NORTHERN LIGHTS

2015 marks the 150th anniversary of two of the most important Nordic composers, Jean Sibelius and Carl Nielsen. With over 300 works between them, there is a wealth of music from which to choose. Another key figure from this territory is Aulis Sallinen, who will celebrate his 80th birthday in 2015. Nielsen will be celebrated with a 4 cd box-set with all six symphonies played by the New York Philharmonic; a new recording of the opera Maskaraade by the Danish Radio Symphony Orchestra. The BBC Symphony Orchestra will perform three of the symphonies in the spring season alongside music by Sibelius. Throughout 2015, Nielsen’s music will be performed and celebrated in every concert hall in Denmark, and the same can be said for Sibelius in Finland. Sibelius will be performed by orchestras across the globe, most notably by the Berlin Philharmonic, the New York Philharmonic and the Wiener Symphoniker. ●

JUDITH WEIR

Judith Weir has been appointed as The Master of The Queen’s Music. Weir succeeds Sir Peter Maxwell Davies and has been appointed for a fixed-term of ten years. Weir said: “It is a great honour to take up the position of Master of the Queen’s Music, in succession to Sir Peter Maxwell Davies, who has given his musical and personal gifts so freely to this unusual national role. I hope to encourage everyone in the UK who sings, plays or writes music, and to hear as many of them as possible in action over the next ten years. Listening is also a skill, and I intend to uphold our rights to quietness and even silence, where appropriate. Above all, our children deserve the best we can give them, and that includes access to live music, whether as learners, performers or listeners. In addition she will be Composer in Association with the BBC Singers from 2015–2018. Judith blogs about her experiences of cultural life at judithweir.com ●

DANIEL WOHL

A new Schirmer signing is Paris-born and Brooklyn-based composer Daniel Wohl. He draws on his background in electronic music to create pieces that ‘blur the line between electronic and acoustic instrumentation and seemingly melt both elements into a greater organic whole’ (WNYC). He has worked with many chamber ensembles and orchestras and has collaborated with artists such as Laurel Halo, Julia Holter, and Son Lux. In 2013 he recorded his critically acclaimed debut album, Corps Exquis, for New Amsterdam Records. The multimedia, chamber, and electronics project was created in conjunction with the new music ensemble Transit and a collective of New York-based video artists. Looking to the future, Wohl has a commission from Donaueschinger Musiktage for the Calder Quartet; a score for the surrealist indie film Elixir, and Cycles, a full-length ballet score commissioned by Sonic Generator and the GLO ATL dance company. ●

KAJII SAARIAHO

The music of Kajia Saariah0 continues to make an impact on festivals and orchestras the world over with Sweden, Mexico, Finland and Tokyo all on the agenda for the coming year. From September 22–28 she is Guest Composer at the Trondheim Festival where she is joined by regular collaborators Camilla Holtena, Monica Groop, Daniel Belcher and Ernest Martínez-Izquierdo for performances of a whole spectrum of chamber, choral and orchestral music culminating in a performance of the celebrated opera L’Amour de loin. The Morelia Festival will also welcome Saariah0 as guest composer in November. Susanna Mäkki conducts the Finnish premiere of her recent orchestral work, Circle Map, in January 2015 and, soon after in April, the Finnish premiere of the monodrama Emille will be presented at Finnish National with conductor André de Ridder and soprano Camilla Nylund. Then to the USA for the world premiere by the LA Philharmonic Orchestra of True Fire a song cycle written for Gerald Finley. In Tokyo, Saariah0 is the guest judge for the Toru Takemitsu Composition Prize. Her presence is celebrated by a performance of L’Amour de loin with Martinez-Izquierdo and the clarinet concerto D’OM LE VRAI SENS performed by Kari Kriikku and the Tokyo Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra with Thomas Dausgaard. Saariah0 is also mentoring composer Vasco Mendonça as a guest of the Rolex Mentor and Protégé programme. ●

