

CONCERTS

AT THE UNIVERSITY

SPRING—SUMMER 2015

Tuesday 17 February 2015

1.10pm

Reid Concert Hall

Mhairi Lawson · soprano

Jan Waterfield · piano

Programme of works by **FANNY MENDELSSOHN**,
SCHUBERT, **HAYDN**, **FELIX MENDELSSOHN** and
MOZART.



THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH
Edinburgh College of Art

Mainacht - The May night (Ludwig Holty 1748-1776)

Fanny Mendelssohn-Hensel (1805-1847)

When the silvery moon beams through the shrubs
And over the lawn scatters its slumbering light,
And the nightingale sings,
I walk sadly through the woods.

I guess you're happy, fluting nightingale,
For your wife lives in one nest with you,
Giving her singing spouse
A thousand faithful kisses.

Shrouded by foliage, a pair of doves
Coo their delight to me;
But I turn away seeking darker shadows,
And a lonely tear flows.

An den Mond - To the moon (Holty)

Franz Schubert (1797-1828)

Pour, dear moon, pour your silver glitter
down through the greenery of beeches,
where phantasms and dream-shapes
are always floating before me!

Reveal yourself, that I may find the place
where my darling often sat,
and often forgot, in the wind of beech and linden trees,
the golden city.

Reveal yourself, that I may enjoy the bushes
which swept coolness to her,
and that I may lay a wreath upon that pasture
where she listened to the brook.

Then, dear moon, then take up your veil again,
and mourn your friend,
and weep through the clouds
as one abandoned weeps!

Arianna a Naxos – Ariadne at Naxos (Anon)

Joseph Haydn (1732-1809)

Adagio

Theseus, my love! Where are you?
I thought you were beside me,
But it was only a sweet, false dream.
The rosy dawn rises in the sky
Pheobus tinges grass and flowers
As he rises, golden, from the sea.
Dear husband! Where are you?
Perhaps the chase has called,
Tempting your brave spirit!
Oh, come, my love
And find a sweeter prey for your snares.
Ariadne's loving heart, constant and adoring,
Binds with ever tighter bonds
And our radiant flame burns brightly with our love.
I cannot be separated from you for a single moment
Ah! I am seized, my love, with the desire to see you
My heart sighs for you. Come, my beloved idol!

Air

Where are you my sweet treasure?
Who tore you from my breast?
If you do not come, I shall die,
I cannot bear such grief.
If you are merciful, oh gods,
hear my prayer,
And send my beloved back to me.
Where are you? Theseus!
Where are you?

Recitative

But, to whom do I speak? Echo alone repeats my words.
Theseus neither hears nor responds
Winds and waves silence my voice.
He cannot be far away from me.
If I climb that cliff that rises above the rest,
I shall see him from there.
What is this? Alas! Woe is me!
That is the Argive ship!
Those men are Greeks!
Theseus! He is at the prow!

Oh, I may be mistaken...
No! There is no mistake.
He flees, and leaves me behind, abandoned.
All hope is gone, I am betrayed.

Theseus! Hear me!
But alas, I shall go mad!
He is swallowed by wave and wind
Forever before my very eyes.
Oh! Gods, you are unjust
If you do not punish the traitor! Ungrateful man!
Why ever did I bother to save your life?
For you to betray me?
And your promises? Your vows?
Faithless one! Deceiver! Have you the heart to leave me?
To whom shall I turn?
From whom seek compassion?
cannot stand, my knees tremble
And the bitterness of this wretched moment
Makes my heart quiver in my breast.

Air

Oh! Would that death might come in this dreadful hour
But heaven cruelly decrees
My continued suffering.
Poor abandoned one, with no one to console her,
My beloved has fled, cruel and disloyal.

Auf Flügeln des Gesanges - On wings of song

(Heinrich Heine 1797-1856)

Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy (1809-1847)

On wings of song,
my love, I'll carry you away
to the fields of the Ganges
Where I know the most beautiful place.

There lies a red-flowering garden,
in the serene moonlight,
the lotus-flowers await
Their beloved sister.

The violets giggle and cherish,
and look up at the stars,
The roses tell each other secretly
Their fragrant fairy-tales.

The gentle, bright gazelles,
pass and listen;
and in the distance murmurs
The waves of the holy stream.

There we will lay down,
under the palm-tree,
and drink of love and peacefulness
And dream our blessed dream.

The flowers of the forest (Alison Cockburn 1712-1794)

Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy

I've seen the smiling of Fortune beguiling,
I've tasted her pleasures and found them decay:
Sweet was her blessing, and kind her caressing,
But now they are fled, they are fled far away.

I've seen the forest adorn'd the foremost,
Wi' flowers o' the fairest, baith pleasant and gay:
Sae bonny was their blooming, their scent the air perfuming,
But now they are wither'd and a'wede away.

I've seen the morning with gold the hills adorning,
And loud tempests storming before middle day;
I've seen Tweed's silver streams, glitt'ring in the sunny beams,
Grow drumlie and dark as they roll'd on their way.

O fickle fortune, why this cruel sporting,
Why thus perplex us poor sons of a day?
Nae mair thy frowns will fear me, nae mair thy smile will cheer me,
Since the Flowers o' the Forest are a'wede away.

