

PRESS RELEASE
Monday, 13 July 2015

DARTMOOR SONG CYCLE CELEBRATES RAMBLING

A new song cycle exploring the experience of walking Dartmoor will be premiered on 25 and 26 July 2015 at London's New Diorama Theatre as part of this year's Tête à Tête: The Opera Festival, King's Cross.

Written by Australian-born composer Caitlin Rowley, *CROSSING DARTMOOR* incorporates recordings of the sounds of the moor and video footage captured on Dartmoor into the performance, along with songs in a classical style. The work uses texts by eminent British artist Richard Long, who is well known for his work rooted in walking remote locations. It was commissioned by Simon Oliver Marsh, a Devon-born singer whose love of walking the moor provided the composition's focus.

Marsh will be performing the cycle with Bulgarian pianist Alexandra Kremakova at the New Diorama Theatre in London at 7pm on Saturday 25 July, and at 3pm on Sunday 26 July. These performances of *CROSSING DARTMOOR* are supported by the National Lottery through Arts Council England and presented with the support of Tête à Tête: The Opera Festival, King's Cross. Tickets are available from the King's Place Box Office.

Caitlin Rowley's experimental and interdisciplinary compositions explore the boundaries of music, art and text. Her early composition studies in Australia were with Peter Sculthorpe, a composer particularly noted for his musical representations of the Australian landscape, and she has recently graduated from Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance with a Masters degree in composition. Her work on *CROSSING DARTMOOR* is supported by a Francis Chagrin Award from Sound and Music.

Bristol-based artist Richard Long's Dartmoor textworks form the heart of the cycle, both as song texts and as conceptual anchors for the composition. Long has been in the vanguard of Conceptual, Minimal and Land art in Britain since he created *A Line Made by Walking* in 1967, while still a student at St Martin's School of Art, London.

"I wanted to create a performance that encapsulated the experience of being in the Dartmoor landscape, that explored the feeling of being present in that location", Rowley says of her aims for the composition. The cycle explores a number of themes relating to the experience of walking the moor, including the passage of time, maps, visual representation of landscape and sounds of place.

For more information, contact: Caitlin Rowley at caitlin@caitlinrowley.com or by phone at 07871 573 038.

-ENDS-

Note to editors:

- *Crossing Dartmoor* is supported by the National Lottery through Arts Council England. To find out more about the Arts Council visit <http://artscouncil.org.uk>
- The composition of *Crossing Dartmoor* is supported by Sound and Music through a Francis Chagrin Award. To find out more about Sound and Music, visit <http://soundandmusic.org.uk>
- Tête à Tête: The Opera Festival, King's Cross is an annual celebration of new opera held in London. To find out more, visit <http://www.tete-a-tete.org.uk/>
- For more information about *Crossing Dartmoor*, visit the website at <http://crossingdartmoor.uk>. For Twitter updates, follow [@crossdartmoor](https://twitter.com/crossdartmoor)
- For more information about the creative team, visit their websites:
Composer Caitlin Rowley: <http://caitlinrowley.com>
Artist Richard Long: <http://www.richardlong.org/>
Singer Simon Oliver Marsh: <http://simonolivermarsh.com/>
Pianist Alexandra Kremakova: <http://www.alexandrakremakova.com/>
- Performances are at the New Diorama Theatre, 15-16 Triton Street, Regents Place, London NW1 3BF. Nearest tube is Great Portland Street or Warren Street. Performances at 7pm Saturday 25 July 2015, and 3pm Sunday 26 July 2015. Performances are approximately 40 minutes in duration. Tickets £7.50 from Kings Place Box Office at <http://www.kingsplace.co.uk/whats-on-book-tickets/music/caitlin-rowley-crossing-dartmoor>
- Interviews can be arranged with composer Caitlin Rowley or singer Simon Oliver Marsh.
- A press kit containing promotional images, link to recordings and other resources is available on the Crossing Dartmoor website at <http://crossingdartmoor.uk/about/press-kit/>



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