

# Invocation - The Story Behind the Music

In March 2012, composer Tunde Jegede's newly commissioned work *Invocation* will be premiered by sinfonia ViVA in Derby. Here he explains the background to the composition and sets the scene for a dynamic and exciting concert...

**INVOCATION: Cello Concerto**  
*The Prayer - Incantation*  
*The Call of Divination*  
*The Path*  
*The Tragic Heroine*  
*Reflection on Lost Memories*  
*Affirmation in the Wilderness*  
*The Fire of Invocation*

*Invocation* is a cello concerto with a poetic narrative in 7 parts and is also uniquely an artistic conversation between the soloist, dancer and orchestra.

The piece draws from the concepts and cosmology of the Yoruba Orisha tradition, a religious belief system which is still practised in Nigeria and throughout the African Diaspora in places such as Brazil, Cuba and the USA.

The use of divination and trance in the invocation of ancestral spiritual forces is traditionally always portrayed and expressed through movement, dance and music.

The Western Classical influences on the piece include Stravinsky's Rite of Spring and the Kabalevsky and Shostakovich Cello Concertos for their energy, rhythmic drive and treatment of the cello/orchestra form and genre and of course Bach with his eternal melodies.

Invocation is a ritualistic piece and a dialogue between the solo cellist, the dancer and the orchestra where they are sometimes juxtaposed against one another and at other times harmonized to a unified expression of the

music. It is a conversation that goes beyond genre and form towards the universal quest to invoke the very spiritual forces that lie beyond ourselves - the greater principles which govern our life and philosophical insight.

**Read more about the concerts on 1st and 3rd March 2012 in the concert listings in this newsletter**



Images :Top - Mike Tombeur, Bottom - Andrew Putler

**Tunde Jegede**  
**Musician / Composer /**  
**Producer /Writer /**  
**Director**

Tunde Jegede is a composer, producer and pioneer of African Classical Music. He is also a multi-instrumentalist who is uniquely placed between the worlds of Contemporary Classical and African music. His works have been performed all over the world in concert halls such as Carnegie Hall, Royal Festival Hall, Royal Albert Hall and the Basilique, by international orchestras including; The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, The Philharmonia, The Belgium National Symphony Orchestra, Orchestra National de France, Britten Sinfonia, sinfonia VIVA and the London Sinfonietta.



He began playing music from a very early age and took up the Cello and Kora from the age of seven, attending the Purcell School, one of only five specialist music schools in UK. He studied the Kora with the Late 'Master of the Kora', Amadu Bansang Jobarteh, who is from one of only five hereditary griot families whose musical legacy dates back to the 13th Century.

Rooted in these two very different classical traditions, Tunde began to move towards improvisation and composition in his late teens as a way to bring together the two instruments of his unique cultural inheritance.

As a composer he has been commissioned to write many new works by leading soloists, ensembles and orchestras, including a percussion concerto for Evelyn Glennie, an oratorio for the City of Milton Keynes, two string quartets for the Brodsky Quartet, an Opera as well as several scores for film and collaborating with choreographers and dance companies such as Wayne McGregor, Bode Lawal, Germaine Acogny, Union Dance Company, Random Dance Company, Richard Austin Dance Company and Jant Bi.

Tunde has also released several albums including the seminal Lamentation, which was the first African and Western Classical crossover album, and his solo Kora album, Still Moment which are all available on i-tunes or [www.tundejegede.net](http://www.tundejegede.net)



**INSIDE ~ ~ ~ William Ruff** reviews ViVA's concert at Nottingham's Royal Centre... Good news as a **We Did This** fundraising target is reached... **PLUS** full details of the Orchestra's opening concerts in 2012



Supported by  
**ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND**



Tuesday 24th Jan

Assembly Rooms, Derby 7.30pm  
 Tickets: £15 to £28 Box Office: 01332 255800

[www.vivaorch.co.uk/concert-2012-01-24-derby.shtml](http://www.vivaorch.co.uk/concert-2012-01-24-derby.shtml)

## ||| sinfonia ViVA with Tanja Teztlaff

**Redwood:** Peggy on a Scooter (world premiere)  
**Shostakovich:** Cello Concerto No.1  
**Janáček arr. David Blake:** On An Overgrown Path  
**Mozart:** Symphony No.38 in D, K504 'Prague'

**André de Ridder** conducts sinfonia ViVA with celebrated cellist **Tanja Teztlaff** as soloist in this programme which combines Mozart's giant 'Prague' Symphony and the gorgeous Shostakovich Cello Concerto with a modern arrangement of Janacek's On An Overgrown Path.

