

THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH CONCERT SERIES    SPRING · SUMMER 2010

# Concerts at The University

Tuesday 16 February 2010

1.10pm

Reid Concert Hall

**Emma Morwood** · soprano

**Jonathan Fisher** · piano

Programme of works by Haydn, Ravel, Berg and Gurney.



## Scena di Berenice

Joseph Haydn (1732-1809)

Composed and first performed in London in 1795, this scene, consisting of recitative and arias, is a dramatic portrayal of a loving woman who has been abandoned by her partner and has gone quite mad.

Berenice, what are you doing?  
Dying is he you love, foolish girl, and you don't rush to him.  
Oh God! My uncertain step hesitates;  
A strange icy tremor shakes unexpectedly through all my veins,  
and my feet can hardly bear my weight.

Where am I? What a host of confused thoughts, all woeful, cloud my reason?  
I see Demetrius. He comes in the act of striking...  
Stop! Stop! Live!  
I shall give myself to Antigono. Against my will I hasten to swear my fidelity to him:  
I shall say that I love him. I'll say...

Woe is me, dark is the day, thunderous the sky.  
I have irritated them with my deliberate purjuries.  
Alas! Allow me to help my dearest, cruel Gods.  
You impede me and while perhaps an unexpected blow...  
You will be satisfied; he is slain.  
Wait, lovely soul: our shadows shall go together to Lethe.  
If I cannot save you, faithfully I can...  
But you look at me, and go. Don't leave.  
Do not go, beautiful idol mine;  
across that water to the other shore I wish to cross with you.

Unhappy me! What am I pretending? What do I say?  
Where have I been carried by the cruel torrent of my suffering?  
Wretched Berenice! You are delirious!  
Increase, O god, increase my heart's sorrows,  
so that excess of suffering will come to my aid by taking away my life.

## Cinq Mélodies populaires grecques

Maurice Ravel (1875-1937)

These are settings of traditional Greek folksongs, translated into French. They were Ravel's first venture into the harmonisation of folk songs.

### Chanson de la mariée

### The song of the Bride

Awake, awake, my darling partridge, open your wings to the morning.  
Three beauty spots set my heart on fire!  
See the ribbon, the ribbon of gold that I bring you to tie round your hair.  
If you wish, my beauty, we shall marry! In our two families, everyone is related!

### Là-bas, vers l'église

### Yonder by the church

Yonder, by the church, by the church of Ayio Sidero,  
The church, o blessed Virgin, the church of Ayio Costandino,  
There are gathered, assembled in infinite numbers,  
The world's, o blessed Virgin, all the world's most decent folk!

### Quel Galant m'est comparable

### What Gallant can be compared with me

What gallant compares with me, among those one sees passing by?  
Tell me, lady Vassiliki!  
See, hanging on my belt, my pistols and my curved sword.  
And it is you that I love!

### Chanson des cueilleuses de lentisques

### Song of the girls collecting mastic

O joy of my soul, joy of my heart, treasure which is so dear to me,  
joy of my soul and heart, you whom I love ardently,  
you are more handsome than an angel.  
O when you appear, angel so sweet, before our eyes,  
Like a fine, blond angel, under the bright sun,  
Alas! all our poor hearts sigh!

### Tout gai!

### Be Gay!

Be Gay! Gay, ha, be gay! Beautiful legs, tra la, which dance,  
Beautiful legs; even the dishes are dancing! Tra la la!

## Sieben frühe lieder

Alban Berg (1885-1935)

Written between 1905 and 1908, these early compositions were written under the supervision of Arnold Schoenberg. The influences of Strauss, Wolf and Debussy can be heard in these beautiful songs.

### Nacht

Clouds draw in over night and valley,  
mists hover, waters murmur gently.  
Now suddenly all is unveiled:  
Oh take heed! Take heed!

