



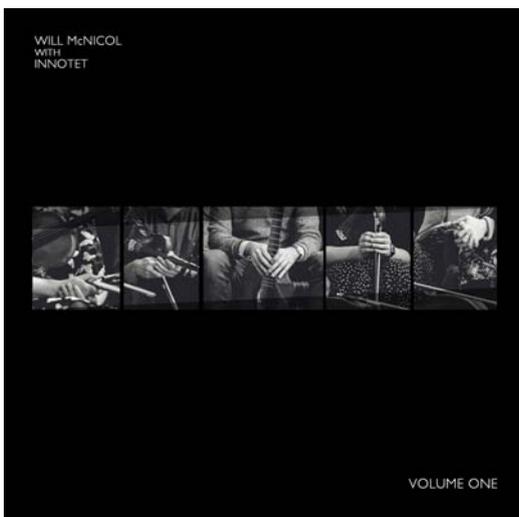
WILL MCNICOL  
WITH  
INNOTET

Acoustic guitar with string quartet is an instrumentation multi award-winning guitarist and composer, *Will McNicol*, has dreamed of exploring for years. Through this collaboration with Glasgow-based fiddle player and arranger *Innes Watson*, those dreams have become a reality. *Innotet* is the quartet formed specially for this project, and is comprised of some of the finest Scottish musicians in their respective fields:

Violin I: *Seonaid Aitken*  
Violin II: *Innes Watson*  
Viola: *Patsy Reid*  
Cello: *Alice Allen*

The project begun with *Will* and *Innes* collaborating on the arrangement of one of *Will's* solo guitar compositions, *Emma* (for which he won UK Acoustic Guitarist of the Year in 2011), and this received its debut performance by *Will* and *Innotet* at the world-renowned *Ullapool Guitar Festival* in 2017. Buoyed by the overwhelming reaction this received, the group started plans for a full album.

“ Such a beautiful sound ”  
*Classic FM*



*Will* and *Innes* spent the best part of a year collaborating on arrangements to form a full album based on over a decade's worth of *Will's* solo guitar compositions. The result is this: *Will McNicol with Innotet: Volume One*. Released in March 2019, the album was recorded in *Glasgow* over a period of eight days at *Gloworm Studios*. Whilst the album spans genres and includes elegant waltzes through to foot-stomping folk dances, *Will* and the quartet worked hard to ensure the album retained a distinct character throughout. Part of this was achieved by ensuring each individual player within the quartet was able to put their own personality into the parts. The album won acclaim throughout the year, with it winning support from *Classic FM*, being picked up for vinyl release by *Vertere Records* and tracks amassing hundreds of thousands of plays on *Spotify* thanks to their editorial playlist team.

“ Words are insufficient ”  
*Ullapool Guitar Festival*

## A Little More About The Players

### **Will McNicol**

Having picked up his first guitar at the age of six, Will has gone on to become Guitarist Magazine's UK Acoustic Guitarist of the Year (2011) and one of Acoustic Guitar Magazine's 30 Great Guitarists Under 30 from around the world (2014). He holds Associate, Licentiate and Fellowship diplomas with Trinity College London in Classical Guitar Recital and has released four critically acclaimed albums of original material. Will has performed relentlessly throughout his career and has given concerts up and down the UK and abroad. Whether it be headlining his own solo shows, performing at festivals, or supporting world-renowned artists, his performances have been described as "beautifully flawless" and "magical" by the music press. Will has toured, performed, workshopped and given masterclasses in the UK, Ireland, France, Italy, Zimbabwe, China USA and Canada.

### **Seonaid Aitken**

Seonaid is a versatile award-winning violinist from Fife. She attended the junior department of the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama in Glasgow then moved to London to study for her Bachelor of Music Honours degree at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. She played in the National Youth Orchestra of Scotland and went on to lead their semi-professional orchestra Camerata Scotland performing in the Royal Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, the Royal Albert Hall and Buckingham Palace. Now based in Glasgow, Seonaid plays with the Orchestra of the Scottish Opera and records and tours with Scottish folk singer (and Idlewild front man) Roddy Woomble, gypsy jazz band Rose Room, Western Swing band Stretch Dawson and the Mending Hearts and, as a special guest, with Edinburgh-based jazz band Swing 2013.

### **Innes Watson**

Born in Glasgow, brought up in the Borders, Innes has carved himself a deep groove in the face of contemporary and traditional folk music of Scotland. Alumni of the National Centre of Excellence in Traditional Music in Plockton and a graduate of the Bachelor of Arts in Scottish Music at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, Innes is now a leading tutor in instrumental performance at the RCS and the University of the Highlands and Islands. He is also renowned as one of Scotland's best instrumentalists being awarded "Instrumentalist of the Year" at the 2009 Scots Trad Music Awards at the age of 24 and has since appeared on countless cutting edge recordings.

### **Patsy Reid**

After leaving the brilliant and loud Breabach, Patsy Reid has become the most in-demand traditional fiddle player in the UK. She hasn't stopped working. She performed alongside Dougie Maclean and Kylie Minogue at the 2014 Commonwealth Games Closing Ceremony, with Zakir Hussain at the London 2012 Olympic Festival followed by an extensive tour of North America, and since 2013 she has visited India five times, collaborating with Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi and fellow British musicians. In the studio Patsy is a one woman string quartet, contributing violin, viola and cello to albums by Donald Shaw, Duncan Chisholm, Bella Hardy, Treacherous Orchestra, Tim Edey and many more.

### **Alice Allen**

Alice Allen is from Aberdeenshire and formerly young artist in residence with the Scottish Ensemble. Now one of Scotland's top freelance cellists, Alice works with many of the country's leading performing groups including the BBC Scottish symphony Orchestra and the Brodick Quartet. Alongside this she has studied traditional cello with leading instrumentalist Natalie Haas, and has recorded with many leading folk artists including former BBC young traditional musician of the year Robyn Stapleton and MG ALBA Scots Singer of the year Iona Fyfe. Alice was the Scottish Ensembles RCS Young Associate Artist for the 2015-16 season and the 2014 winner of the Dunbar-Gerber prize for chamber music playing with duo partner Julija Sadaunykaite.