The concert opens with the world premiere of the final Orchestral Short in the series of ten commissioned by sinfonia ViVA over the past four years, tonight's work being Peggy on a Scooter by acclaimed composer James Redwood. After years of repression, Shostakovich was emerging back into the limelight in the late 1950's when he wrote the Cello Concerto No.1 for the noted cellist Rostropovich who had recently toured with him. The work bears homage in part to a work Shostakovich much admired – the Symphony-Concertante by Prokofiev who, like Shostakovich and Khachaturian, had been officially condemned by the Soviet government in the years after the Second World War. The piece premiered in Leningrad in August 1959.

The second half of the concert commences with David Blake's 2002 arrangement of seven of the pieces from Janacek's original two volume cycle of thirteen parts, On An Overgrown Path. Mozart's 'Prague' Symphony, No.38 in D, the first composed since he left Vienna, combines echoes of melodies from two of his most famous operas - Don Giovanni (also written for Prague) and The Marriage of Figaro. The symphony opens in stately style giving way to liveliness and moves through more reflective moods before - the composer omitting his usual third movement - ending with a spirited presto.

Supported by Rolls-Royce plc, Derby City Council, Derby LIVE, Orchestras Live and Arts Council England.



Wednesday 25th Jan

Cope Auditorium, Loughborough University 7.30pm  
 Tickets: £12 (£10 concessions) Box Office: Loughborough Students Union 01509 635000  
[www.vivaorch.co.uk/concert-2012-01-25-loughborough.shtml](http://www.vivaorch.co.uk/concert-2012-01-25-loughborough.shtml)

## ||| sinfonia ViVA in Loughborough

**Mozart:** Eine Kleine Nacht Musik  
**Mendelssohn:** Violin Concerto in D Minor  
**Tchaikovsky:** Serenade for Strings



**Benedict Holland** directs from the violin as sinfonia ViVA - the region's only professional orchestra - brings an enchanting strings programme to Loughborough University.

Among Mozart's most instantly recognised and popular compositions, the charming Eine Kleine Nacht Musik was composed around the same time that Mozart was working on the opera Don Giovanni, and has featured in the soundtracks of over a dozen movies as diverse as Batman, Alien and Ace Ventura!

Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto in D minor lay undiscovered for almost a century after his death before Yehudi Menuhin rediscovered and relaunched it upon the world at Carnegie Hall in 1952.

And finally to Tchaikovsky's elegant and contemplative Serenade for Strings - very different in mood to his other famous composition of that year, the 1812 Overture!

Supported by sinfonia ViVA and Arts Council England.

Wednesday 15th Feb

Lincoln Drill Hall, 7.30pm  
 Tickets: £14, (£12 concessions / £8 students (& accompanied under 16's free)  
 Box Office 01522 873894

[www.vivaorch.co.uk/concert-2012-02-15-lincoln.shtml](http://www.vivaorch.co.uk/concert-2012-02-15-lincoln.shtml)

## ► sinfonia ViVA in Lincoln

**Mozart:** Eine Kleine Nachtmusik  
**Janacek:** Suite for Strings  
**Mozart:** Adagio & Fugue in C minor, K546  
**Bartok:** Divertimento for String Orchestra

sinfonia ViVA is back at Lincoln Drill Hall with a superb programme of string delights!

Mozart's Eine Kleine Nachtmusik needs little introduction as it has become one of the composer's most popularly known pieces - yet little is known for sure about the circumstances through which it came to be composed; most probably it was a commission. Bright, energetic, lively and witty, this is Mozart at his best. Czech composer Leos Janacek wrote his 1877 Suite for String Orchestra when in his early 20's - a more gentle work than some that would follow, and still reflective of the Romantic style.

Next we return to Mozart, this time for the 1788 composition Adagio & Fugue. The Fugue is actually a transcription of one of Mozart's piano works, and the entire composition reflects the influence of Bach. And finally, to Bartok and the 1936 Divertimento for String Orchestra - the last piece Bartok would compose before departing to the USA from his native Hungary upon the outbreak of the second world war. Rich in textural nuances, the piece punctuates dance-like passages during its opening and concluding sections with a more reflective and prophetic central section.

