

# All About You

An opening performance by Tessa Lynch and Rhubaba Choir

## **Scars - All About You** **1981**

Suggested by Tessa Lynch

"This was the first song I thought about when Collective approached me to collaborate with the Rhubaba choir. The video for this song is set up on Calton Hill and various places in Edinburgh. It sees the post-punk youths totally owning Edinburgh. Re-enacting the Greek myth of Medusa around Edinburgh's Disgrace and stomping round Waverley station with their guitars. I love the sense of agency they have in the city, their actions are free and spontaneous. The lyrics talk of meandering through town whilst pondering a broken heart and watching the day slowly tick by - much of what I did in Edinburgh when I first moved to the city as a teenager."

## **Who Were the Witches?** **Feminist protest song**

Suggested by Naomi Garriock

"My best friend Tamzin's mother Daphne Francis taught us the witches song at a very early age when we were driving through the countryside in her orange mini. Daphne told us lots of upsetting stories about the Scottish women who were tortured and killed for being witches. That the people in power (men and the church) were threatened by these sage femmes with their medical skills and important standing in the community, and how they created fear and distrust to turn people against them.

Whenever we drove through Carlops Daphne would get us to sing it really loud as a way to show our respect and honouring of the memory of those women who had been killed there. I found it a very emotional song as a child and even when I grew up and had my own children I would never drive that way without singing the song. Both my sons would sing it with the same enthusiasm and feelings that I had and it was a way from an early age to talk with them about the inequalities in society past and present.

I since found out that Daphne learnt the song at Greenham Common women's peace camp. Daphne wrote for Spare Rib and was very active in the women's movement. The Witches song feels like a battle cry - remember your history, we benefit from the legacy of past generations struggles and we better not forget, and make it all for nothing." - Naomi

"When I was designing the sculptural seating, Turns, for Collective I was taking a lot of inspiration from grass roots arts activities in Edinburgh and how they shaped the city. I was particularly fascinated by the Craigmillar Festival and its instigator Helen Crummy. One of a troop of frustrated mothers who were told their children couldn't get music lessons at school. Their reaction was to create an arts festival that would galvanise their community at a time of social unease." - Tessa



## **Edinburgh Man - The Fall**

**1991**

Suggested by Timothea Armour

"As a long term Fall fan, I get a lot out of, not only hearing one of my favourite bands sing about the city I live in, but also out of hearing a usually cynical voice sound so tender when singing about it. My parents are also Fall fans and my dad's from Manchester so I've always considered the Fall part of my musical heritage and via that connection Edinburgh Man somehow helps me make sense of my decision to live here. I've also made a lot of friends here through a shared appreciation of the Fall, including a friend who grew up in Edinburgh who when asked where he's from will answer 'I'm an Edinburgh Man myself'. It's the truth but also a hidden reference for those in the know, and the Fall are always something to bond over. I work with him in a pub near the Royal Mile and we conspired to write all the words to Edinburgh Man on the chalkboard sign that points to the door. I enjoy sharing Mark E Smith's take on the city in a part of town where all the narratives are the same disingenuous ghost-tour-harry-potter-tourist ones."

## **Neon Lights - Kraftwerk**

**1997**

Suggested by Ellen Munro

"I've always been singing to Ray since the first moment I knew he was there. He quickly adopted similar musical tastes to his flatmates and would request the "Bobot Guys" as part of his bedtime serenade. So I became accustomed to singing one of their slightly more singable songs to an audience that I was not quite sure was still awake or already dreaming." - Ellen

## **Over My Head - Bedroom Athlete**

**2015**

Suggested by Tessa Lynch

"The band Bedroom Athlete were part of Ross Sinclair's Collective project "Free Instruments for Teenagers". I really wanted to work with one of the songs that came out of this, again looking at the theme of the teenager and the time they have to ponder the city and the deep emotions they feel, which seem to sit so perfectly up on the hill. The choir worked with some of the lyrics of this song to create a rhythmic section of music. Words repeat, whirr and intensify, echoing the machinery and manual processes found on a building site." - Tessa

## **Radical Road**

### **Edinburgh tongue twister**

Inspired by Ruth Ewan and Astrid Johnston's Observer's walk - Memorialmania

In 1822 the radical weavers of the West of Scotland were given work by "that good Tory" Sir Walter Scott, creating the pathway known as Radical Road along Salisbury Crags. They are also said to have made many of the pathways upon Calton Hill.

**"Round and round the radical road the radical rascal ran."**