BLACK MOUNTAIN SONGS

At North Carolina’s Black Mountain College, erstwhile commune and artistic playground of John Cage, Merce Cunningham, and many others, a spirit of radical democracy prevailed. Students and teachers shared roles and work and boundaries between disciplines dissolved, nurturing an atmosphere of unfettered creative collaboration. Black Mountain Songs, created by Bryce Dessner and co-curated by Richard Reed Parry, renews the collaborative thread which was so elemental to this seminal generation of American art. It comprises of works by seven composers—Dessner, along with Parry, Nico Muhly, Pulitzer Prize winner Caroline Shaw, Aleksandra Vrebalov, John King and Tim Hecker. They collaborate with filmmaker Matt Wolf to create an expansive choral and visual work celebrating Black Mountain’s utopian spirit. Brooklyn Academy of Music and Brooklyn Youth Chorus present the world premiere of Black Mountain Songs with four performances from November 20–23 2014. ●

ANDRÉ PREVIN

In 2014 André Previn celebrates his 85th birthday. Two new works will be premiered this season, each commissioned by large consortiums. World-renowned husband and wife duo Jaime Laredo and Sharon Robinson give the world premiere of his Double Concerto for Violin and Cello on November 21–22 with the Cincinnati Symphony and conductor Louis Langrée. Over twenty wind ensembles worked together to commission Music for Wind Orchestra (No Strings Attached) which will premiere on October 10 at the Eastman School of Music. ●
TERRY RILEY
At the Royal Majestic, a concerto by Terry Riley for organist Cameron Carpenter tore audiences from their seats at its premiere in Los Angeles. European audiences will hear it on tour from October 9–10 with the Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin with Giancarlo Guerrero on the podium, followed by the UK premiere by the BBC Concert Orchestra and conductor André de Ridder on October 18. Also on the horizon, the 2015 World Minimalist Festival in Amsterdam presents Riley as their Guest of Honour. A new recording of In C, including Brian Eno and featuring the Africa Express Ensemble and de Ridder, will be released on November 3 on Transgressive Records, in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the work. In October 2013 Damon Albarn’s Africa Express project travelled to Bamako, Mali to work with musicians who had recently been affected by the Islamist uprising in the north of the country. They set out to record this special African version of In C with an array of local musicians, as well as the visiting Africa Express artists.

NICO MUHLY
In October 2014 you can hear the new setting of the Magnificat and Nunc dimittis for choir and organ by Nico Muhly at Christ Church, Delaware, following a week later by its orchestrated version, commissioned by the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra. On February 5 2015 Fretwork will perform a newly commissioned work in a concert at London’s Kings Place. A viola concerto for Nadia Siota has been commissioned by National Orchestra of Spain (Feb 6)., Festival St Denis (June 2015), Detroit Symphony Orchestra (Nov 2015) NACO, Ottawa (Feb 2016). In May 2015 The Philadelphia Orchestra will premiere a new orchestral work which they take to New York and then on a European tour. On June 6 Britten Sinfonia and counter-tenor Iestyn Davies present Sentences, a compelling dramatic monologue inspired by the life and persecution of the Second World War code-breaker and computer pioneer Alan Turing. The piece is commissioned by Barbican, Festival St Denis, Cologne Philharmonie and Britten Sinfonia.

THE GHOSTS OF VERSAILLES
LA Opera presents The Ghosts of Versailles, a grand opera buffa by John Corigliano, one of the most acclaimed operas of our time. The Ghosts of Versailles turns history on its head as love attempts to alter the course of destiny. Trapped in the spirit world, the ghost of Marie Antoinette bitterly reflects on her final suffering. Her favourite playwright tries to entertain the melancholy queen with the continuing adventures of his beloved characters from The Barber of Seville and The Marriage of Figaro. But Figaro refuses to play by the script, breaking free from the opera-within-the-opera in a surprise bid for a better life. The new production, directed by Darko Tresnjak runs from February 7 – March 1, 2015.