An intriguing combination of pieces for lovers of string music to enjoy.

Supported by Lincoln Drill Hall, Lincoln City Council, Orchestras Live and Arts Council England



Photo: Marco Borggreve

Thursday 1st Mar

Derby Assembly Rooms, 7.00pm  
 Tickets: £5 (£3.50 concessions)  
 Box Office: 01332 255800

[www.vivaorch.co.uk/concert-2012-03-01-derby.shtml](http://www.vivaorch.co.uk/concert-2012-03-01-derby.shtml)

## ► Bright Spirits

### A collaborative instrumental project

Electrifying... Enthralling... Enlivening... An event bringing together the very best of Derby's professional and non-professional musicians in a unique shared performance.

Participants from across Derby will join sinfonia ViVA and Déda to present this dynamic music and dance collaboration. This performance will showcase the breadth of creative talent in Derby on stage alongside sinfonia ViVA with soloist Matthew Barley (cello), composer Tunde Jegede, dancer Bode Lawal, conductor Nicholas Collon and acclaimed workshop leader James Redwood.

"Once again, a deeply satisfying and heartwarming showcase of collective commitment and creativity." - Mike Wheeler

For further information please call 01332 207603.

Supported by Rolls-Royce plc, The Austin and Hope Pilkington Trust, The John Ellerman Foundation, The John Thaw Foundation, The Michael Tippett Musical Foundation, The D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust, Derby City Council, Orchestras Live, PRS for Music Foundation, Derby LIVE, sinfonia ViVA and Arts Council England. *Invocation* has been co-commissioned by Orchestras Live and sinfonia ViVA who are joint producers of the overall project in association with Derby LIVE.



Saturday 3rd Mar

Derby Assembly Rooms, 7.30pm

Tickets: £15, concessions £13, Season Subscribers and Friends of Derby Assembly Rooms £10

Box Office: 01332 255800

[www.vivaorch.co.uk/concert-2012-03-03-derby.shtml](http://www.vivaorch.co.uk/concert-2012-03-03-derby.shtml)

## ||| **sinfonia ViVA: Invocation** **Music Nation Weekend**

**Conductor:** Nicholas Collon  
**Soloist:** Matthew Barley (cello)  
**Dancers:** Bode Lawal (Invocation)  
Bounceback (The Rite of Spring)  
**Choreography:** Tom Dale, Tia Ogilvie, Chris Caffrey  
And Alice Vale (led by Tom Dale)  
**Tunde Jegede:** Invocation  
**Stravinsky:** The Rite of Spring

sinfonia ViVA and déda join forces in a performance of The Rite of Spring, a work that famously broke the mould in both music and choreography, and still thrills audiences nearly 100 years on. Composer and multi-instrumentalist **Tunde Jegede** is equally at home on the worlds of Western classical, African and pop music.

*Invocation* is a Countdown event for the London 2012 Festival, the finale of the Cultural Olympiad. The festival will be a 12-week UK-wide cultural celebration from 21 June 2012 bringing leading artists from all over the world together to celebrate the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games through dance, music, theatre, the visual arts, film and digital innovation.

Supported by Derby City Council, Orchestras Live, Derby LIVE and sinfonia ViVA. Supported by the National Lottery through Arts Council England. *Invocation* has been co-commissioned by Orchestras Live and sinfonia ViVA who are joint producers of the overall project in association with Derby LIVE.



Bode Lawal

Saturday 10th Mar

Royal Concert Hall Foyer, Nottingham 11.00-12.00, 1.30-2.30pm and 3.00-4.00pm

Tickets: Adults and Children £6.50 Box Office: 0115 989 5555

[www.vivaorch.co.uk/concert-2012-03-10-nottingham.shtml](http://www.vivaorch.co.uk/concert-2012-03-10-nottingham.shtml)

## ||| **The Beanbag Proms - Screech! Beep! Ding!**



Come and join sinfonia ViVA on a magical musical journey! Beanie Bear leads an adventure from Puffin' Billy to the Yellow Submarine. Hop on your bike to the Bicycle Galop and join maestro Alasdair Malloy for a ride on Thomas the Tank Engine. Plenty of singing, actions, dancing and clapping along!

