

## Philip Venables



### Illusions

*Illusions* is politically-engaged contemporary music exploring themes of government, LGBTQ rights and the rituals of music and art performance, featuring footage of avant-garde performance artist David Hoyle. The interplay between music and the cut-up video snippets of Hoyle searing and topical polemic is reflected in the erratic, boisterous and aggressive nature of the composition. The piece is written for an ensemble of nine musicians and is an extended and further developed version of Philip Venables' existing composition which was part of the London

Sinfonietta's *Notes to the New Government* in May 2015. Philip Venables' music is often concerned with violence, politics and speech within concert music and opera. Performance artist David Hoyle often focuses on themes in the LGBTQ community attacking what he sees as dominant trends in 'bourgeois Britain'.

Commissioned by London Sinfonietta.

**Artists:** David Hoyle *performance artist* | London Sinfonietta | Richard Baker *conductor*

**Timing:** 14'03

### About Philip Venables

Philip Venables' music is often concerned with violence, politics and speech within concert music and opera. His work has been recently described as 'brutally effective' (*The Times*), 'brutally exhilarating' (*Seen & Heard*), 'duly playful and occasionally disturbing' (*The Guardian*), 'a dark and violent portrait of sexual desire' (*SoSoGay.com*) and 'original and intelligent in both form and content ... reminiscent of Matthew Barney's *Cremaster Cycle*; dripping in inexplicable meaning' (*Exeunt Magazine*). And most recently, from *The Guardian*: 'Venables' *Illusions*, a collaboration with performance artist David Hoyle, batters at the limits of form, emotion and sexuality in a ferocious assertion of LGBTQ individualism in the face of establishment nihilism and uncertainty – a brilliant, extreme work that grips like a vice and won't let go.'

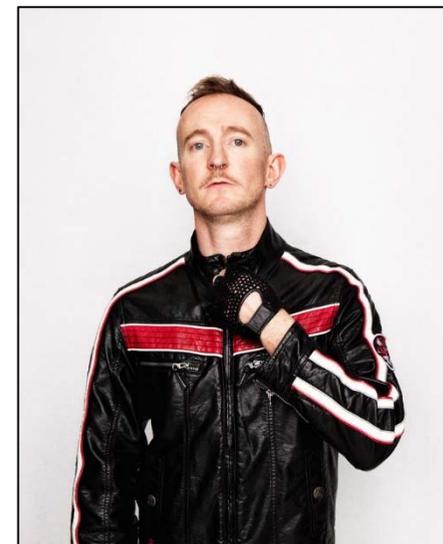


Photo: Harald Hoffman

## About David Hoyle

David Hoyle (born 19 September 1962) is an English performance artist, avant-garde cabaret artist, singer, actor, comedian and film director. His performances are known to combine many disparate elements, from satirical comedy to painting, surrealism and even striptease, much of which is aggressive in nature. Himself homosexual, Hoyle's work has often focused on themes in the LGBTQ community, attacking what he sees as dominant trends in "bourgeois Britain and the materialistic-hedonistic gay scene". His performances have led him to become "something of a legend" on the London cabaret circuit.



## About London Sinfonietta

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The London Sinfonietta's mission is to place the best contemporary classical music at the heart of today's culture; engaging and challenging the public through inspiring performances of the highest standard, and taking risks to develop new work and talent. Founded in 1968, the ensemble's commitment to new music has seen it commission nearly 400 works, and premiere many hundreds more.



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The performance of *Illusions* was recorded by David Lefeber at All Saints East Finchley, London on 10 July 2017.

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