

**Vocalise-étude in E minor***Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924)*

Composed in 1907 as a study for young singers at the Paris Conservatoire, this piece contains a number of vocal and rhythmical challenges. It is sung to one vowel with no words and includes intervals as wide as a tenth, and the pitching of unusual harmonies. It is a haunting piece of music in its own right that deserves to be better known.

Fiona Zarb-Adami - Soprano**Prélude, Op.11 No.1***Anatoly Lyadov (1855-1914)*Mark Zarb-Adami - Piano**An Sylvia, Op.106 No.4***Franz Schubert (1797-1828)*

Schubert wrote an impressive 1500 works in his short life - roughly 630 of which were for voice and piano. This song was composed in 1826 near the end of his life. Silvia is desired by several men in Shakespeare's 'The Two Gentlemen of Verona'; this song 'Who Is Silvia?' is played to her by Thurio's musicians to help him woo her, although her affection lies only with the young gentleman Valentine.

**Orpheus with his Lute***Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)*

In Greek mythology Orpheus was said to be the greatest of all poets and musicians. His music and singing had great power, able to soothe, charm the birds, fish and wild beasts and coax the trees and rocks into dance.

Maria Willsher - Soprano**Rondo Capriccioso in E minor Op.14***Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)*Ed Slot - Piano**Piano Quartet No.1 in G minor, K478***Wolfgang A Mozart (1756-1791)*

3 - Rondo (Allegro Moderato)

Tim Morris - Piano, Jonathan Scott - Violin, Gilly Slot - Viola, Stella Scott - Cello**The Sun Whose Rays Are All Ablaze**

Act 2, The Mikado

Lyrics - *William S Gilbert (1836-1911)*Music - *Arthur Sullivan (1842-1900)*

Whilst getting ready for her wedding, Yum Yum sings this lovely aria musing over the beauty and characteristics of both the sun and the moon. In the preceding libretto, Yum Yum decides she is a 'child of nature' and is therefore beautiful herself... she is quite a vain character!

**Love's Philosophy***Roger Quilter (1877-1953)*poem - *Percy Byssse Shelley (1792-1822)*

The singer describes a connection in all things including unity in nature and love. The legato lines in the vocal part contrast with the ever moving tumultuous piano accompaniment, building up to a passionate climax at the end, emphasising Shelley's rhetorical question, 'if thou kiss not me?'

Melanie Mastrototaro - Soprano**Quejas ó la Maya y el Ruiseñor***Enrique Granados (1867-1916)*

(The Maiden and the Nightingale)

No.4 From Goyescas

Tom Jesty - Piano**Les Filles de Cadix***Leó Delibes (1836-1891)*

A fun, flirtatious song in a Spanish style, with similarities to Bizet, the Girls from Cadiz enjoy dancing a bolero to the sound of castanets. They playfully ask their young men if they are looking pretty today. However, when approached by a gentleman with a gold feather in his cap who makes advances, he is soon sent on his way!

Fiona Zarb-Adami - Soprano

## Evocación

*Isaac Albéniz (1860-1909)*

No.1 From Iberia

The opening piece from the composer's best known work, the *Iberia* suite, combines impressionistic piano writing with his native country's folk music idioms. Listen out for distinctive classical guitar figurations transcribed for the keyboard, along with exotic scales and modes associated with flamenco. The style is largely *cante jondo*, "deep singing", plaintive and profoundly moving melodies associated with Spanish gypsy song, often dealing with themes of death, sorrow or religion.

Ashton Gray - Piano

## Solo de Concours

*André Messager (1853-1929)*

(Contest solo!)

Solo de Concours was composed in 1899 for the Paris Conservatoire Competition. Messager was a student of Gabriel Fauré and Camille Saint-Saëns and wrote numerous operas, operettas and ballets. He was appointed Commander of the Legion d'Honneur.

Claudio Bollani - Clarinet

**We hope you've enjoyed the concert.**

**Please join us for tea and cake!**



Our winter concert will be held at 3pm on  
Sunday 3rd December 2023

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*All profits contributed to the village*