Frequently sold-out long in advance of the performances, The Beanbag Proms are a chance for the very young and their carers to share terrific music together - and have some fun along the way. So join us for this enchanting and entertaining hour which will excite and enthral your child in a relaxed and comfortable setting.

Each concert includes:

**Participation elements - including actions and playing instruments**

**Dancing**

**Singalong**

**Stories**

**Performances**

At the end of the performance there will also be an opportunity for children to have a close look and touch (gently!) the instruments used during the performance. So come along and enjoy a magical musical adventure that your children will be talking about for a long time to come.

Please note: Parents must remain in the foyer area with their children throughout this performance. Video or audio recording of this performance is strictly forbidden. Photographs may be taken at the end of the performance. Please also note that the programme of music is subject to change and alteration. Places are limited for each performance and will be sold on a first come first served basis.

Supported by Arts Council England, Nottingham City Council, Orchestras Live and the Royal Concert Hall, Nottingham.

## ||| sinfonia ViVA with Antje Weithaas

**Handel:** Zadok the Priest  
**Bach:** Violin Concerto No.2 in E major  
**Ian Vine:** Thirty-Five Objects (orchestral short - world premiere)  
**Beethoven:** Symphony No.3 in Eb, Op55 'Eroica'

... followed by AFTER:hours late-night concert: 9.40pm - 10.15pm (approx.) in the auditorium. Free admission to main concert bookers. £3 for non-bookers - tickets available on the door only. Programme as follows:

**Bach:** Es ist genug  
**Brahms:** Geistliches lied  
**Whitacre:** Lux Aurumque  
**Berg (arr. Tarkmann):** Violin Concerto



Photo: Marco Borggreve

**André de Ridder** conducts sinfonia ViVA as they reunite with the virtuosic **Antje Weithaas** (violin) and are joined by **Nottingham Harmonic Choir** with their Musical Director **Richard Laing** in an evening that combines terrific works by Bach, Brahms, Beethoven, Berg, Whitacre and Handel together with the premiere of an orchestral short commission from accomplished English composer Ian Vine.

The main concert opens with the magnificence and majesty of Handel's *Zadok the Priest* which was first performed on 11 Oct 1797 at the coronation of King George II in Westminster Abbey, and the success of which began Handel's tenure as composer of works for great public events. Bach's *Violin Concerto in E major* was written while he was Kapellmeister in the court of Prince Leopold, a time during which the composer's output flourished. The piece demonstrates the Bach's own skill as a violinist in its intricacy, and it is thought may have been written for the leader of the orchestra in the chapel at Cöthen. Ian Vine's work has been extensively broadcast worldwide, including by the BBC. His new composition premiered tonight, *Thirty-Five Objects*, marks the conclusion of the successful series of ten orchestral short pieces by contemporary composers specially commissioned by sinfonia ViVA. And finally, to Beethoven and the *Symphony No.3 Eroica*. One of his greatest compositions, it is believed to have been originally dedicated to Napoleon who Beethoven had, for a time, admired. Subsequently disillusioned by the latter's steps in proclaiming himself Emperor of France, Beethoven somewhat angrily changed his mind over the dedication, erasing the reference to Napoleon from the cover of the score and instead dedicating it as '*Sinfonia eroica, composta per festeggiare il sovvenire d'un grand'uomo* (Heroic symphony, composed to celebrate the memory of a great man)'.

Antje Weithaas returns in tonight's AFTER:Hours concert for Berg's *Violin Concerto* premiered in 1936, the year after his death. It was to be his last work and is the one by which he is best known. It is dedicated "to the memory of an angel": the daughter of Mahler's former wife had recently died from poliomyelitis, and Berg who had an outstanding commission from the violinist Louis Krasner to fulfil (Krasner who would subsequently perform the *Violin Concerto's* premiere) took this as his inspiration, turning to the task with devotion. In doing so he left unfinished (forever as it turned out) the opera *Lulu* that he had been working on. Tonight's arrangement of the piece is that by Tarkmann. Also in the late-night programme Nottingham Harmonic Choir with Richard Laing joins André de Ridder and sinfonia ViVA for three further choral works - Bach's *Es ist Genug* (the melody of which was used by Berg in the *Adagio* ending to his *Violin Concerto*), Brahms' 1856 composition *Geistliches Lied* (*Sacred Song*) based on the text by Paul Fleming, and Grammy-nominated American composer Eric Whittaker's *Lux Aurumque*.