A boundless wonderland is revealed.  
Mountains loom silver, dream-like, large,  
silent paths run, silver-lit,  
valleywards from their hidden source;

And the hallowed world, so dream-like, pure.  
A mute beech tree by the wayside  
stands black as a shadow, as breeze from a distant glade  
sighs solitary, soft.

And from the deep vale's gloom  
lights glimmer in the voiceless night.  
Drink soul! Drink, solitude!  
Oh take heed! Take heed!

### Schilflied

On a secret woodland path I love to steal by evening's light  
to the lonely reed bank, dear maid, and think of you!

Then, when the copse grows dark, the reeds sigh mysteriously  
and moan and whisper, so that I am close to tears,  
And I think I hear, drifting faintly, the sound of your voice,  
and, drowning in the water, your sweet song.

### Night

## Die Nachtigall

It's because the nightingale sang all night long;  
through its sweet sounds,  
in echo and re-echo,  
the roses bloomed.

It used to be a wild thing,  
now it goes deep in thought,  
its summer hat in hand,  
and silently endures the blazing sun  
and knows not what to do.

It's because the nightingale sang all night long;  
through its sweet sounds,  
in echo and re-echo,  
the roses bloomed.

## Traumgekrönt

That was the day of the white chrysanthemums,  
I was almost intimidated by its glory...  
And then, then you came to take my soul deep in the night.  
I was so worried, and you came so lovingly and quietly,  
I had just thought of you in a dream.  
You came, and softly the night resounded like a fairy tale song.

## Im Zimmer

Autumn sunlight.  
The lovely evening peers so quietly in.  
A little red fire crackles in the stove and flares up.  
So with my head upon your knee,  
I am contented.  
When my eyes rest in yours,  
how gently do the minutes pass!

## The Nightingale

## Crowned in a Dream

## In the Chamber

### Liebesode

Embraced by love we fell blissfully asleep;  
At the open window the summer breeze listened  
And carried the peacefulness of our breath  
Out into the bright, moonlit night.  
And out of the garden, feeling its way randomly,  
The scent of roses came to our bed of love  
And gave us wonderful dreams,  
Dreams of intoxication, rich with yearning.

### Sommertage

Now the days of summer ride through the world,  
sent forth from blue eternity;  
time dissipates in the summer wind.  
Now at night the Lord weaves  
Starry posies with his blessed hand  
above the wandering wonderland.  
In these days, o my heart, what can  
your brightest wanderer's song then say  
of what you deeply feel?  
In meadowsong the heart falls silent;  
now there are no words, and image upon image  
visits you and fills you entirely.

### Sleep

#### Down by the Salley Gardens

### Spring

Ivor Gurney (1890-1937)

Gurney was a prolific and well respected composer and poet, but rarely set his own poetry to music. He battled with depression for most of his life and spent the last 15 years of his life in a mental institution. Two of these songs, *Sleep* and *Spring* are settings of Elizabethan poetry, while *Down by the Salley Gardens* is a less familiar setting of William Butler Yeats' text.

### Lovers' Ode

### Summer Days

Born in Belfast, **Emma Morwood** was a music student at the University of Edinburgh and the Royal Northern College of Music (RNCM) where she worked as a singer at postgraduate level. Emma was a major award winner at the RNCM, including the Dame Eva Turner Award, the Claire Croiza Prize for French Song and the Brigitte Fassbaender Award for Lieder. Described as '*superlative*' (Opera Magazine) and '*brilliant*' (The Telegraph), and now working with many leading orchestras and conductors, she is fast establishing a reputation as one of our finest young sopranos both on the opera stage and the concert platform.