A little German Cantata (Franz Heinrich Ziegenhager 1753–1806)

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756–1791)

Recitative

You that revere the Creator
Of the immeasurable universe,
That call him Jehovah, God,
Fu or Brahma,
Listen and hear the words
Of the Sovereign of all things.
On the loud trumpet hear them resound in all eternity
Throughout the Earth, the Moon and Sun!
Hear them, People! Hear them, you, as well!

(Andante)

Love me in my works,
Love order, proportion, harmony!
Love yourselves and your brothers!
Strength and beauty shall be your ornament
And clarity of understanding your nobility.
Hold out the brotherly hand of everlasting friendship;
It was delusion, not truth, that withheld it for so long.

(Allegro)

Break the bonds of this delusion,
Tear the veil of prejudice,
Strip off the garment
That clothes mankind in factions!
Forge sickles from the iron that hitherto
Shed the blood of men, of brothers!
Blow up rocks with the black dust that oft would speed
the murderous lead into the hearts of brothers!

(Andante)

Do not imagine it is misfortune that holds sway upon my Earth -
It is enlightenment alone that heals
When it spurs you on to better deeds -
People, you that roam the world in misery,
When, in blind folly, you back onto the thorn
That should have urged you ever onward.
Be wise, be strong in brotherhood!
Then will my contentment rest on you,
Then only tears of joy will wet my cheeks,
Then your cries will be shouts of joy,
Then you will make vales of Eden out of deserts,
Then the whole of Nature will be laughing in your eyes,

(Allegro)

Then it has been achieved; the true felicity of life.

La pastorella - The little shepherdess (Carlo Goldoni 1707–1793)

Franz Schubert

The little shepherdess goes
happily through the meadow
With a little lamb at her side
singing in freedom
If innocent love
were what her shepherd liked,
The beautiful shepherdess
Would always be happy.

Gegenwart – Presence (Goethe)

Fanny Mendelssohn-Hensel

Everything announces your presence!
When the majestic Sun appears,
I hope you will follow soon.

When you walk in the garden,
you are the rose of roses
and the lily of lilies at the same time.

When you move in dance,
all the stars move
with you and about you.

Night! and so it is then night!
Now you outshine the moon's
lovely, inviting gleam.

You are attractive and lovely
and the flowers, moon and stars
worship only you, my sun!

My sun! be also to me
the creator of majestic days;
this is life and eternity.

While still a student at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, **Mhairi Lawson** appeared on a BBC Radio 3 broadcast of Schubert, Haydn and Mozart Lieder with the fortepianist Olga Tverskaya which led to her first CD recording of Haydn's English and Scottish Songs (premiere recording on original instruments). As a soloist Mhairi has sung in theatres and concert halls worldwide with such companies as English National Opera, The Gabrieli Consort, The Academy of Ancient Music and The Scottish Chamber Orchestra. She has made many commercial recordings including Haydn's *Creation* with the Choir of New College, Oxford, 'Venice by Night' with the Gramophone Award winning virtuoso baroque band la Serenissima, and Monteverdi Madrigals with Les Arts Florissants. Also with La Serenissima, Mhairi has performed large-scale works by Vivaldi throughout Europe, and with Christian Curnyn's The Early Opera Company, she has performed many dramatic works by Purcell, Handel and Hasse in venues such as London's Wigmore Hall. On the large-scale operatic stage in the USA, Mhairi sang in Purcell's *King Arthur* with the Mark Morris Dance Group's production at New York City Opera, in which she appeared also at English National Opera and with the Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra in Berkeley, California. Recent highlights were performances of Brahms' *Requiem* in Dublin, Gorecki's *Symphony of Sorrowful Songs* with the Estonian National Symphony Orchestra, Bach's *St Matthew Passion* with the Royal Northern Sinfonia, Handel's *Solomon* with the Gulbenkian Orchestra in Lisbon and the completion of two discs of Schubert's Lieder.

Jan Waterfield read music at Girton College, Cambridge, where she was also a choral scholar. This was followed by postgraduate studies in harpsichord and piano with John Toll and David Willison at the RAM in London, where she won prizes for both lieder accompaniment and continuo playing. After graduating from the RAM, she was a member of the prestigious European Union Baroque Orchestra, working alongside Jaap ter Linden and Andrew Manze.

Jan has been a member of Paul McCreesh's Gabrieli Consort since 1993, taking part in their many award-winning projects. Since 2009 she has been their principal harpsichordist and was a major player (both as organist and researcher) in their recent disc 'A New Venetian Coronation', the recipient of a 2013 gramophone award.

She is also a regular player with the Academy of Ancient Music, the Classical Opera Company, La Serenissima, the Scottish Ensemble, the Scottish Chamber Orchestra and Ludus Baroque. She was a contributor to John Eliot Gardiner's Bach Cantata pilgrimage of 2000 – the extraordinary series of live recordings made from a year's journey through Europe, performing the whole cycle of Bach's church cantatas. Her solo highlights range from recording the complete virginals works of Martin Peerson to playing Gorecki's *Concerto for Amplified Harpsichord* live from London's Wigmore Hall on BBC R3.