

**BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra: Where Do We Go From Here**

**Audio Introduction: Transcription**

**Tom Service:** Welcome to the Edinburgh International Festival's *All You Need to Know* podcast, with me Tom Service. This time, the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra at the Usher Hall on the 6th of August at 5pm, with the conductor Ryan Wigglesworth, Edinburgh international Festival's Director Nicola Benedetti, and me.

*Where Do We Go From Here*, the concert's called. Here's Nicola Benedetti.

**Nicola Benedetti:** I think it's no secret that a lot of music written since Schoenberg lived is very polarizing, and some people love its direction, some people don't, but it's also no secret that with a "contemporary" piece of music added to our program, that can put people off coming, and I think it's been absolutely vital for me to actually look at that conversation head on and not fear an open dialogue conversation with our audience.

Part of it is an adjustment and an education into a variety of ways of listening to compositional direction across time, and different sort of harmonic and textual shifts across time, and is an encouraged increased curiosity from people that there's actually a wide diversity of what it's possible to listen to and enjoy, and love or perhaps be shocked by, or be appalled by, but it's also for me to get closer to the sort of taste and likes and dislikes of people, and form a collective direction that's based in curiosity and intrigue, and not one that is, uh, well-- has any element of laziness to it.

So for us, uh, to begin that dialogue this year, and it really is the beginning of a conversation that's been absolutely vital. So I can't wait to share pieces of music that are absolutely astounding, that are very much championed by Ryan Wigglesworth and the incredible BBC Scott Symphony, and certainly also loved and known and championed by Tom Service, who I'll be joined on the stage with. So I just look forward to that level of dialogue conversation, and in some respects informality around what is the future of classical music and where does it go next.

**Tom:** Nicola Benedetti on this, *Where Do We Go From Here* concert, with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, in which she and I will be on stage, going through this program with you of Helen Grime's *Virga*, Elizabeth Ogonek's *as though birds*, Mark-Anthony Turnage’s *Three Screaming Popes*, and Hans Abrahamsen’s *Let me tell you*. The conductor Ryan Wigglesworth will be absolutely vital in this concert. I mean, of course, because he's gonna be conducting the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, but he'll also be sharing his deep personal connections with this music, above all, Mark-Anthony Turnage’s *Three Screaming Popes*.

Uh, I just wanna reinforce the color and imagination and connections that this music makes with worlds outside of itself. Yes, there’s Shakespeare's Ophelia, and there's Francis Bacon in the painting inspiration for Turnage’s piece, and other kinds of inspiration, too, in Elizabeth Ogonek's, and Helen Grime's music as well. But I think the stunning thing about all of these pieces is that they contain worlds of extremity, you know, that are completely themselves, and yet, they're absolutely about making connections with the outside world. And I think it's gonna be exploring those things about how the orchestra becomes this machine for imagination, this machine for emotional extremity and sonic extremity, and delight in their hands. I can't wait to explore it all, uh, with Nicky Benedetti, with Ryan Wigglesworth and the Orchestra, and with all of you at the Usher Hall, on the 6th of August at 5pm. This concert will be about an hour and a half long, and there won't be an interval.