

**Hello Gunda, cellist of the Gaskell Quartet! Firstly for those who don't know you or your work can you tell us a little bit about yourselves?**

I'm a Lithuanian living in Manchester, apart from food and fashion I love playing the cello – that's why ended up here in the first place! I have just finished my Postgraduate Diploma in Advanced studies at RNCM.

Before moving I was working in the Lithuanian National Symphony Orchestra while studying both – Bachelor and Master in cello performance at the Lithuanian Music and Theatre Academy.

In 2016 I was invited to be the principal cello in a contemporary music ensemble 'Synaesthesia' and since then I'm in a "serious relationship" with contemporary music. I am the happiest when I can connect my two passions – chamber and contemporary music on one stage – just like in DaDaFest festival.

**This concert will showcase a lot of very talented disabled composers is there anything you are particularly excited to perform?**

I would not take one piece out of the whole programme as they are all so very new, different and exciting. The entire process of searching, interpreting and pushing the music to its highest potential is very thrilling!

**How has it been to practice these pieces, any particular favourites?**

It's always very interesting to learn contemporary music. As you approach it you usually don't have an image in your head and it's all up to you how you interpret it, make it sound.

Maybe one piece that stands out particularly is T4 by Ben Lunn – mainly because I've already performed it and was actively participating in the creational process with Ben and Kristian Gjerstad which was an incredible experience also because the main idea behind the piece has touched my heart which I hope will do the same to the audience in Liverpool.

**What other fun projects are you scheming currently?**

Just coming back from the Baltic States having performed a premiere by a German composer Thomas Hummel in the 'Arena' festival in Riga, Latvia and 'Gaida' festival in Vilnius, Lithuania. I am about to go to Wales with the Gaskell quartet to perform some very well known classics with a mixture of a freshly written piece by Siobhan Dyson which we will perform in the DaDaFest festival.

**As a final little one, you are on a desert island, what five CDs/Recordings would you have on there with you?**

The first piece coming to my mind is the string quartet no. 2 'Company' by Philip Glass then I'd go for 'African Skies' by the Brecker Brothers, Ravel's 'Pavane pour une infante defunte' for symphony orchestra, cello sonata by Frank Bridge and any album by Disclosure for a change from classical music.