FLORENCIA EN EL AMAZONAS
Three major American opera houses will revive Florencia en el Amazonas by Daniel Catán. The Washington National Opera mounts a production which runs from September 20–28 followed by a run at LA Opera from November 22–December 20. From January 23–27, Nashville Opera will present a new production. In Florencia, a steamboat passage through the fabled rainforest becomes a mystical voyage of discovery, each passenger harbouring secret hopes of what the trip will bring. Among them, a famous prima donna hopes to recapture the great love of her life. Reality and fantasy intertwine as the dangerous splendours of the Amazon test the travellers’ preconceptions of their hopes and dreams. Inspired by the writings of Gabriel García Márquez, Florencia en el Amazonas paints an intoxicating portrait of the transformative nature of love.

A CHRISTMAS CAROL
As part of Houston Grand Opera’s Holiday Opera Series supported by the Robert and Janice McNair Foundation, Iain Bell has been commissioned to compose an operatic adaptation of Charles Dickens’ festive classic A Christmas Carol. It is a setting of Dickens’ one-man version of the novella that he frequently performed throughout his career. The one-man on this occasion is American tenor Anthony Dean Griffey who will be directed by acclaimed British actor/director Simon Callow. The work is scored for a 15-player chamber orchestra and will be premiered in Houston Grand Opera’s Cullen Theater in December 2014.

ANDY PAPE – OPERAS FOR ALL AGES
A new opera for children aged 12 upwards, The Journey of the Fumes, by Andy Pape will be premiered in November 2014 by The Nordic Opera. The subject is climate change, seen through the eyes of the teenage daughter of a couple who earn all their money from energy production that pollutes society. Her thoughts, feelings and actions – and time travel – are at the centre of this engaging opera. In addition, Pape has written Other Buildings which will premiere in April 2015 at Den Fynske Opera. Other Buildings is a large chamber opera for an adult audience, portraying a dystopian, malfunctioning society that exists solely in Building Two and an individual who – for a while – dreams and wonders about what life might be like in the Other Buildings.
Søren Nils Eichberg – Glare
Danish-German composer Søren Nils Eichberg has been commissioned by the Royal Opera House, London to write a new opera: Glare. He has composed a haunting thriller about truth and reality to a libretto by Hannah Dübgen. A love story takes unexpected turns through science and individual perception which leaves the audience startled and questioning its own observation of the world. The new chamber opera will be premiered under the direction of Thaddeus Strassberger at the Linbury Studio, London on November 14 2014.

Everest by Joby Talbot
Joby Talbot’s first opera confronts the tragic events surrounding the Everest expeditions of 1996. Talbot is collaborating with librettist Gene Scheer on this new opera which is commissioned by Dallas Opera. Everest blends documented facts and contemporary recollections of the journey experienced by survivors of the disaster. The cast includes tenor Andrew Bidlack, mezzo-soprano Sasha Cooke, bass Kevin Burdette, and baritone Craig Verm. The world premiere will be conducted by Nicole Paiement and staged by director Leonard Foglia, with visuals designed by Elaine J. McCarthy. The premiere takes place at the Margo and Bill Winspear Opera House on January 30 2015. Talbot has established himself as a significant composer of original works for the concert hall and the stage. Successes include Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland (2011) with Christopher Wellington which was followed by The Winter’s Tale with the same creative team.

Sogni ed Epifanie by Casablancas
The biennial carte blanche dedicated to Benet Casablancas by Orquesta Sinfónica de Barcelona i Nacional de Catalunya and L’Auditori is already well-known among lovers of classic contemporary music. The prestigious commission and concert hall have commissioned a work called Sogni ed Epifanie, which will be performed in 2015. The score is inspired by the ideas and philosophical concepts of Rafael Argullol, librettist of Casablancas’ opera L’Enigma di Lea, which will be premiered in 2017 at Gran Teatre del Liceu of Barcelona. Kazushi Ono, to whom the work is dedicated, will conduct the piece on January 30 and 31 and February 1 2015, at L’Auditori of Barcelona.

