

We'll Gather Lilacs*Ivor Novello (1893-1951)*

Written for the hit musical romance, *Perchance to Dream*, as World War II drew to its close, this song describes the yearning of parted couples to be reunited. It evokes the joy they would feel when together once again, and the pleasures of the English countryside in spring with its lilac blossom.

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

Recercata Bella
Pavan
Tom of Bedlam
Watkin's Ale

Anon
Alfonso Ferrabosco (1543-1588)
 Anon
 Anon

Pat Glynn - Lute

Improvisation No.7 in C Major*Francis Poulenc (1899-1963)*

The French composer's set of 15 Improvisations were published between 1932 and 1959. Equally gifted as a performer and as a composer, Poulenc was highly critical of his output for solo piano. The Improvisations however met with rare approval as he looked back in later life. Concise and direct, these charming character pieces rapidly move through a range of moods and styles – by turns reflective, passionate, impish and wryly humorous.

Ashton Gray - Piano

Pierette Air de Ballet, Opus 41*Cécile Chaminade (1857-1944)*

Chaminade was a french composer who wrote numerous character pieces for piano. Her style has been described as "tuneful, highly accessible and mildly chromatic". *Pierette Air de Ballet* is all of these things, as well as being dance-like and playful.

Gilly Slot - Piano

Violin Sonata No.5 in F Major, Opus 24 'Spring' - IV Rondo*Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1850)*

In the Spring sonata of 1801 we can hear that Beethoven has not bid farewell to the genteel world of classicism with its graceful themes, transparent textures and traditional accompaniment figures. But, we can also hear a robustness and vigour of a spirit about to burst the bonds of classical restraint. The rondo is the lyrical finale of the sonata in F major.

Jackie Drew - Violin, Ashton Gray - Piano

Nell, Opus 18 No.1*Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924)*

This euphoric love song was composed in 1878 when Fauré was 33 and had already developed his own mature, personal style of composition. He was a prolific composer and master of French song. It is set to words by the poet Leconte de Lisle. (*see translation*)

Spring Waters, Opus 14 No.11*Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873-1943)*

This song was composed in 1896 when Rachmaninoff was 23. He dedicated it to his first piano teacher. The composer was himself an excellent pianist, and this is evident in the virtuosic piano accompaniment which drives the excitement of the arrival of Spring by mimicking the rushing, sparkling spring flood waters.

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

Faschingsschwank aus Wien, V - Finale *Robert Schumann (1810-1856)*

Carnival scenes from Vienna

This energetic and triumphant end to the work is in Bb Major and uses sonata form. It shows influences of both Schubert and Beethoven.

Edwin Slot- Piano

Clarinet Concertino in C Minor/Eb Major, Opus 26 J.109

Carl Maria von Weber (1786-1826)

Weber took just three days to write this concertino for the clarinetist Heinrich Bärmann. Bärmann then learned the work over the next three days and the command performance, for which King Maximilian I of Bavaria purchased 50 tickets, took place on the evening of April 5, 1811.

Claudio Bollani- Clarinet, Mark Zarb-Adami - Piano

Nocturne, Opus 10, Souvenirs de Mon Pays

Teresa Carreño (1813-1917)

Carreño was a Venezuelan concert pianist. Her heart-felt piece (memories of my country) owes much to Chopin.

Tim Morris - Piano

Heroic Polonaise

Frédéric Chopin (1810-1849)

Mark- Zarb-Adami - Piano

Audience reprise We'll Gather Lilacs

We hope you've enjoyed our concert.

Please join us for a complimentary drink and nibbles!

Our summer concert will be held at the usual time of 3pm on Sunday 14th August and will be followed by tea and cake.

Visit www.sparsholtmusic.org for more details

All profits contributed to the village