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Ardhanariswara – a new piece for string quartet and dance

Composer – Nick Gray

Musicians – Piatti Quartet

Dancemaker – Kali Chandrasegaram

Director – Hi Ching

Ardhanariswara or Ardhanarishvara is the name of the joint female-male form of the Hindu God Shiva, appearing in iconography both in India and South East Asia. The music uses interlocking techniques derived from Balinese music within the ‘female-male’ (SATB) voices of the string quartet format. This becomes the dynamic basis for a dance, choreographed by Kali Chandrasegaram.

Nick Gray is a composer and Senior Lecturer in the Music Department SOAS. He studied *gendér wayang*, the music for the Balinese shadow theatre, with I Wayan Loceng in Sukawati, Bali, a village famed for its shadow puppetry and the complexity of its style. He teaches on many aspects of South East Asian music, as well as performance and composition. Recent work includes: “The Birth of Kala” and “The Watchers by the Well” with story teller and movement artist Tim Jones, “Bawang Merah Bawang Putih” with choreographer and dancer Ni Made Pujawati, and a psychedelic gamelan trip hop project ‘My Tricky Spirit’ with producer Rob Shipster.

Kali Chandrasegaram is a multi-discipline, experimental dancer and choreographer, working across genres from classical to contemporary, cross-dressing and cabaret. Originally from Malaysia, Kali is a key artist in the UK Contemporary South Asian dance scene and has worked for many of the genre's leading companies. Trained in South Asian Classical dance forms: Bharata Natyam, Odissi, Kathak and Western Contemporary dance genres: Graham, Cunningham and Humphrey; and uses these styles as springboards to venture into greater possibilities. Has danced and created dance in South Africa, Canada, Australia, India, Malaysia, France and UK.

“He who Dares”, Donald Hutera

“Continually surprising”, The Stage

The Piatti Quartet are one of the most distinguished quartets of their generation. Prizewinners at the 2015 Wigmore Hall International String Quartet Competition (formerly London), they have performed in all the major venues and festivals around the country as well as concerts throughout the world, with national broadcasts on BBC Radio, ABC (Australia), RTE (Ireland) and France Musique (France). The Piatti Quartet are: Nathaniel Anderson-Frank (violin 1), Michael Trainor (violin 2), David Wigram (viola) and Jessie Ann Richardson (cello).

Projected image: a Nepalese version of Śiva Ardhanārīśvara known locally as Nāsaḥḍyaḥ, courtesy of Prof Richard Widdess.