Nyman Symphonies & WW1 Music
Michael Nyman celebrated his 70th birthday earlier in 2014, marking the occasion with a symphony writing project. Although he has written almost 50 works for orchestra, until recently he had never written a symphony. By the end of 2014, audiences will have heard the premiere of six of these works – Symphony No 2, Symphony No 3: Symphony of sexual songs, Symphony No 5, Symphony No 6, Symphony No 11: Hillsborough Memorial and Symphony No 12: Habla de la ciudad. Orchestras premiering the works have included the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, London Symphony Orchestra, Orquesta Sinfónica de Castilla y León, Bruckner Orchester Linz, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra and New World Orchestra. There is a plan for recordings of all of these to be released on MN Records in the near future. Scores for each of these works are being added to ScoresOnDemand as they become available. War Work also receives its premiere this autumn. Written to commemorate the anniversary of World War I from commissioners in France, Germany and Hungary, it will be premiered in Châlons en Champagne, France. This project deals with questions of lost identities: of unknown soldiers and those missing. Described as a “visual and musical fresco”, it combines a new composition for the Michael Nyman Band and solo singer with archival footage selected by Nyman.

Albert Guinovart – CNDM Commission
CNDM (INAEM–Spanish Ministry of Culture) has commissioned a work by UME composer Albert Guinovart. The work for string orchestra pays homage to Mozart. Opus23 orchestra conducted by Andrés Salado will perform the commissioned piece in Alicante’s Council Auditorium on January 13 2015. On the same day, Guinovart will be in conversation with Joan Enric Canet at CNDM on the subject of “Creating and performing contemporary music”. Sony Classical has recently released a CD in which the composer performs all the piano parts including the Piano Concertos 1 & 2, conducted by Vasily Petrenko, and the Poetic Waltzes, a series of works for piano solo.

Illarramendi’s Ninth Symphony
The Orquesta Sinfónica de Euskadi will focus on the music of Angel Illarramendi by performing one of his symphonies in 2015. Illarramendi’s Symphony No 9 will be performed by the orchestra in five concerts conducted by José Miguel Pérez-Sierra. The orchestra will then perform the magnificent
work in the north of Spain: Vitoria-Gasteiz (April 24), San Sebastián (April 27 and 30), Pamplona (April 28) and Bilbao (April 29). Illarramendi is fearless to the “Curse of the ninth” and challenges the history of music with a work that is true to his melodic and beautiful style.

OPENERS AND ENCORES

New concert works this season include Eos by Augusta Read Thomas for the Utah Symphony and their music director Thierry Fischer which will premiere on February 20–21 2015. The Houston Symphony will premiere a new symphonic dance by an expert in that genre, Gabriela Lena Frank. With three symphonic dances already in her catalogue, Frank’s fourth dance, Karnavalingo, was commissioned to welcome the symphony’s new music director, Andrés Orozco-Estrada. The Bamberg Symphony Orchestra has initiated a long-term project, ‘Encore!’ for which Hans Abrahamsen, Simon Holt, David Lang and Poul Ruders have each been commissioned to write a piece. Holt opens the project with An icicle of moon on October 30.●

HELEN GRIME

As part of her composer association with the Hallé Orchestra, Helen Grime has been commissioned to compose a Double Concerto for clarinet and trumpet which is to be premiered in May 2015 by the Hallé and conducted by Marcus Stenz, with the principal clarinettist and trumpeter as soloists. This is Grime’s third year in residence with the orchestra which has resulted in three new commissions as well as a recently released CD featuring a selection of chamber and orchestral works. The disc has been released on NMC and is part of their “Debut Discs” series.●

