



T B S



Natalya Lomeiko - violin

Yuri Zhislin - viola

Alexander Karpeyev - piano



26 February 2022

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Programme

Nikolai Medtner (1880 - 1951)

Violin Sonata No 3

*Andante meditamento - Allegro subito; Scherzo: Allegro molto vivace e leggiero;
Andante con moto; Allegro molto*

Nikolai Karlovich Medtner, born in Moscow in 1880 and resident in London from 1936 until his death in 1951, was until recently generally considered an underperformed and relatively unknown contemporary of Scriabin and Rachmaninoff. However, his astounding works for piano, violin and vocals (Piano Concerto No. 2 was performed at the first Pushkin House Music Festival in 2020, along with several other works) have inspired a new generation of musicians to reappraise his works. A student of Taneev, and partly inspired by Beethoven's later period, his orchestral compositions are full of sweeping emotion, and his solo and duet works display a highly original rhythmic and harmonic sense.

The Sonata for Violin and Piano no. 3 in E minor, composed between 1935 and 1938, takes a cyclic four-movement form. Russian themes abound throughout, with musical references to folk dances and Slavonic liturgical chants. "All of Russia poured into me," Medtner claimed to his wife Anna. Realising he would probably never set foot in his motherland again, Medtner turned the sonata into a hymn for his native country, as well as a monument to his brother Emil, who died in Dresden in 1936. Its length, scope and emotion have earned it, quite rightfully, the nickname "Epica".

The first movement in E minor begins with a slow 6/8 introduction, a "Once upon a time" leading into a 6/4 sonata Allegro, with three themes. The scherzo is a Russian dance in A minor, and is one of Medtner's most successful compositions. The F minor slow movement with a 3/4 time signature follows, developing themes from the *introduzione* through different moods. The sonata ends with a very complex fast movement in E minor, quoting from peasant songs and ending with a hymn-like sonority.

Max Bruch (1838 - 1920)

Nachtgesang Opus 86-6

--- INTERVAL ---

*We will come round to top up drinks.
The loos are through the door to the right side of the pulpit area.*

Johannes Brahms (1833 - 1897)

Horn Trio arranged for Violin, Viola and Piano Opus 40

Andante - Scherzo (Allegro) - Adagio mesto - Allegro con brio

Composed in 1865, the work commemorates the death of Brahms's mother, Christiane, earlier that year. However, it draws on a theme which Brahms had composed twelve years earlier. Brahms chose to write the work for the natural horn, which he had learned as a child, as well as the piano and cello. This may be why he chose to write for these instruments following the death of his mother. Notwithstanding Brahms's love for the sound of the natural horn, he did specify that the horn part could be played by a cello and it was published with a transposed cello part. Much later in 1884 Brahms also reworked the part for viola. The Adagio is one of Brahms's most impassioned and heartfelt slow movements.

Natalya Lomeiko

Born into a family of musicians in Novosibirsk, Russia, Natalya has already established herself internationally as a versatile performing artist. Having won numerous prizes in Tibor Varga, Tchaikovsky, Menuhin, Stradivari International Violin competitions; in the year 2000 she received the Gold Medal and the 1st Prize in the Premio Paganini International Violin Competition (Genoa, Italy) and the 1st prize in the Michael Hill International Violin Competition (Auckland, New Zealand) in 2003.

Natalya studied at the Specialist Music School in Novosibirsk with Prof. A. Gvozdev, at the Yehudi Menuhin School in England with Lord Menuhin and Prof. N. Boyarskaya, at the Royal College of Music and the Royal Academy of Music with Prof. Hu Kun. She currently lives in London.

Yuri Zhislin

Described by The Strad as a 'virtuoso with a truly Romantic temperament', Yuri Zhislin enjoys an active and illustrious career as soloist and chamber musician. In 1991, Yuri entered the Royal College of Music in London, where he studied with his father and later Dr Andrievsky, winning the title of the BBC Radio 2 Young Musician of the Year in 1993.

The orchestras that Yuri performed with include the Oxford Philharmonic, the BBC Concert Orchestra, the London Mozart Players, the Lithuanian State Symphony and the Santiago de Chile Symphony, to name a few. Yuri made his recital debut at the New York Carnegie Weill Hall in 2014 and appeared at the major concert venues throughout Europe, the USA, South America, Australia and Japan. His discography includes a recital CD released in 2005 on the SOMM label, a violin/viola Duos CD for the Naxos label in 2009, and a string trio CD for the Nymbus Alliance label with Dmitry Sitkovetsky on violin and Luigi Piovano on cello.

A keen chamber musician, Yuri has worked with such artists as Maria-Joao Pires, Maxim Vengerov, Barry Douglas and Natalie Clein among many others. Formed in 2004 by Yuri, the Russian Virtuosi of Europe is an ensemble comprising outstanding string players based in Europe. Yuri is a professor of violin and viola at the Royal College of Music in London.

Alexander Karpeyev

Featured as 'One to watch' in International Piano magazine, Alexander Karpeyev is a Russian pianist resident in the UK, who has performed throughout the UK and Europe and toured in the USA, Canada and Russia as a concerto soloist, recitalist and chamber musician.

Alexander trained at the Moscow Conservatory with Vera Gornostayeva and Alexander Mndoyants and the Guildhall School of Music & Drama under Joan Havill. He is the winner of the Dudley International Piano Competition as well as the Norah Sande Award and the holder of a Silver Medal from the Worshipful Company of Musicians. In 2014 he completed a performance practice doctoral degree at the City University, based on the Edna Iles Medtner Collection at the British Library. Alexander is often asked to give masterclasses and lectures on Russian performing practice.

Alexander is passionate about communicating his ideas on Romantic 19th and early 20th-century piano repertoire, and in particular exploring the works of virtuoso pianist-composers. A Medtner specialist, he became deeply immersed in Medtner's music and approach to music-making while working on his doctoral degree, and his contact with unique performing practice evidence informs his own playing. In 2019 he gave the Algerian premiere of Chopin's F minor Concerto with the Algerian National Opera Orchestra under Maestro Amine Kouider.

Alexander devotes considerable time to promoting Russian music in London as the Music Curator of the Pushkin House Music Salon, where he appears both as a soloist and collaborator with guest artists. He also has a mission to devise and direct music festivals that imaginatively combine performance and scholarship.

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Yuri and Natalyas's CDs are on sale at reception

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