



T B S



Mathilde Milwidsky - violin

Gamal Khamis - piano



22 January 2022

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Programme



Sponsored by the Countess of Munster Musical Trust

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 - 1750)

Sonata for violin and keyboard No. 1 in B minor BWV 1014

Adagio - Allegro - Andante - Allegro

Bach's sonatas for violin and obbligato harpsichord were composed in trio sonata form, i.e. three independent parts consisting of two equally matched upper voices above a bass line. Instead of playing the role of a continuo instrument, filling in the harmonies of a figured bass, the harpsichord took one of the upper melodic lines on equal terms with the violin, whilst also providing the bass line. They are lesser known gems especially when played with a piano.

Franz Schubert (1797 - 1828)

Violin Sonata in D major "Sonatina", D384

Allegro giusto - Andante - Menuetto allegro vivace - Allegro moderato

This piece was composed when Schubert was nineteen but was not published until after his death. Although working as a schoolteacher, he was already producing a steady flow of songs and was trying his hand at instrumental and choral music. The publisher preferred to call the sonatas 'sonatinas' - indicative of their modest scale and simple structure.

The last of the set starts dramatically with a dotted rhythm that changes its character throughout the opening movement. Its overall mood is restless even in its more plaintive moments until its defiant end. The following Andante is a duet of calm tranquillity, until four throbbing bars turn the harmony and mood to a central agitated section, alternating between major and minor. The opening calm returns with some decoration of the theme to bring the movement to a gentle close. A boisterous 'minuet' with a more flowing trio follows. The final movement returns to the minor key veering between graceful wistfulness and robust energy, but finally ends with cheerful ebullience in the major key.

--- INTERVAL ~10 minutes ---

To comply with the regulations please wear a face covering unless you are exempt. Please do not leave your seats except to visit the loos via the door to the right side of the pulpit area.

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770 - 1827)

Violin Sonata No 3 in F flat Opus 12

Allegro con spirito - Adagio con molta espressione (in C major) - Rondo: Allegro molto

This is one of three sonatas written in 1798 and dedicated to Salieri. The *F flat Sonata* is pianistically brilliant in the first movement, with the violin tending merely to reinforce the opening phrases and then to display its own virtuosity only reservedly. The turn of the violin comes in the second movement when the piano yields to the melodic characteristics of the stringed instrument. Energetic, rather than profound, and with its headlong rush, the final *Rondo* brings a rousing end to the sonata.

making music

Henryk Wieniawski (1835 - 1880)

Faust Fantasy Opus 20

Violin fantasies based on major operas were fashionable back in the 1800s with virtuoso violinists looking for vehicles that could showcase their skills. Sarasate's adaptation of "Carmen" is perhaps the best-known with a 20th-century version by Franz Waxman following suit. But no opera has been more apt to violinistic adaptation than Gounod's "Faust." The instrument has been widely recognized as the "devil's instrument" making it ideal to take on some of Faust's lush melodies. Henryk Wieniawski's is the most famous of all the Faust fantasies.

Henryk Wieniawski was born in Lublin, Poland. Henryk's talent for playing the violin was recognized early, and in 1843 he was accepted by the Paris Conservatoire and taught by Lambert Massart, where special exceptions were made to admit him, as he wasn't French and was only eight years old. He attended the Conservatoire from 1843 to 1846 and returned for another year in 1849. After graduation, he toured extensively and gave many recitals, where he was often accompanied by his brother Józef on piano.

At the invitation of Anton Rubinstein, Wieniawski moved to St. Petersburg, where he lived from 1860 to 1872, taught many violin students and led the Russian Musical Society's orchestra and string quartet. From 1872 to 1874, Wieniawski toured the United States with Rubinstein. Wieniawski replaced Henri Vieuxtemps as violin professor at the Conservatoire Royal de Bruxelles in 1875.

During his residence in Brussels, Wieniawski's health declined, and he often had to stop in the middle of his concerts. He started a tour of Russia in 1879 but was unable to complete it, and was taken to a hospital in Odessa after a concert. He died in Moscow a few months later from a heart attack and was interred in the Powązki Cemetery in Warsaw.