POUL RUDERS’ SYMPHONY NO 5

The Danish Radio Symphony Orchestra will perform the world premiere of Symphony No 5 by Poul Ruders in January 2015 at Koncerthuset, Copenhagen. Although there is no specific story to the work, Ruders admits to being fascinated by the Pacific Ocean’s Ring of Fire; the girdle of disruptive geological events that encircles the ocean from North to South and East to West. He says, ‘The middle movement is an oasis of calm and patience ringed by two outer movements of speed and fury. The first movement opens up introducing a tune of an almost endlessly self-reproducing nature riding at break-neck pace on the back of a, well, volcano of orchestral activity and momentum. Formally the first movement is a rondo of sorts, with an easily recognizable section of flurrying figurations interrupting the tune in its track, only to disappear and then reappear in a slightly altered guise. The third movement, the opposite half-crescent of fire, is less fast but more relentless in its vice-like, slow-burning endurance. The tune from the first movement makes a brief re-visit, and then – all of a sudden – it’s all over.’●

TAN DUN

Composer–conductor Tan Dun returns to the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra who perform two new works, in which two members of the orchestra – harpist Petra van der Heide and principal bassist Dominic Seldis – are giving solo performances. A written language developed by women excluded from official cultural life inspired Tan Dun to write Nu Shu, a ‘dramatic symphony for harp, orchestra and twelve micro films’. The work was commissioned by the NHK Symphony Orchestra, the Philadelphia Orchestra and the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, and was premiered in Tokyo in May 2013. Dominic Seldis is the soloist in Tan Dun’s brand-new double bass concerto, commissioned by the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, the St. Louis Symphony, the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, the Taiwan National Symphony and the Tasmanian Symphony.●

SALONEN – CREATIVE CHAIR AT TONHALLE ZURICH

The newly created position will kick off on September 10 with a world premiere of Karawane, a choral symphonic work jointly commissioned by Tonhalle Zürich, Bamberg Symphony Orchestra (October 18 2014), New York Philharmonic, Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra (December 6 2014) and Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra. Across the season there will be a great variety of symphonic concerts, chamber music and a masterclass. Amongst other pieces Salonen’s Piano Concerto, Violin Concerto, Helix, Nxy and Memoria will be performed in Zurich and on tour (Helix).●

HENRIK HELLSTENIUS

The Oslo Philharmonic has chosen Henrik Hellstenius as their Composer’s Profile for the 14/15 season. The Norwegian composer born in 1963 will write new music for the orchestra, and curate concerts during the season. In November 2014 the Oslo Philharmonic will give the world premiere of a new work by Hellstenius written in collaboration with the writer Øyvind Rimberoid based on the subject of “Laws”. As the composer explains in the orchestra’s season brochure, the subject is not altogether unconnected with the fact that Norway has a Constitutional jubilee in 2014. Hellstenius will draw on his experience with visuals, light, drama and words, and curate concerts that aim to be “theatre for the ear”. Hellstenius will oversee four concerts during the season, and his own works will be presented at each of the four concerts. Like Objects in a Dark Room, Readings of Mr G, the world premiere of Loven and In a Quiet Space. He has also written a new piece for the orchestra and their chief conductor Vasily Petrenko.●
2015 marks the 800th anniversary of the 1215 Magna Carta, one of history’s most important legal documents and the basis of English law. Two Music Sales composers have been commissioned to write works to mark this occasion – Tarik O’Regan and Nico Muhly. Salisbury Cathedral is home to the finest of the four surviving original 1215 Magna Carta and to celebrate this O’Regan has been commissioned by the cathedral to write a 30 minute work for vocal soloists, choir and chamber orchestra. The text has been commissioned from Alice Goodman and will receive its world premiere at the cathedral in June 2015. Later this year listen out for Our Present Charter by Muhly, commissioned by the Temple Music Trust for the Choir of the Temple Church.

An exciting new work for chorus and orchestra by Tarik O’Regan has been commissioned by the Manchester Grammar School to mark its 500th birthday in 2015. A Celestial Map of the Sky: 1515 is a setting of a selection of poems inspired by the stars, including texts by Mahmood Jamal, Walt Whitman, and Gerald Manley Hopkins. The work will be premiered by Hallé Youth Choir, Manchester Grammar School Choir and Hallé Orchestra conducted by Sir Mark Elder in the Bridgewater Hall, Manchester on April 16 2015.

