
CONCERTS AT THE UNIVERSITY

Autumn - Winter 2017

Tuesday 14 November 2017

1.10pm

Reid Concert Hall

Auricle Ensemble

Chris Swaffer · conductor

Crawford Logan · reciter

Amy Cardigan · violin

Nicola Long · clarinet

Kath Nagl · bassoon

Alistair Douglas · trumpet

Kenny Letham · trombone

Neil Cameron · double bass

Philip Hague · percussion

STRAVINSKY *The Soldier's Tale*



THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH
Edinburgh College of Art

The Soldier's Tale (Histoire du Soldat)

Music by Igor Stravinsky (1882-1971)

Text by CF Ramuz, translated by Jeremy Sams

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Histoire du Soldat was written in 1918, telling the tale of a soldier, his violin, the devil and a princess. 2017 marks 100 years since the Russian Revolution, which was the catalyst for the work. Whilst in exile in Switzerland, Stravinsky was effectively cut off from Russia by the October uprising, both financially and emotionally. The austere circumstances he found himself in however, lead to the creation of his musical story of the Soldier and his violin.

Part I

A soldier is trudging home to his village, back to his girlfriend and family for ten days Leave.

- 1. Soldier's March** He stops by a stream, and pulls out his violin and starts to play.
- 2. Airs by a Stream** The Devil appears, disguised as a little old man with a butterfly net. He approaches the soldier and persuades him to trade his violin for a book full of future financial trades and information. As the Devil can't get a note from the instrument, he further persuades the soldier to come with him for a couple of days while he learns it, in return for fine food and wine. He returns the soldier as promised, after what seems like two days.
- 3. Soldier's March Reprise** On returning to his home town, the soldier soon realises to his dismay that he's been tricked, and has been away for two years, not days.
- 4. Pastorale** The Devil approaches, and reminds the Soldier he still has the book. He reads it and begins to realise he can make a huge amount of money.
- 5. Pastorale Reprise** He becomes a hugely successful businessman and buys everything he could possibly need or imagine. He quickly tires of this, and realises how empty on the materials possessions make him feel.
- 6. and 7. Airs Reprise**

Part II

He leaves his fortune behind him and leaves the country to get as far away from his old life as possible.

- 8. Soldier's March Reprise** In the next kingdom, the King proclaims that whomever can cure his daughter, the Princess, could claim her hand in marriage.
- 9. The Royal March** The night before the Soldier intends to visit the Princess, he sits at the inn, playing cards. The Devil appears with the violin. The Narrator encourages the Soldier to play cards with the Devil and lose on purpose, all the while, plying him with wine. He beats the Devil and triumphantly reclaims his violin.

10. The Little Concert The Soldier makes his way to the castle, and enters the Princess' chamber, where she lies, not moving, on the bed. He begins to play.

11. Three Dances: Tango... She opens her eyes, turns her head towards the soldier and sits up. She rises from her bed and begins to dance ...**Waltz – Ragtime** The Princess now cured, is about to embrace the soldier, but is interrupted by the Devil who has returned to claw back his violin. The Soldier has an idea, and starts to play a devilish tune.

12. The Devil's Dance The Devil writhes in agony and collapses exhausted – he is thrown out of the chamber. The Soldier and Princess finally embrace.

13. Little Chorale The Devil suddenly reappears to issue a warning, that if they leave and cross the borders then he will drag the Soldier down to hell, and that the Princess will go back to bed again.

14. The Devil's Song The Princess and Soldier fall back into each other's arms – surely a happy ending, so the Narrator starts to sum up the morale of the tale.

15. The Great Chorale However, the Princess starts to convince the Soldier to show her where he came from, to travel to his home town. There at the border, sits the Devil, waiting for them. He has the violin. The Soldier lowers his head and follows the Devil.

16. The Triumphal March of the Devil

The **Auricle Ensemble** burst into in life in 2007 with intriguing programmes, virtuoso playing and an inclusive performance style. Formed by co-founders Kenny Letham and Chris Swaffer, the ensemble has since gained an enviable reputation and invitations to perform widely. It gained much acclaim for its Mini-Mahler project performing the reduced versions of Mahler's works as well as for playing live to film in the European premiere of Copland's 'The City' at the Glasgow Film Festival. The ensemble thrives on performing a variety of genres, from Miles Davis to Maxwell Davies, and as such, has some of Scotland's most versatile players as its members.

Chris Swaffer has guest conducted many ensembles, including the St. Petersburg Academic and Ukrainian State Symphony Orchestras, Ensemble 11, the Orchestra of Opera North, Slaithwaite Philharmonic and the Metropolitan Ensemble of London. Chris' passion for new music has seen him conduct many premieres, including the UK premiere of the Ives Society Critical Edition of Charles Ives' Second Symphony and seven world premieres at the Royal Northern College of Music with contemporary music group Ensemble 11. He conducted the first public performance of Howard Blake's Diversions for marimba in the presence of the composer with soloist Heather Corbett and also recently lead a Scottish Opera Connect workshop on a brand new contemporary opera at the University of Aberdeen. Chris was educated at Chetham's School of Music and holds a Masters degree in composition

from the University of Manchester. He has worked with over 50 youth, amateur and university orchestras holding many Principal Conductor posts and is the founder of the Universities of Scotland Symphony Orchestra. Chris is also well known as a presenter and trainer for schools and education conferences, and has provided training in conducting and all things music technology through his role as Product Manager for Notion software (a well known iPad and desktop notation app).

Crawford Logan recently completed a very successful Edinburgh Fringe in Cumbernauld Theatre's 'The Gardener', even picking up a 5* review with picture in The Times, and has been fortunate over many years to have appeared in theatres all over the UK and abroad, including the West End. In 2013 he appeared 319 times in 'The Woman In Black' at the Fortune Theatre in London's Covent Garden, seeing in both the 25th year of this famous play and it's 10,000th performance. Crawford has been a familiar voice on BBC Radio over many years, in particular as the suave author/detective Paul Temple in the Paul Temple Mysteries on Radio 4. He is a veteran of dozens of audiobook recordings and hundreds of voiceovers for radio and television. Crawford recently performed 'The Lighthouse Keepers' with Red Note Ensemble and earlier this year 'Beethoven's Letters' with the Carducci Quartet. He has a long association with the Tallis Chamber Choir in London and with the compositions of Sally Beamish, and among others has appeared with the Rose Consort of Viols, the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, the Fidelio Trio, Trio Isimsiz and the Rosenethe Singers. He is also a very occasional member of a band called The Martians!

Amy Cardigan studied at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama before continuing with her post graduate studies at the Royal Academy of Music in London. During her time at the RSAMD, Amy was the recipient of the Robert Highgate Scholarship, the Eric Dodds Memorial Scholarship and was a winner of the Keldwyth Award for Cumbrian musicians. She was a regular participant of the Mendelssohn on Mull chamber music festival, working with Levon Chilingirian and Marcia Crayford. Whilst at the RAM, Amy continued to pursue her passion for chamber music, playing with various ensembles including the Royal Academy Soloists, under the direction of Clio Gould. She also participated in the Zermatt Chamber Music Festival for three years, playing alongside members of the Scharoun Ensemble of the Berlin Philharmonic. Amy was a member of the European Union Youth Orchestra for four years, with whom she toured extensively throughout Europe, as well as Russia and Brazil. Amy has been a member of the first violin section of the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra since 2008, and is a founding member of the Broderick Horn Trio and the European Chamber Players.