

hcmf //



© Louise Mason

Ligeti Quartet plays Wadada Leo Smith

Sunday 17 November 2024
12pm, St Paul's Hall

Ligeti Quartet:
Freya Goldmark violin
Patrick Dawkins violin
Richard Jones viola
Valerie Welbanks cello

Wadada Leo Smith (USA, 1941)

String Quartet No. 3 (Black Church: A First World Gathering of the Spirit) (1995) 20'

String Quartet No 3, *Black Church* (1995) is part of Smith's epic, Pulitzer Prize-winning four-disc album *Ten Freedom Summers*, inspired by the civil rights movement in the US, and composed intermittently over 34 years starting in 1977. *Black Church* has a relatively conventional notation, although much of the time the quartet are performing as four individuals, often interacting but without many rhythmic restrictions. Of the piece, Smith comments: "The Black Church is the center and spiritual Light in African-American culture. My quartet celebrates those of culture and spirituality."

Wadada Leo Smith (USA, 1941)

String Quartet No. 17 (The Capitol, Washington D.C: An American Experiment with Democracy and Capitalism) (2024)
40' **UK Premiere**

1. The Capitol and the Rotunda
2. The Lincoln Memorial
3. The USA Supreme Court, Can It Survive?
4. Washington DC: Freedom Plaza – Palestine Plaza
5. Washington DC January Six: The Falcon Uplifted the Unity with Love

I dream of a moment in history when the people will rise up to create a society where the rule of law, justice and the practice of loving-kindness between humanity exists. I envision a society of people, not based on majority and minority relationships, who would have the civil abilities and skills to make the right choices to serve all avenues of life. Collectively, they would have the will and courage to select the representation to build a governance structure that is praiseworthy and beneficial to its people as would be demonstrated in an enduring democratic society not corrupted by greed.

The music of my double quartet ([originally for] string and flute quartets) is about this dream and vision. My sonic work will offer a ritualized model of that society. © Wadada Leo Smith

***Wadada Leo Smith** is a trumpeter, multi-instrumentalist, composer and improviser. He was born in Mississippi in 1941 and grew up with the backdrop of the segregated South and the civil rights movement. He has developed a system of graphic and symbolic musical notation named “Ankhrasmation” which provides both structure and inspiration for improvising musicians.*

Produced by hcmf// supported by Hinrichsen Foundation, Vaughan Williams Foundation, Ernst von Siemens Music Foundation and the hcmf// Friends

hcmf//
huddersfield
contemporary
music festival

In partnership with
The University of Huddersfield