James Whitbourn has received a major commission from Belfast Philharmonic Society to compose a new piece for choir and orchestra in celebration of their 140th anniversary. The new work will be premiered on May 30 2015 by Belfast Philharmonic Choir and the Ulster Orchestra in Northern Ireland’s renowned Ulster Hall. Whitbourn is a versatile composer with an international reputation for choral music. His most well-known work, Annelies, a setting of The Diary of Anne Frank.

A new work for chorus and orchestra by Avner Dorman will be premiered on November 22 & 23 by the Grand Rapids Symphony in the USA. Dialogues of Love explores texts about love in many languages from a variety of religious, poetic, and philosophical sources such as the Bible, The Tao, The Qur’an, and Love Mantras. Dorman drew heavy inspiration from Judah Leon Abravanel’s book Dialoghi d’amore, to create a work of both drama and devotion celebrating and investigating this miraculous of all concepts – love. Another oratorio, A Dylan Thomas Trilogy by John Corigliano will be heard in Thomas’ homeland. The BBC National Orchestra of Wales along with The BBC Singers; Roderick Williams, baritone; and Andrew Staples, tenor and conductor Grant Llewellyn bring this beautiful melding of text and music to audiences in Swansea on October 11.

The music of David Lang will be celebrated at De Doelen in Rotterdam and at the Muziekgebouw and Concertgebouw in Amsterdam. Amongst other works the Pulitzer Prize winning work the little match girl passion will be presented by Dutch Chamber Choir and vocaallab. the whisper opera will receive its European premiere on February 9 in 2015. death speaks will be performed by Shara Worden and De Doelen Ensemble. The Residentie Orchestra, So Percussion, Ensemble Klang and the AskoSöönborg Ensemble are also involved and will present works such as man-made, pierced, men, and my very empty mouth.

The BBC’s “Total Immersion: John Tavener Remembered” takes place on October 5 at the Barbican, London. The day consists of screenings of films ‘Glimpses of Paradise’ and ‘The South Bank Show: Beyond the Veil’ alongside several concerts featuring music by John Tavener. The evening orchestral concert includes The Protecting Veil, Akhmato-va: Requiem and Little Ceremonial conducted by Alexander Vdernikov with soprano Marie Arnet, bass Brindley Sherratt, cellist Nicholas Altstaedt and the BBC Symphony Orchestra. Musicians from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama will perform choral and chamber works. The BBC Singers under the direction of James Morgan with organist Stephen Farr perform The Lamb, Song for Athene, Coplas, Thunder Entered Her and the Missa Wellensis. At the Concertgebouw Brugge on October 26 the Alcea, EnAccord, Varese and the Zerka- mo Quartets give the Belgian premiere of Towards Silence. In May 2015 the Orchestre Philharmonique de Strasbourg premiere It is finished in Strasbourg Cathedral with the mezzo Valentina Kutzarova conducted by Marko Letonja.

The Britten Sinfonia premieres Tavener’s last major concert work, Flood of Beauty (Saundarya Lahari), on September 28. Then in 2015 the work will be performed at the Barbican’s co-commissioner’s venue, the Esplanade, in Singapore. Based on a Sanskrit poem by the 9th-century philosopher and poet Sankara, the piece is an attempt to show the rapture and bliss of the Divine Being through Hinduism – following Tavener’s many revered musical journeys through Christianity, Islam and Judaism. The work was devised to be performed with the instruments of a normal symphony orchestra, but all spaced around the auditorium – with Indian classical instruments tabla and sitar completing the ensemble.
THE MOUNTAIN THAT LEFT
The world premiere of The Mountain That Left by Kevin Volans will take place on September 24 at the Barbican Hall, London. This new choral work has been commissioned to commemorate the BBC Singers 90th birthday and will feature South African soprano Pumeza Matshikiza. The BBC Singers will be performing with the BBC Symphony Orchestra and conductor Andrew Litton. The group will also perform works by Nico Muhly and Thea Musgrave in a concert with Fretwork on September 30.