Emma has engagements with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra (RLPO) and the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic (RLP) Ensemble 10/10, the Philharmonia, Northern Sinfonia, Manchester Camerata, and the Ulster Orchestra, and has worked with conductors including Vladimir Ashkenazy, Vasily Petrenko, Simon Halsey, Clark Rundell, Nicholas Kraemer and Baldur Brönnimann. She has performed a number of world premieres with the RLP Ensemble 10/10, most recently singing the title role in Mieczystaw Weinberg's *Lady Magnesia*, and performing Capital of Culture commission *The Punishment of Lust* by James Wishart. Emma has also appeared with the RLPO as soloist in Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony* (Ashkenazy) and Grieg's *Peer Gynt Suite* (Petrenko).

Currently on tour as Aline in Opera Della Luna's new production of *The Sorcerer* (Gilbert and Sullivan), other opera roles performed include Susanna in *Le Nozze di Figaro* (RNCM); the title role in Ravel's *L'enfant et les Sortilèges* (RNCM); Dido in Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* (Manchester Camerata/Nicholas Kraemer); Fiordiligi in Mozart's *Così fan tutte* (Lyric Opera Studio, Weimar); Carmela in the Scottish premier of Gian Carlo Menotti's *The Saint of Bleeker Street* (Edinburgh Grand Opera); and Clorinda in *La Cenerentola* (Mananan International Opera Festival).

Other recent performance highlights include a solo lunchtime recital at the Liverpool Philharmonic Hall; Mozart's *Exsultate Jubilate* with the Ulster Orchestra; opera gala with RLPO (Petrenko); Mozart's *Coronation Mass* with Northern Sinfonia (Halsey); James Macmillan's *Búsqueda* with the RLP Ensemble 10/10; Vivaldi's *Gloria* with Manchester Camerata. Future engagements include the UK Premier of Atsuhiko Gondai's *Rapid Welcoming Descent* with the Philharmonia in the Royal Festival Hall.

[www.emmamorwood.com](http://www.emmamorwood.com)

**Jonathan Fisher** was born and lives in Manchester. He is a pianist specialising in chamber music, working with many instrumentalists and singers throughout the United Kingdom. Engagements in recent years have included recitals at Liverpool's Philharmonic Hall, Chester Festival, Leeds International Concert Season, La Scuola Grande di San Giovanni Evangelista in Venice, in addition to numerous appearances at music clubs and societies across the country. With the mezzo-soprano Anna Stephany, Jonathan recently gave the world premier of John Woolrich's *And Winter Comes* at this year's Leeds Lieder + festival. In addition to his busy concert career, Jonathan holds the position of Pianist in Residence at The University of Huddersfield, and he is also employed as a staff pianist to The Royal Northern College of Music.

Jonathan graduated from The University of Huddersfield with First Class honours, and went on to continue his studies at The Royal Northern College of Music with John Gough. He held the position of Junior Fellow in Accompaniment at the RNCM from 2005 - 2007, studying with David Jones and Benjamin Frith. Competition successes and awards have included The Rodwell Prize for Piano (The University of Huddersfield), The Bessie Cronshaw Song Cycle Prize (RNCM), and The Chris Petty Prize for English Song (RNCM). In May 2007 the Association of English Singers and Speakers awarded Jonathan the accompaniment prize and honorary fellowship at The Patricia Routledge English Song Competition.

#### FORTHCOMING CONCERTS:

Wednesday 17 February, 2.00pm. Reid Concert Hall

Tovey Memorial Prize Competition Final

The Tovey Memorial Prize is awarded annually to the Music student who shows the greatest promise in composition or performance.

ADMISSION FREE

Friday 19 February, 1.10pm. Reid Concert Hall

Neil Cockburn · organ

Music by BUXTEHUDE, SWEELINCK, JS BACH, COUPERIN and FRESCOBALDI

ADMISSION FREE

Saturday 20 February, 8.00pm. Reid Concert Hall

A concert of new music by third and fourth year composition students at the University of Edinburgh

ADMISSION FREE

Tuesday 23 February, 1.10pm. Reid Concert Hall

The Edinburgh Quartet

HAYDN Quartet in G Op.64, No.4

SCHUMANN Quartet in A major Op.41, No.3

ADMISSION FREE