**Rebecca Saunders 'Solitude': a conversation between composer and performer**

**Séverine Ballon**

**30 June 2014
17.00 - 18.30
Chancellor's Hall, Senate House, University of London, Malet Street, London WC1**

'Solitude' is a four-year collaboration between Rebecca Saunders and Severine Ballon. In this piece, the composer is exploring fast double trills, a material she already explored in her string quartet 'fletch' and her violin concerto 'still'. A state or quality of being alone, solitary, or remote. Implies the absence of all others: inaccessibility, withdrawal, seclusion, isolation. A state of separation. A lonely or secluded place: wilderness, waste, desert, emptiness, wasteland. Insilence, vacuous and devoid.

**Séverine Ballon**'s work as a performer focuses on regular performance of key works of the cello repertoire and numerous direct collaborations with composers. Her research as an improviser have helped her to extend the sonic and technical resources of her instrument. She has worked with such composers as Helmut Lachenmann, Liza Lim, Mauro Lanza and Rebecca Saunders. Her work crosses the centuries from gut strings to electronics, over a wide range of aesthetics from Feldman to Ferneyhough.