Mathilde Milwidsky

Born in London in 1994, Mathilde was first drawn to the violin after watching the film *Un Couer en Hiver* with her mother at the age of four. The soundtrack of Maurice Ravel's chamber music and the leading actress' role as a glamorous young violin soloist absolutely mesmerised Mathilde and she never looked back.

She has received praise from The Strad for her "perfect intonation and beautiful shaping and colouring, comprehensively nailing each new stylistic and emotional universe as she went"

Mathilde's debut CD was released in 2020 and she was subsequently named Classical Music Magazine's Artist of the Month. The album received widespread critical acclaim - "Mathilde Milwidsky is simply terrific, her tone, technique, and temperament the ideal mix and balance. Five stars: I'd give it 10 if I could. This is one of those once-in-a-decade or more discoveries." (Fanfare Magazine, US). This was then followed by a 2021 CD release of both Beethoven Romances for the Guild label.

Mathilde studied in London with David Takeno and György Pauk and with Professor Mi-kyung Lee in Munich, generously supported by the Countess of Munster Musical Trust, Hattori Foundation, Drake Callejt Trust, and the Tillett Trust.

The people who have been most instrumental in helping her develop her musicianship are her first teacher, Viktoria Grigoreva, who gave her some of the tools of the Russian violin tradition, violinist Catherine Manson and violist James Boyd, who gave her the freedom to play late Beethoven Quartets at the age of 12, and her current professor in Munich, Mi-kyung Lee, who changed her life by helping her see ways round any problem.

Mathilde plays a Guadagnini instrument from a private collector in London. Mathilde's other interests include cold water swimming, the films of David Lynch, learning Russian and her cat, Lizka.

TBS continues to operate with a retiring collection rather than fixed-price tickets.

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Gamal Khamis

Described by The Times as a pianist with "formidable keyboard skills", Gamal Khamis first discovered the piano at the age of four while at his grandmother's house in Honduras. He first performed at the Wigmore Hall at the age of 10, and he completed his formal education at the Royal College of Music, after gaining a degree in Mathematics from Imperial College London. Gamal has played at Carnegie Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall and Sage Gateshead, as well as all over Europe, North America, Australia and New Zealand. He has won major prizes at the Royal Over-Seas League Music Competition and the Ferrier Awards, and he has worked with many of Britain's leading composers. He is a regular contributor to BBC Radio 3 In Tune, where he has collaborated with Sol Gabetta, Vilde Frang and Erwin Schrott.

Recent engagements have included performing Robert Schumann's piano concerto with the Barnet Symphony Orchestra, and making his debut at Iain Burnside's Ludlow English Song Weekend as the inaugural Finzi Trust Scholar. This year Gamal will perform Rachmaninov's second piano concerto with the Ealing Youth Orchestra, and give recitals at Richmond Concert Society, Cheltenham Music Club and Church Stretton Arts Festival. He will also make a return to the Flatirons Chamber Music Festival in Colorado, USA, and go on a tour of "Odyssey - Words and Music of Finding Home", his narrative recital with the actor Christopher Kent. Christopher and Gamal's recording of "Enoch Arden" by Strauss/Tennyson will be released by SOMM Recordings in the summer of 2022. Gamal is a Samling Artist, a member of the award-winning Lipatti Piano Quartet, and he is on the Artistic Committee of the Park Lane Group. He loves cooking and his favourite composers are Debussy and Ravel.

Future Farnham Concerts

7-30pm Saturday 26 February
Spire Church (URC), South Street, Farnham GU9 7QU

Piano Trio
Yuri Zhislin, Nathalia Lomeiko & Alexander Karpeyev
Medtner, Bruch & Brahms

7-30pm Saturday 19 March
St Andrew's Church, GU9 7PW

Farnham Sinfonia (Cello soloist Ozgur Kaya)
Details: www.farnhamsinfonia.org.uk

7-30pm Saturday 2 April
Spire Church (URC), South Street, Farnham GU9 7QU

City Bach Collective
Baroque Easter Concert

www.tilbach.org.uk

Future Conservatoire Concerts
Flute concert: Saturday 22 February

See website for details
www.conservatoireconcerts.org.uk