

THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH CONCERT SERIES AUTUMN · WINTER 2012

Concerts at The University

Tuesday 20 November 2012

1.10pm

Reid Concert Hall

Programme of works performed by current Music students from the University of Edinburgh.



THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH
Edinburgh College of Art

Marina Abel Smith · mezzo soprano
Ailsa Aitkenhead · piano

Va tacito e nascosto

George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)

*Va tacito e nascosto,
quand' avido di preda,
l'astuto cacciator.*

He moves silently and hidden,
when hungry for his prey,
[does] the clever hunter.

*E chi è a mal far disposto,
non brama che si veda
l'inganno del suo cor. (D.C.)*

And he who is disposed to evil,
Does not wish anyone to see
the deceit in his heart. (D.C.)

This aria is from Act I of *Giulio Cesare*, written by Handel in 1724. It is sung by Caesar shortly after Ptolemy has subtly threatened him. Left alone, Caesar reflects that the hunter moves silently and unseen in a conspiratorial and private conversation with the audience. He is well aware of the danger he is in but will not be fooled by the Pharaoh.

Mein Liebster singt

Hugo Wolf (1860-1903)

*Mein Liebster singt am Haus im
Mondenscheine,
Und ich muss lauschend hier im
Bette liegen.*

My lover sings by the house in
the moonlight,
And I must lie here in bed.

*Weg von der Mutter wend'ich mich
und weine,
Blut sind die Tränen, die mir nicht
versiegen.*

I turn myself away from my mother
and weep,
My tears are blood and never
run dry.

*Den breiten Strom am Bett hab'ich
geweint,
weiss nicht vor Tränen,
ob der Morgen scheint.*

The wide stream by the bed I
have wept,
Through my tears I know not
if the morning shines.

*Den breiten Strom am Bett weint'
ich vor Sehnen:
blind haben mich gemacht die
blut'gen Tränen.*

For longing have I wept the broad
stream by the bed:
The bloody tears have made me
blind.

Du denkst mit einem Fädchen

*Du denkst mit einem Fädchen
mich zu fangen,
Mit einem Blick schon mich
verliebt zu machen?
Ich fing schon Andre,
die sich höher schwangen;
Du darfst mir ja nicht trau'n,
siehst du mich lachen.
Schon Andre fing ich, glaub' es
sicherlich.
Ich bin verliebt, doch eben nicht in dich.*

You think that with a tiny string
you can catch me,
With one glance, you can make me
fall in love?
I've caught others already who
soared higher;
You mustn't trust me when you
see me laugh.
I've caught others already, believe
you me.
I am in love - but just not with you!

Wolf's *Italienisches Liederbuch* is a collection of 48 songs based on translations of anonymous Italian lyrics by Paul Heyse. Love in everyday conditions is the central theme in this collection as these two songs show. We meet a teasing woman in *Du denkst* and a heartbroken, lovesick girl locked in by her mother in *Mein Liebster Singt*.

A Charm

Benjamin Britten (1913-1976)

Quiet!
Sleep! or I will make
Erinnys whip thee with a snake,
And cruel Rhadamanthus take
Thy body to the boiling lake,
Where fire and brimstones never slake;
Thy heart shall burn, thy head shall ache,
And ev'ry joint about thee quake;
And therefore dare not yet to wake!
Quiet, sleep!
Quiet, sleep!
Quiet!

Quiet!
Sleep! or thou shalt see
The horrid hags of Tartary,
Whose tresses ugly serpents be,
And Cerberus shall bark at thee,
And all the Furies that are three
The worst is called Tisiphone,
Shall lash thee to eternity;
And therefore sleep thou peacefully
Quiet, sleep!
Quiet, sleep!
Quiet!

A Charm is from a collection of five songs called *A Charm of Lullabies* which was first performed in 1948. The mother in this 'lullaby' is exasperated. Britten's wit is clear in his setting of '...and therefore sleep thou peacefully' as the mother is beyond being logical in this brilliant setting of Thomas Randolph's poem.

M.A.S.

Shawn Witkowski · piano

Moment Musical in B minor Op.16 No.3

Sergei Rachmaninov (1873-1943)

Rachmaninov's *Six Moments Musicaux* were composed aged 23, and they testify to the immense musical potential of his early piano works.