Join us for an enthralling combination of pieces played to the highest standard by the region's only professional orchestra, sinfonia ViVA. Free pre-concert talk with André de Ridder in conversation at 6.30pm in the auditorium.

Supported by sinfonia ViVA and Arts Council England. The AFTER:Hours concert is additionally supported by Orchestras Live.

## In Review

**sinfonia ViVA with conductor Nicholas Collon and Saleem Abboud Ashkar, piano**  
**Royal Concert Hall, Nottingham**  
**Wednesday 8th December 2011**



Photo: Monika Rittershaus

Sinfonia ViVA's concert came as an antidote to recent classical music-making in the Royal Concert Hall. Not for ViVA the Technicolor spectacle of besieged Leningrad or Roman armies marching along the Appian Way. Instead they brought wit, sparkle and elegance to their performance of small-scale 19th-century classics.

They started with a relative rarity: Schumann's *Overture, Scherzo and Finale*. In the hands of conductor Nicholas Collon the introduction felt unusually weighty, while the ensuing *Allegro* was full of vitality and the *Scherzo* crisp yet relaxed.

Saleem Abboud Ashkar was the soloist in Mendelssohn's *Second Piano Concerto*. It's hardly the most profound work in the repertoire, but the energy and dramatic contrasts were well caught. The performance combined freshness and brilliance in the fast outer movements with a sense of poetry in the lyrical centre.

The second half featured Beethoven's *Fourth Symphony*, a work of such robust bounce and brio that it's easy to forget the composer scored it for modest forces. Sinfonia ViVA have the knack of breathing new life into familiar repertoire, never more so than in the bubbling finale. Hats off to the principal bassoonist who managed his notoriously tricky solo with such aplomb. ~ **William Ruff**

# We Did This!

## ViVA Reaches Crowd Fundraising Target

East Midlands orchestra sinfonia ViVA has reached its target on [www.wedidthis.org.uk](http://www.wedidthis.org.uk) the growing phenomenon in fund raising for the Arts in the UK.



Participants from 'Tis Death to Break a Frame in 2011  
photo credit Graham Lucas Commons

Derby-based ViVA ran a month-long online fund raising campaign and managed to exceed its £500 target, raising just over £600.

Visitors to the website were invited to make a range of donations from £10 to £300 for two VIP guest tickets to a world premiere next March which will mark the start of celebrations for the Orchestra's 30th anniversary.

The money will go towards the funding needed for a new ViVA commission entitled *Invocation* which will have its world premiere in Derby as part of the BBC Music Nation Festival in March - one of the keynote 'countdown' events for the London 2012 Festival, the finale of the Cultural Olympiad.

ViVA, working with Derby Live and Orchestras Live, has commissioned composer Tunde Jegede, who brings together classical, African and pop music in his highly acclaimed work.

*Invocation* is a concerto for Cello (Matthew Barley) Orchestra and African Percussion as well as solo contemporary African dancer Bode Lawal and will also involve 120 young people aged seven to 21 who will write and then perform their own music inspired by the theme on March 1 at Derby's Assembly Rooms.

The full commission will then be premiered by ViVA alongside Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring* with a brand new choreography from Tom Dale involving Bounceback - a group of young dancers from Déda on March 3, conducted by Nicholas Collon.

ViVA Chief Executive Peter Helps said: "We are delighted that we were successful in reaching our target which we purposefully set at an achievable level firstly, in recognition of the tough economic climate, and secondly, because this was a totally new venture for us and we did not want to run before we could walk.

"We continue to explore new ways to encourage donations, no matter how small and crowd fund raising is just one way we invite people to engage with and support our work.

"For many of the young people involved, this will be their first experience of live classical music which, through the workshops and performance, will enhance communication skills, build confidence and encourage creativity.

"ViVA has a national reputation for leading the field in working with young people and local communities to bring classical music to life.

"*Invocation* is particularly exciting as it merges cultures and brings together music and dance in an exciting and vibrant way - making it a perfect regional showcase for the Cultural Olympiad's London 2012 Festival."

### ViVA receives funding from Derby City Council and Arts Council England

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André de Ridder