

## Waltz of my Heart

Ivor Novello (1893-1951)

From *The Dancing Years*

## How Fair this Spot

Sergei Rachmaninov (1873-1943)

Fiona Zarb-Adami - Soprano, Mark Zarb-Adami - Piano

## Ave Maria

Franz Schubert (1797-1828)

*Transcription by Franz Liszt (1811-1886)*

The Latin prayer 'Ave Maria' is frequently performed with Schubert's melody, to such an extent that it may be better known in this form. In fact Schubert set text from Sir Walter Scott's poem 'The Lady of the Lake'. In this scene, accompanied by harp, the eponymous lady calls on the Virgin Mary to save and protect her father and herself. Liszt transcribed this song to popularise the then relatively unknown Schubert.

Liszt develops the harp-like accompaniment to a virtuoso level, leaving the song to sing out in the middle register using fingers borrowed from whichever hand is available. But the sense of peace and prayer, is never compromised. The piece finishes with a shimmer of notes as quietly as it began.

Tim Morris - Piano

## Sonata in A major wq 55/4

Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach (1714-1788)

*1st movement - Allegro Assai*

CPE Bach was the second surviving son of Johann Sebastian Bach. He was composing during the transition between his father's Baroque style and the Classical period which followed. He was a prolific writer of keyboard sonatas. This movement is from one of his more mature sonatas. It is lively and cheerful, alternating detached chords with rapid semiquaver passages. The movement ends in a rather unexpected way!

Gilly Slot - Piano

## The Monk and his Cat

Samuel Barber (1910-1981)

From *Hermit Songs*

This hypnotic song was composed in 1953 and based on a poem written by a monk in the 9th Century. Translated by WH Auden, it tells of the simple yet satisfying and harmonious life of a monk and his white cat Pangur.

## Le Colibri \*

Ernest Chausson (1855-1899)

*Poem by Leconte de Lisle*

The hummingbird is an exquisite poetic love song composed in 1882.

Maria Willsher - Soprano

## Improvisations

Francis Poulenc (1899-1963)

*No's 3, 2 and 6*

These three contrasting vignettes are taken from Poulenc's first set of Six Improvisations, published in 1932. Small-scale and without any discernible structural plan, these brief character pieces showcase the diverse range of styles for which the composer is renowned, from witty, light-hearted and exuberantly popular to deeply ironic, sentimental and melancholic. In 1938 the pianist Alfred Cortot commented that "their unique artistic discipline seems to be one of good pleasure".

Ashton Gray - Piano

## L'Invitation au Voyage \*

Henri Duparc (1848-1933)

*Poem by Charles Baudelaire*

This beautifully atmospheric song by Duparc represents the yearning for a loved one to travel away with the singer to a magical land to see out the rest of their days beneath hazy sunsets of hyacinth and gold. As with all Duparc's melodies, the singer and pianist are partners in song, with elegant beauty, restrained power and expression carefully crafted for each.

Fiona Zarb-Adami - Soprano, Mark Zarb-Adami, Piano

## Sonata in E Minor D566

Franz Schubert (1797-1828)

*2nd movement - Allegretto (E major)*

Written in 1817, when he was 20 years old, this is a two movement sonata where the 1st movement is in E minor and the 2nd is in E major. The sonata is almost identical in structure and key to Beethoven's piano sonata Op.90, which was written just 3 years before. Schubert was heavily influenced by Beethoven throughout his composing career and died only one year after Beethoven in 1828 when he was only 31.

Ed Slot - Piano

\* (see translations)

**Sonata for Alto Saxophone and piano***Phil Woods (1931 - 2015)**1st movement*

Composed by the jazz saxophonist Phil Woods in 1962, this exciting concert piece is unusual in that it combines Western classical and jazz traditions, including improvisation. The first movement has a classical ternary ABA form with a jazz improvisation section about two-thirds of the way through.

Nick Willsher - Saxophone

**Green Finch and Linnet Bird***Stephen Sondheim (1930 - )**From Sweeney Todd*

Johanna Barker is being held captive as a young ward in Judge Turpin's home. While watching her caged pet birds, Johanna expresses her dreams to be free of imprisonment and asks them how they can sing in captivity.

Maria Willsher - Soprano

**The Man I Love***George Gershwin (1898-1937)**Arrangement by Earl Wild (1915 - 2010)*

Earl Wild was a popular American pianist who enjoyed writing and performing transcriptions. This particular transcription of Gershwin's Man I Love is in the form of an etude for the left hand where the right hand can't help joining in! - first with just a few notes here and there, then with a slow counter-melody, until at last, the right hand can't help itself and we have a full blown two-handed rendition of Gershwin's famous song.

Mark Zarb-Adami - Piano

**We hope you've enjoyed our concert, please join us for tea & cake**

**The next concert will be held here on Sunday 10th October 2021 at 3pm**

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