



VANCOUVER  
RECITAL  
SOCIETY

VIVA VRS!

SPRING CONCERTS 2024

Manchester Collective  
Abel Selaoe cello  
Thursday, April 11, 2024

# From the Artistic Director

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Dear Friends:

It is with great pleasure and excitement that we present the Manchester Collective with South African cellist Abel Selaocoe. This afternoon, they will take us on a musical journey with *Sirocco*, a program that celebrates the warmth and diversity of cultural traditions from across the globe.

We would like to thank our Season Sponsor, The Peak Group of Companies, for supporting our series, and we are most grateful to Peter and Hilde Colenbrander, and the Martha Lou Henley Charitable Foundation, for making this truly remarkable musical event possible.

We would also like to thank the City of Vancouver and the Government of British Columbia for their support.

Open your minds. Open your ears. Expect the unexpected.



Leila



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## ***Sirocco:*** **Manchester Collective & Abel Selaocoe**

*Sirocco* is pure joy and energy – a great storm of music that celebrates the warmth and diversity of cultural traditions from across the globe.

Guest directed and narrated by South African cellist Abel Selaocoe, this is music for the people, by the people. The show covers everything from outrageous arrangements for solo cello to beloved classics, from a set of original African music to a collection of gorgeous Danish folk songs. When this program toured across the UK and Europe, critics described it as a “deeply moving” and “once in a lifetime experience”.

Known for their experimental programming and daring collaborations, Manchester Collective perform a combination of cutting-edge contemporary music, classical masterpieces and staged work in venues ranging from concert halls to warehouses, nightclubs to festivals.



## **CELLPHONES**

The use of cellphones and recording devices is prohibited in the concert hall. Please take this opportunity to turn off all electronic devices.

音乐厅内禁止使用手机，禁止拍照，录音，录像。请观众关闭所有电子器材，谢谢您的合作。

# Program

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## Manchester Collective Abel Selaocoe, cello

Thursday, April 11, 2024 7:30 pm  
Vancouver Playhouse

### Manchester Collective:

Abel Selaocoe, cello\*

Rakhi Singh, violin

Simmy Singh, violin

Christine Anderson, viola

Alan Keary, electric bass\*

Sidiki Dembele, percussion\*

Joe Reiser, sound

Declan Kennedy,  
general manager and tour manager

\* Members of Chesaba

Season Sponsor



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**Peter & Hilde Colenbrander**

Additional Support:

**The Martha Lou Henley Charitable Foundation**



## Sirocco

*The order and repertoire of this program may be subject to change by the artists at any point; spoken introductions will be given from stage throughout the performance.*

ABEL SELAOCOE  
***Qhawe***

HANS ABRAHAMSEN  
*Selections from*  
**Preludes for String Quartet**

ABEL SELAOCOE  
***Tshepo***

LUCIANO BERIO  
***Aldo*** from 24 Duets for Two Violins

TRADITIONAL (Denmark)  
**Sønderho Bridal Trilogy**  
arr. Danish String Quartet

INTERMISSION

ABEL SEALOCOE  
***Kea Mo Rata***

JOSEPH HAYDN  
**String Quartet Op. 76/1 Hob. III: 75,**  
**I. Adagio Sostenuto**

TRADITIONAL (South Africa)  
***Ibuyile***

JOHANNES RUSTEN  
***O Fredrik, O Fredrik***  
arr. Danish String Quartet

ERIONA RUSHITI  
***Vashezo***

TRADITIONAL (Mali)  
***Takamba***

TRADITIONAL (South Africa)  
***Ka Bohaleng***

*The music program is subject to adjustments, and any changes will be announced live from the stage.*

# Manchester Collective

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Known for their imaginative programming, daring collaborations and engaging performances, the work of Manchester Collective has expanded at breakneck speed since their formation in 2016 by Adam Szabo and Rakhi Singh.

The Collective's vision is to reshape the future of classical music by creating radical artistic work from their base in the north of England. The shape-shifting ensemble performs a combination of cutting-edge contemporary music, classical masterpieces and staged work nationally and internationally, in spaces ranging from concert halls to warehouses and nightclubs to festivals.

They collaborate with an exciting array of award-winning artists, pushing at the boundaries of how classical music is presented and experienced. Notable previous projects include *Sirocco* and *The Oracle* with South African cellist Abel Selacoe, *Rosewood* with guitarist Sean Shibe, and a multimedia performance of Michael Gordon's "Weather" with an installation by sound recordist Chris Watson.



Photo credit: Gaelle Beri

New music is of vital importance to the Collective. Crossing different musical genres, in recent years they have commissioned major works by composers including Edmund Finnis, Emily Hall, Hannah Peel, Lyra Pramuk, Moor Mother, Laurence Osborn and Alice Zawadzki. Their 2023–24 season features new commissions by Isobel Waller-Bridge, Isabella Summers, Fergus McCreadie, and Katherine Balch.

In 2021, Manchester Collective made their Royal Albert Hall debut as part of the BBC Proms Festival and are currently artists-in-residence at the Southbank Centre in London. In 2023, they won the Royal Philharmonic Society's prestigious Ensemble award.

Manchester Collective record for the Icelandic label Bedroom Community. Their third studio album *NEON* was released in June 2023.

Manchester Collective is represented by Wittenberg Artists New York, NY

# Abel Selaocoe, cello

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**Early Life & Education:** Abel completed his International Artist Diploma at the Royal Northern College of Music in July 2018. In May 2021, he was announced as an inaugural Power Up Music Creator participant in PRS Foundation's new initiative to address anti-Black racism and racial disparities in the music sector, and in July 2021, he received a Paul Hamlyn Foundation award for his compositional work.

**Performances:** Abel combines virtuosic performance with improvisation, singing and body percussion, and is devoted to composing works and curating programmes that highlight the links between Western and non-Western musical traditions, broadening the horizons of classical music to reach a more diverse audience.

Abel thrives in exploratory settings, developing new projects with contemporaries, and enjoys close collaborations with musicians from a medley of genres, including Bernhard Schimpelsberger, Seckou Keita, Manchester Collective, Giovanni Sollima and Dudù Kouaté. In 2016, Abel formed Chesaba – a trio specializing in music from the African continent, including many of his own compositions – and in 2022 formed the Bantu Ensemble, who perform his music widely.

**This Season:** In 2023–24 Abel will make his debut at Edinburgh International Festival, Wiener Konzerthaus, Philharmonie Luxembourg, Konzerthaus Berlin, Caramoor Center for Music and the Arts and at Carnegie Hall with Sphinx Virtuosi. He also tours to the US with Manchester Collective and to the UK and Europe with his Bantu Ensemble. Abel is an Artistic Partner of the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, Artist Spotlight at London's Barbican Centre and Artist in Association with the BBC Singers, performing with each several times throughout the season. Abel also continues to perform his solo cello concerto *Four Spirits* widely in 2023–24, with performances with the Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra, London Symphony Orchestra at EFG London Jazz Festival and Philharmonie Zuidnederland.



Photo credit: Phil Sharp

Abel Selaocoe is represented by Intermusica Artists' Management Ltd, London, UK.

Abel Selaocoe is an exclusive recording artist with Warner Classics.

# Thank You!

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