Composer Riccardo Pes Launches Highlands Tour to Raise Awareness of Climate Change

From the Sycamore Gap Tree to the Highlands, Riccardo Pes Combines Music and Nature to Explore Humanity’s Relationship with the Environment

Release Date: 10th March 2025

Location: Glasgow, UK

Renowned Italian cellist and composer **Riccardo Pes** is embarking on a unique creative tour across Scotland, funded by **Arts Council England**. Through a fusion of music and nature, the project aims to raise awareness of climate change. Inspired by the unlawful felling of the iconic **Sycamore Gap Tree**, Pes’ *Music & Nature* project draws from traditional folk and classical music to explore the deep and complex emotions that connect people to place, nature, and humanity.

Building on his international success following performances such as *Lament for the Tree*—which attracted attention from *BBC News* and classical music circles—Pes will carry out research and compose new works amid Scotland’s breathtaking wilderness in October 2024. Over a **20-day period**, he will immerse himself in the local environment, conducting fieldwork and creating compositions that incorporate the region’s natural soundscapes.

“Music has a powerful ability to connect people with the places they live in,” says Pes. “By integrating environmental elements into my compositions, I want to inspire reflection on our relationship with the planet and the urgent need for climate action.”

As part of *Music & Nature*, Pes will release a new album, **Sgrìoban Dìomhair** (*Mystical Trails* in Gaelic), which captures his creative journey through the Scottish Highlands, from Glasgow’s vibrant folk scene to the rugged shores of Cape Wrath. Some recordings were made in natural settings such as **Stac Pollaidh** and **Kylesku**, deepening the connection between music and landscape. The title reflects Pes’ personal experience of walking in complete solitude, composing in the open air, surrounded only by dramatic landscapes and wildlife. The album will be widely available across digital platforms.

Stephen Johns, Artistic Director, Royal College of Music, on Riccardo Pes’ Work:

“Riccardo was a distinguished student at the Royal College of Music between 2016 and 2018, delivering solo, chamber, and large ensemble performances of remarkable quality. His artistic journey has seen him develop as both a performer and composer, increasingly drawing inspiration from location and nature. His *Lament for the Tree*—a work and location video performance responding to the felling of the Sycamore Gap Tree—gained worldwide attention and exemplifies his imaginative and heartfelt engagement with the natural world.

I have no hesitation in supporting Riccardo’s proposed residency at the UNESCO North West Highlands Geopark in Scotland. This inspirational environment will undoubtedly fuel his creativity, and with his proven ability to reach a global audience through interdisciplinary work, he is well-placed to share his artistic vision widely.”

🔗 [Video at Stac Pollaidh](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aBHek2yIKmQ)

🔗 [Video at Kylesku](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q1ONIZEMQwA)

Tour Dates & Venues

28th March – Haltwhistle, Water Tower Café 4:00 PM – Tea | 5:00 PM – Concert

*(In partnership with The Tyne Valley Community Rail Partnership)*

30th March – Kylesku, Rock Stop Café 3:00 PM

*(In partnership with North West Highlands Geopark)*

31st March – Durness, Village Hall 7:30 PM

3rd April – Lochinver, Lochinver Bookshop

4th April – Ullapool, Ceilidh Place 7:30 PM

5th April – Rosehall, Rosehall Village Hall 7:30 PM

7th April – Portree, Talla Chille Mhoire | Kilmuir Hall 7:30 PM

8th April – Strathpeffer, Strathpeffer Pavilion 7:30 PM Tickets: [WeGotTickets](https://wegottickets.com/event/647556/)

11th April – London, London Scottish House1:00 PM

12th April – London, Lauderdale House 7:30 PM

For ticket details and further information, visit: [www.riccardopesmusic.com/musicandnatureinscotland](https://www.riccardopesmusic.com/musicandnatureinscotland)

**About Riccardo** – Riccardo Pes is an Italian cellist and composer. He graduated with outstanding from the Royal College of Music, London on the Artist Diploma course, under the tuition of the distinguished professor Melissa Phelps. His repertoire spans from the baroque, played on period instruments, to the contemporary. His curiosity has led him to experiment with various sources of technology, such as the loop-station, and he is committed to finding new ways of bringing classical music to younger generations.

As a soloist, Riccardo has played Respighi’ Adagio con Variazioni with The Whitehall Orchestra, the Schumann Cello Concerto with the Richmond Symphony Orchestra, Tartini’s Cello Concerto in A major with I Solisti Veneti conducted by Claudio Scimone, the Cello Concertos by Nicola Fiorenza and Nicola Porpora with the Marchigiana Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Marco Feruglio.

His chamber music collaborations have included performances with Mario Brunello, Giovanni Sollima, Gilles Apap, Madeleine Mitchell, Thomas Zehetmair.

**About Arts Council England**

Arts Council England is the national development agency for creativity and culture. Their strategic vision, *Let’s Create*, aims to ensure that by 2030, England is a country where creativity is valued, nurtured, and accessible to all. From 2023 to 2026, they will invest over £467 million of public funds from the Government, along with an estimated £250 million from The National Lottery each year, to support the cultural sector and bring high-quality artistic experiences to communities across the nation. [www.artscouncil.org.uk](https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/)

For **interviews, press requests**, or more information about **Riccardo Pes’ work**, please visit:

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