COUNTERCULTURE CLASSICAL
As part of the San Francisco Symphony’s new SoundBox series, Nathaniel Stookey in collaboration with conductor Edwin Outwater will curate a “Counterculture Classical” concert, celebrating the experimental, fringe music that has flourished in California. The concert will include music by Terry Riley, Harry Partch, John Cage, Henry Cowell, Nicole Lizée, and Stookey’s beloved masterpiece for hand-built percussion, Junkestra. The San Francisco Symphony is also commissioning Stookey to write a new piece for the extraordinary electro-acoustic instruments of designer Oliver DiCicco for the occasion.

CHAMBER MUSIC BY HOLT
Two chamber works by Simon Holt are soon to receive premieres. His 3rd Quartet, written for the Jack Quartet, has been co-commissioned by The Radcliffe Trust, NMC Recordings, Heidelberger Frühling, and Wigmore Hall with the support of André Hoffmann, president of the Fondation Hoffmann. The world premiere takes place on January 19 2015 at the Wigmore Hall, London, shortly followed by performances at the Heidelberger Frühling Festival. A different work entirely is The Legend of Melusine for organ and boy treble. This has been commissioned by the Royal College of Organists to mark its 150th anniversary and Southbank Centre as part of the Pull Out All The Stops festival. The world premiere is on December 10 2014 at London’s Royal Festival Hall, with organist Martin Baker and a chorister from Westminster Cathedral.

ALICE IN NEW YORK
The Joyce Theater Foundation and the National Ballet of Canada will present the New York premiere of Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland, set to an original score by Joby Talbot with choreography by Christopher Wheeldon and costume and set designs by Bob Crowley. The production of the Lewis Carroll classic is scheduled to run from September 9 to 14 at the David H. Koch Theater in Lincoln Center, New York. This production was premiered at the Royal Opera House, London in 2011.

O’REGAN & BONACHELA
Following a recent successful visit to Sydney, Tarik O’Regan is now working with Sydney Dance Company and Artistic Director and choreographer Rafael Bonachela. Developing some new work around his piece Scattered Rhymes, the collaboration will be a 30 minute work as part of a double bill, Louder Than Words, opening in October 2014 at the Sydney Theatre.

KLANGSPUREN SCHWAZ
The prestigious International Ensemble Academy of Ensemble Modern has been taking place in collaboration with the Austrian festival Klangspreen Schwaz in Tyrol since 2004. In 2014 Hans Abrahamsen is the featured composer of the academy and the festival and Choral für Luigi Nono, a new orchestral work will be premiered at the opening concert on September 11 2014. Ensemble Modern will perform Wald and the Arditti Quartet with Frode Haltti, accordion will perform String Quartet No 4 and Three Little Nocturnes in addition to Concerning King by Rolf Wallin. The festival with a Nordic theme has invited the Danish Esbjerg Ensemble which will present the world premiere of Coastline by Juliana Hodkinson, with a Nielsen arrangement by Abrahamsen of Three Piano Pieces.

The Wundergrund festival in Copenhagen will also feature Abrahamsen and Hodkinson (October 24 to November 1 2014), with a portrait concert for Hodkinson performed by the Esbjerg Ensemble in which the Danish premieres of the new string quartet is there something you can tell us and The Coastline Piece III will take place. The Arditti Quartet and Frode Haltti will once again perform Abrahamsen’s music (String Quartet No 4, Air and Three Little Nocturnes).

MINIMALISM UNWRAPPED
For the duration of 2015 Kings Place are presenting a series exploring Minimalism. It includes surveys of the chamber music of Philip Glass, Michael Nyman and Michael Gordon, Julia Wolfe and David Lang, performed by the Smith Quartet. The seminal work In C by Terry Riley will be performed by the Aurora Orchestra, and a stream of choral concerts featuring great works of the Renaissance, along with music by John Tavener and David Lang. The series also explores the influences that minimalism has had on today’s music with performances from A Winged Victory for the Sullen and Scanner and a newly commissioned work from Nico Muhly.