



Tilford Bach Society



Gemini Duo

Corinna Hentschel - Violin

Lasma Taimina - Violin

11 January 2019

www.tilbach.org.uk

Programme

While Bach's great concerto for two violins is right up at the top of their favourite list for many musically discerning members of the public, pieces for two unaccompanied violins rarely make it on popular lists. Yet the combination of instruments is ideally suited to providing melody and counter melody in Baroque counterpoint or sinuous harmonic progression underneath a melodic line leading to emotional tension in romantic pieces. Many composer-teachers wrote exercises for their students to play with them, some of which transcend mere technical exercises to become pieces of great charm or beauty. This programme contains music from baroque to contemporary, showcasing the delights of the violin duo.

Jean-Marie Leclair 1697 - 1764

Sonata for 2 violins Op3. No.6

Andante; Allegro; Largo; Allegro ma non troppo

Born in Lyons, Leclair encountered the Italian style of violin playing when he went to Turin and is acknowledged to have been influential in introducing this style to France. Amongst his works for the instrument, he published two sets of sonatas for unaccompanied violins in 1730 and 1746. This sonata is from the first set. Unfortunately, his later life was far from idyllic and, while living in a rough area of Paris, he became the victim of an unsolved murder when he was found stabbed to death in his own house.

Charles Auguste de Bériot 1802 – 1870

Duo Concertante No.3

Moderato; Adagio; Allegretto

Although born in Belgium, de Bériot was trained in France and became a very successful musician, playing the violin and piano to the highest standards and touring all over Europe and as far afield as China. In 1843 he became chief violin instructor at the Brussels Conservatory where he established the Franco-Belgian school of violin playing. He wrote many pieces for aspiring violinists which are still used in teaching students.

Johan Halvorsen 1864 – 1935

Konsert Caprice over Norske Melodier

Composer, conductor and violinist, Johan Halvorsen was born in Norway but received training and employment across Europe, (including Aberdeen for a while) before returning to Bergen then Oslo. His music was much influenced by Edvard Grieg whose niece he married. He composed a lot of music for the theatre and also many violin pieces influenced by Norwegian fiddle tunes.

Interval

Franz Joseph Haydn 1732 - 1809

Duo No. 44 for two violins

Andante von Variazioni; Presto

Joseph Haydn was a prolific composer, (the Hoboken catalogue of his compositions runs to 1936 pages) but he was also an able recycler of his own work with a keen eye to selling the music to a wider public. This duo is headed Op 99 No 3 published in 1798, but is actually arranged from one of his early string quartets of 1769.

Arcangelo Corelli 1653 – 1713

La Follia (Sonata "Folies d'Espagne")

Educated in Bologna, Corelli worked mainly in Rome, making his way as an exemplary violinist. He was much in demand for various instrumental ensembles, there being no established orchestras at the time. He is best known for his set of 12 Concerti Grossi, but he also composed several sets of sonatas. The last of his Op.5 set contains a suite of variations on a 15th century Portuguese dance called La Follia.

Henryk Wieniawski 1835 - 1880

Caprice op.18 no.2

Born in Lublin, Poland, Wieniawski's ability on the violin showed itself early and the Paris Conservatoire bent the rules so he could be admitted at the age of only 9. A renowned virtuoso in his day, a violin competition named after him is now held in Poland every 5 years. He composed many pieces for the violin, notably two notoriously difficult violin concertos, and, romantically, the "Legende" which reconciled the parents of his intended to accepting his engagement to their daughter. This caprice is one of a set of 8, which, although written as technical exercises, are satisfying musically in their own right.

Alexsey Igudesman 1973 –

Salsa de la luna; Tango sin nombre

Born in the Soviet Union to a musical Jewish family, Alexsey moved with his family to Western Germany, then at the age of 12 was accepted by the Yehudi Menuhin School. A polymath, he writes poetry as well as composing and playing music either as soloist or conductor. He also has a successful comedy musical act "Igudesman and Joo". These two dance pieces are just about having fun with two violins.

Johan Halvorsen 1864 – 1935

Passacaglia

This Passacaglia (a set of variations based on a repeating theme usually in the bass) is based on a theme by Handel (from Harpsichord Suite in G minor, HWV 432). Originally written for violin and viola in 1897, it has since been adapted for a variety of instrumental combinations.

Notes by Trevor Gray

Gemini Duo

German violinist Corinna Hentschel and Latvian violinist Lasma Taimina have recently formed the London based Gemini Duo. Their repertoire includes original classical pieces as well as their own arrangements of popular classical and non-classical music. Corinna and Lasma met in London, playing in the same orchestra. The Duo is part of the 2018/19 Lunchtime Recital Series at St Martin-In-The-Fields and will perform there in May 2019.

Corinna Hentschel

Corinna graduated in 2016 with a Master's degree in Chamber Music Violin from "Hochschule für Musik und Theater Rostock", Germany, in the class of Holger Wangerin.

Her love of chamber and contemporary music encouraged her to form the Duo „HENTSCHEL-Sisters" with her sister Simone, who plays percussion. Together they have played at festivals in Germany, Netherlands and Slovenia.

Corinna also founded Duo Asteria with her colleague, the Italian pianist Giulio Poggia. They perform regularly in the UK and Germany.

In 2017 she founded Gemini Duo with the Latvian violinist Lasma Taimina. Together they are on the LiveMusicNow UK scheme.

Corinna plays with Gilad Atzmon & The Orient House Ensemble, has recorded for Beatie Wolfe and plays in different orchestras including the Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra.

She has performed in Germany, Europe and the USA as a soloist, chamber musician and as a member of different orchestras. Corinna has won the „Hans Kauffmann Foundation" special prize for chamber music (trio) in the Jeunesse Musicale international competition of ostracised music in 2010. She is also a scholarship holder of the „Yehudi Menuhin – Live Music Now" foundation and the Lions Club, Germany. Corinna is a GEWA International Artist. She was the leader of the Trinity Laban Symphony Orchestra and performed as a soloist at the London Handel Festival in 2015.

Lasma Taimina

Lasma was born in Riga, Latvia and studied at the Music Academy of Latvia with Eva Bindere and subsequently at Escuela Superior de musica Reina Sofia in Madrid, Spain with Zakhar Bron. In 2011 she was awarded a Diploma and scholarship for the best student of the year and in 2013 became a laurate of Henri Koch International violin competition.

In 2017 she received a Master's with Distinction from the Royal College of Music, London with Yuri Zhislin. She is leading the RCM Symphony orchestra regularly, including working with Vladimir Jurowski, Vladimir Ashkenazy and others.

She has performed across the UK, including Wigmore Hall and Cadogan Hall, and in Spain. She also performs regularly with BBCSO, LPO, CBSO, London Mozart Players and other orchestras in Europe, and regularly plays in piano and violin duos. She continues her studies in Accademia Perosi, Italy with Professor Pavel Berman.

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