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A CALL FOR CLIMATE ACTION IN THE SPIRIT OF BEETHOVEN WITH NEW MUSIC FOR STRINGS & LIVE ELECTRONICS

**VERBIER FESTIVAL UNLIMITED, IN ASSOCIATION WITH NONCLASSICAL, PRESENTS
PASTORAL 21, FEATURING THE UK PREMIERE OF GABRIEL PROKOFIEV'S *PASTORAL
REFLECTIONS***

- Gabriel Prokofiev and the Verbier Festival UNLTD Collective, perform *Pastoral 21* at Stereo, Glasgow on November 7, 2021, during the COP26, UN Climate Change Conference.
- *Pastoral 21* features the UK premiere of Prokofiev's *Pastoral Reflections*, a work for string sextet, live electronics and field recordings, commissioned by the Verbier Festival as a response to Beethoven's *Pastoral Symphony*. The work premiered at the 2021 edition of Verbier Festival Unlimited.
- *Pastoral 21* seeks to encourage audiences to reflect on the preservation of our natural world and to take action—making COP26 a perfect occasion for this UK premiere.

October 19, 2021 — VERBIER (Switzerland) — The **Verbier Festival** joins forces with **Nonclassical** to present the *Pastoral 21* project in Glasgow on Sunday, November 7. Coinciding with the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26), the project asks 'what pastoral means to us in this time of climate crisis' and features the UK premiere of Gabriel Prokofiev's *Pastoral Reflections*, commissioned as a response to Beethoven's *Pastoral Symphony* by the Verbier Festival.

Composer, producer and DJ Gabriel Prokofiev travelled to the heights of Verbier in early 2020—just before the world shut down due to Covid-19—to record atmospheric sounds from nature. He integrated these field recordings in *Pastoral Reflections*, his new work for string sextet and live electronics. Taking a cue from Beethoven, who was inspired by the Viennese countryside to compose his *Pastoral Symphony*, Prokofiev explored the Valaisan alps as a starting point for his response to the former's masterwork.

"Today, the concept of 'pastoral' is bittersweet," comments Prokofiev. "We can still experience the beauty of nature, but the traces of humanity and industry are always present, and the spectre of the ever-increasing climate crisis is looming."

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Pastoral 21 is presented in multiple sets at this Glasgow performance, opening with the first movement of Beethoven's famous symphony (arranged for sextet)—reminding listeners of our less troubled relationship with nature 250 years ago—before moving on to the modern beats of Prokofiev's latest album *Breaking Screens*, which explores ideas of consumerism, digital life and impending crisis. The programme climaxes to the premiere of *Pastoral Reflections* which echoes Beethoven's symphonic narrative, but from a contemporary perspective.

Gabriel Prokofiev collaborates with the Verbier Festival UNLTD Collective for this performance—an ensemble made up of recent Verbier Festival Academy alumni who are assembled for original projects as part of the Verbier Festival's 'Unlimited' cultural engagement incubator—a bubbling creative platform at the Festival that aims to stimulate musical curiosity.

The 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) will bring parties together to accelerate action towards the goals of the Paris Agreement and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. Art and culture must be part of the conversation around climate action, not only to spark conversations and bring impactful change to others, but also to transform our output in a more sustainable way for future generations.

Thus, a low carbon footprint is essential for this performance in Glasgow, and for more touring ensembles going forward. Whenever possible, all *Pastoral 21* artists and personnel will be travelling by train and other sustainable means of transport, despite making journeys from across Mainland Europe. The Verbier Festival is committed to going Green through the support of projects that focus on climate action and ongoing initiatives that are weaved into every element of its activities.

Bank Julius Baer, Principal Sponsor of the Verbier Festival for more than a decade, is an important partner in making this project during the events of COP26 possible.

Verbier Festival Unlimited in association with **nonclassical** presents
GABRIEL PROKOFIEV feat. **UNLTD COLLECTIVE**

PASTORAL 21

A call for climate action: new music for strings & live electronics

Stereo

7 November 2021 at 7 pm

Glasgow, 22-28 Renfield Ln

Tickets £12 available from: stereocafebar.com

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The **Verbier Festival** is a classical music festival that encourages sharing between great musicians and young aspiring artists from around the world. It is committed to excellence in music performance and education through its highly respected artistic programme, Academy and community engagement programmes. The next edition of the Verbier Festival, with Principal Sponsorship of Bank Julius Baer and Neva Foundation, will place July 15 to 31, 2022 in Verbier (Switzerland).

Nonclassical is a music promoter, record label and events producer presenting the best new classical, experimental and electronic music. Crossing genre and defying convention, nonclassical develops, produces and promotes innovative music—supporting emerging artists and bringing new music to new audiences. Founded in 2004 by composer Gabriel Prokofiev, nonclassical began as a clubnight focused on presenting new music in non-traditional performance spaces. It has since presented events across the UK and worldwide.

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PHOTOS

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