In many respects, the B minor Moment Musical is typical of Rachmaninov's style as well as one of the deepest pieces he ever wrote : a sonorous bass supporting a melody full of lament and pain, rich harmonies piling up major and minor thirds onto another.

S.W.

Mazurka in B flat minor

Frederic Chopin (1810-1849)

Chopin composed about 60 Mazurkas consistently throughout his life, which makes them the largest and longest set of music he ever wrote. They are the recipes of his deepest musical imagination. Unlike Polonaises and Waltzes in

which the first beat is usually stressed, Mazurkas often have the accent on the second or third beat.

The present Mazurka is outstanding for its harmonic boldness (its opening chromatic line standing close to atonality), its rustic dancing atmosphere and its mix of hope and despair. In such a piece, one may feel Chopin's importance in the forthcoming rise of Wagner's chromaticism and early atonal music.

S.W.

Mairi White · clarinet

Chris Harding · piano

Adagio Cantabile from Clarinet Sonata in B flat major

Johann Baptist Vanhal (1739-1813)

Czech composer Vanhal was prolific and popular and wrote over 700 instrumental works. In Vienna he enjoyed taking part in chamber music evenings. After one such soirée an Irish tenor reminisced: "The players were tolerable, not one of them excelled on the instrument he played; but there was a little science among them, which I dare say will be acknowledged when I name them: First violin - Haydn; second violin - Baron Dittersdorf; violoncello- Vanhal; Viola - Mozart."

This work originated as a string quartet and was published in 1803, one of the earliest sonatas for clarinet. This graceful composition is the epitome of classical frivolity. The second movement is pleasing in its conversations between the clarinet and piano and its flowing melody.

Allegretto from Clarinet Sonata in E flat major Op. 167

Camille Saint-Saëns (1835-1921)

Saint-Saëns wrote this substantial work at the unusual age of 86, just a few months before his death. This is the middle sonata out of three for woodwind that Saint-Saëns wrote in 1921 (the others being Op. 166 for Oboe and Op. 168 for Bassoon). This sonata was dedicated to the clarinetist Auguste Périer who had joined the staff of the Paris Conservatoire in 1919. The lilting melody of the opening movement floats above a serene rippling accompaniment on the piano. The music then moves into a passionate middle section which returns back to the initial calm for the movement's conclusion.

M.W.

Cailean Morison · baritone
Chris Harding · piano

Der Lindenbaum from Die Winterreise

Franz Schubert (1787-1828)

<i>Am Brunnen vor dem Tore Da steht ein Lindenbaum; Ich träumt in seinem Schatten So manchen süßen Traum.</i>	By the fountain, near the gate, There stands a linden tree; I have dreamt in its shadows So many sweet dreams.
<i>Ich schnitt in seine Rinde So manches liebe Wort; Es zog in Freud' und Leide Zu ihm mich immer fort.</i>	I carved on its bark So many loving words; I was always drawn to it, Whether in joy or in sorrow.
<i>Ich muß' auch heute wandern Vorbei in tiefer Nacht, Da hab' ich noch im Dunkel Die Augen zugemacht.</i>	Today, too, I had to pass it In the dead of night. And even in the darkness I had to close my eyes.
<i>Und seine Zweige rauschten, Als riefen sie mir zu: Komm her zu mir, Geselle, Hier find'st du deine Ruh'!</i>	And its branches rustled As if calling to me: "Come here, to me, friend, Here you will find your peace!"
<i>Die kalten Winde bliesen Mir grad ins Angesicht; Der Hut flog mir vom Kopfe, Ich wendete mich nicht.</i>	The frigid wind blew Straight in my face, My hat flew from my head, I did not turn back.
<i>Nun bin ich manche Stunde Entfernt von jenem Ort, Und immer hör' ich's rauschen: Du fändest Ruhe dort!</i>	Now I am many hours Away from that spot, And still I hear the rustling: There you would have found peace

Aufenthalt from Schwanengesang

*Rauschender Strom,
Brausender Wald,
Starrender Fels
Mein Aufenthalt.*

Rushing torrent,
Howling forest,
Awesome crag,
My dwelling.

