

FITKINWALL

Harpland

with Ruth Wall and Graham Fitkin

Harpland loosely orbits round the not-so-new phenomenon of migration. Focusing on old Scottish melodies, it uses only the sounds from Ruth's three harps, which Graham then manipulates and expands. There is also a specially commissioned light installation from artist Peter Freeman and you will hear excerpts from interviews with migrants into Scotland that Ruth interviewed earlier this year.

Since homo sapiens came out of Africa between 60,000 and 100,000 years ago, humans have populated the planet at an increasing rate. There are over 8 billion of us and we move around a lot, motivated by many different triggers. Geological and geographic changes were key to the movement of people north from Africa, as was climate change. And climate change is causing migration once more right now. There are forced migrations, such as refugees from war or cross-Atlantic slavery. There are voluntary or aspirational migrations such as Europeans to America from the late 19th century onwards, or the colonisation of Australia. Then there is the recruitment of workers from abroad - Turkish workers to West Germany in the 1960s, Asian workers in the building of Gulf States' infrastructure or the UK's use of Commonwealth labour.

Harpland concentrates on one small aspect of this huge topic and it's Ruth's Scottish highland background that has driven it. The enforced eviction and subsequent migration of families and crofters from the highlands, as part of 'the clearances' changed the landscape and people's relationships with it. We chose predominantly old Scottish melodies that refer to parting, loss of home or community, and remoulded them for old and new instruments.

Atholl
Geal Og
Uist
Y Gog
Red Red Rose
Beinn Dorain

- interval -

Harris Gregor
I Ho Ro
Yalda
Nam Ban
Ale Is Dear
17 Come Sunday

Harps (wire-strung, bray, electro) Ruth Wall
Composer and live sound Graham Fitkin
Light Installation Peter Freeman
Sound Charlie Rickitt

Thanks to our interviewees - Lewis Backie, Mariya Bezkorovanya, Farhad, SL, Brigitte Geddes, Marija Matvejeva, Malcolm Baxter, Rhona and Alec Morrison.

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