new music chamber ensemble, The Vonnegut Collective, was formed in 2014 by BBC Philharmonic musicians, Gary

Farr (trumpet) and Gemma Bass (violin). They will be joined in their performance by composer-performer, Norman Skipp (electronics), and Marianne Rawles (clarinet).

Said Gemma: 'We hope the concert will be a different and engaging experience for people. *...tiny lights...* is based on the idea of lucid dreams as explored in the novel, *The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle* by Haruki Murakami. We hope the audience will be drawn in and enveloped in this very surreal, timeless and intangible sound-world.'

Also performing will be the MIF Sacred Sounds Choir. Formed from the legacy of the MIF 11's Sacred Sites project, the all-faith, all-female choir typically presents a varied programme ranging from spirituals and Palestinian ecumenical medleys to Jewish hymns and Christian gospels. Following their performance at Siemens for DAF, the choir will go on to take part in this year's MIF by providing vocal soundscape to a theatre piece called *Neck of the Woods*. The Siemens Choir will also perform on 25 June.

All proceeds from the evening will go to the Alzheimer's Society.

For tickets (£15/£10) visit: www.didsburyartsfestival.org

Notes for editors:

Visit:

<http://www.sacredsoundswomenschoir.org.uk/>

<http://vonnegutcollective.co.uk/>

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