*Wie sich die Welle
An Welle reiht,
Fließen die Tränen
Mir ewig erneut.*

Just as each wave
follows upon the last,
My tears flow,
Eternally renewed.

*Hoch in den Kronen
Wogend sich's regt,
So unaufhörlich
Mein Herze schlägt.*

High in the surging
treetops' sway
My heart
beats incessantly;

*Und wie des Felsen
Uraltes Erz,
Ewig derselbe
Bleibet mein Schmerz.*

And, like the ore
within the ancient stone,
My pain remains
unchanged forever.

Mein! from Die Schöne Müllerin

*Bächlein, laß dein Rauschen sein!
Räder, stellt euer Brausen ein!
All ihr muntern Waldvögelein,
Groß und klein,
Endet eure Melodein!
Durch den Hain
Aus und ein
Schalle heut ein Reim allein:
Die geliebte Müllerin ist mein!
Mein!
Frühling, sind das alle deine
Blümelein?
Sonne, hast du keinen hellern Schein?
Ach, so muß ich ganz allein
Mit dem seligen Worte mein
Unverstanden in der weiten Schöpfung
sein!*

Little brook, let your gushing be!
Wheels, cease your roaring!
All you merry woodbirds,
Large and small,
End your melodies!
Through the grove,
Out and in,
Let only one song be heard today:
The beloved millermaid is mine!
Mine!
Spring, are all of those your
flowers?
Sun, have you no brighter shine?
Ah, so I must be all alone
With my blissful word,
incomprehensible to all of Creation!

Marina Abel Smith is a fourth year music student and studies with Patricia MacMahon. She sings in the Edinburgh University Singers under John Kitchen and with them has performed in the Edinburgh International Festival and in various other venues around Edinburgh. She debuted with Edinburgh Studio Opera as a giraffe (and baboon) in Alexander McCall-Smith's *The Okavango Macbeth* in April 2011 and last year she sang the role of Ino in their production of *Semele*. In October 2011 she was Alto soloist in the *Messiah* for the Edinburgh University Music Society's *Big Sing* and has attended the Abingdon Summer School for Solo Singers where she worked with singers such as Susan McCulloch and Robin Bowman.

Shawn Hennessy Witkowski was born in 1989 near Paris. As a child he briefly took piano lessons and later resumed them at the age of 14. A year later he gave his first public recital - entirely devoted to Chopin's music- which led to the publication of a recording. In 2009, he started a degree in Music and Philosophy at the University of Edinburgh. He is currently studying piano under MCO principal conductor Peter Evans. He attended master classes with pianists Roy Howat and Nicholas Ashton. Shawn took conducting lessons in his first year and is active as both a soloist and chamber musician; he took part in concerts with the Edinburgh Studio Opera (ESO) as well as the Edinburgh University Chamber Orchestra (EUCCO). In 2011, he won the Second Prize in the Elizabeth Ritchie class as part of the Edinburgh Competition Festival and in 2012, he won the First Prize in the same piano class and attended summer classes in Aix-en-Provence with pianists Bruno Rigutto and Jean-Marc Luisada.

Mairi White started playing clarinet at the age of ten after playing the piano for three years. She won the advanced woodwind section of the Fife Festival of Music in 2009. During her time in university she has played with the Edinburgh Quartet, been tutored by Maximilliano Martín and participated in the Edinburgh Music Festival. She is now a fourth year BMus recital student and enjoys playing in chamber groups, singing and is assistant conductor of the University Female Voice Choir. Throughout her university career she has studied clarinet with Pam Turley. Mairi hopes to go into teaching after completing her degree as she is passionate about making music participation and singing open to everyone.

Cailean Morison is now in his 4th year of his music degree studying singing under Dr. Eric von Ibler. Cailean has been singing ever since he can remember and it has formed a large part of his life so far. Highlights include singing in the SAGE Gateshead with the National Youth Choir of Scotland and enjoying a masterclass with baritone Sir Thomas Allen. Cailean is president of the Edinburgh University Singers this year and is enjoying the role hugely in a year which will hopefully see the choir tour to Rome in June. After his degree, Cailean hopes to complete a few years as a teacher before pursuing a career as a singer.