



T B S



Mathilde Milwidsky - violin

Annie Yim - Piano



29 April 2023
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We are most grateful to the Countess of Munster Musical Trust for sponsoring this concert, and to HSH Dr Donatus Prince of Hohenzollern for his financial support for our concerts this year.



Programme

Robert Schumann (1810 - 1856)

Three Romances

Claude Debussy (1862 - 1918)

Violin Sonata

Allegro vivo; Intermède; Finale

With the outbreak of war in 1914 Debussy became very depressed. Already suffering from cancer he wrote that events made his life "intense and troubled". This, understandably, brought a period of inactivity to his composing, but the summer of 1915, spent near Dieppe, brought a new enthusiasm. He made it known that he wished to work, not only for himself, but to give proof, despite "30 million Boscches", that French thought and art would not be destroyed. He started work on a projected set of six sonatas for various instruments but only three were completed, including this one for violin and piano. After working on it for two years it was only a Herculean effort that allowed him to finish the work after undergoing a serious operation and living with the constant fear that the Germans would soon enter Paris. Eventually, on 5 May 1917, it received its first performance in Paris with the violinist Gaston Poulet, and the desperately ill composer at the piano.

In these last sonatas Debussy made a conscious effort to return to the classicism of the 17th and 18th centuries, but his individual stamp still remains and his mastery of workmanship does not falter. The opening *Allegro* of the *Violin Sonata* has a fairly orthodox plan but with considerable rhythmic interest. The second movement is again one of those characteristically Harlequinesque serenades, the last that Debussy would write. The *Finale* is an exuberant movement which binds the work into an integrated whole. We are immediately reminded of the opening *Allegro* and then his *Ibéria* is recalled in the theme of a lively rondo. Of this theme Debussy wrote, "It is subjected to the most curious deformations and ultimately leaves the impression of an idea turning back upon itself, like a snake biting its own tail".

Eugène Ysaÿe (1858 - 1931)

Violin Sonata No 3 in D minor "Ballade"

Lento molto sostenuto - Allegro in tempo giusto e con bravura

Eugène-Auguste Ysaÿe was a Belgian virtuoso violinist, composer, and conductor. He was regarded as "The King of the Violin". Born in Liège, into a family of artisan musicians, he began violin lessons at age five with his father. He studied at the Royal Conservatory of Liège, then in Brussels and Paris. He became principal violin of the Benjamin Bille beer-hall orchestra, which later developed into the Berlin Philharmonic. Aged 28 he became a professor at the Brussels Conservatoire and taught many notable pupils.

Influenced by Bach's sonata for solo violin in G minor, Ysaÿe was inspired to compose violin works that represent the evolution of musical techniques and expressions of his time. His set of Six Sonatas for solo violin, was written in July 1923, and each sonata was dedicated to one of Ysaÿe's contemporary violinists. No 3 was dedicated to George Enescu.

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

Please give generously to support these concerts. For those who can afford it, we suggest a minimum of £15 per adult (under 25, and parents bringing dependent children - FREE).

If you are a tax payer please use the envelopes provided and fill in your name and, if you have not already done so, the Gift Aid Declaration so that we can maximise the tax that we reclaim.

----- INTERVAL -----

*Top up drinks are available at reception.
The loos are through the door to the right side of the pulpit area.*

Lili Boulanger (1893 - 1918)

Deux Morceaux

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770 - 1827)

Violin Sonata in G major No 10 Op 96

Mathilde Milwidsky

Born in London in 1994, British violinist Mathilde Milwidsky, a 2023 Classic FM Rising Star: 30 under 30, has been praised by The Strad (2017) for her *"perfect intonation and beautiful shaping and colouring, comprehensively nailing each new stylistic and emotional universe as she went"* as well as by the Ostfriesen Zeitung (2018) – *"Milwidsky showed in the interplay with the pianist Thomas Hoppe a unique, rarely heard musical experience... that was sensational."*

She has performed as a soloist at venues in the UK such as the Royal Festival Hall, the Wigmore Hall, Kings Place, St John's Smith Square, Cadogan Hall and the Royal Albert Hall as well as across Europe in Finland, Holland, Belgium, Switzerland, Greece, Spain, Ireland and Sweden.

She has been featured on Scala Radio as 'One to Watch', and has been broadcast live as a soloist on BBC Radio 3 'In Tune', Deutschlandfunk Kultur, Radio Swiss Classic, DR (Danish Radio), Yle Radio Suomi (Finnish National Radio), Classic FM and Hessischer Rundfunk.

Mathilde's debut CD for Toccata Classics with pianist Sam Haywood, comprising the world premiere of the three Sonatas for Violin and Piano by Agnes Zimmermann, was released in 2020 and has received widespread acclaim, including Mathilde being named Classical Music Magazine's Artist of the Month and glowing reviews - *"London-born violinist Mathilde Milwidsky is simply terrific, her tone, technique, and temperament the ideal mix and balance for these works. 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). Her latest release, of both Beethoven Romances for Violin and Orchestra, alongside the National Symphony Orchestra and conductor Rimma Sushanskaya, was released worldwide on the Guild label, and was subsequently given a 5* review by Musical Opinion.

In 2021 and 2022 Mathilde attended the Verbier Festival Academy on the Soloist & Chamber Music Programme as one of eight violinists selected worldwide. She has worked closely with such esteemed composers as Cheryl Frances-Hoad, Huw Watkins, Sally Beamish and David Matthews and in 2023 will be giving world premieres of chamber works by Charlotte Bray and Deborah Pritchard.

Mathilde's studies began at the Royal College of Music Junior Department where she was a Tsukanov Scholar taught by Viktoria Grigoreva and David Takeno. She was then offered a place at Trinity College, Cambridge but instead studied at the Royal Academy of Music as a full scholarship student under György Pauk, graduating in July 2017 with First Class Honours and the Regency Award for notable achievement, the Louise Child Memorial Prize for highest-achieving graduate and the Marjorie Heyward Fund for the highest violin mark of the year. She is currently studying under Professor Mi-kyung Lee at the Hochschule für Musik und Theater München.

Mathilde is an Artist on the Countess of Munster Recital Scheme for 2020-2022. She plays a fine Enrico Ceruti violin kindly loaned to her through the Beare's International Violin Society.

Annie Yim

Annie Yim is a Hong Kong-born Canadian concert pianist, who was raised in Vancouver. She is the founder of MusicArt based in London. Her performances have been described by The Times as "the most beautiful sounds, radiantly coloured, thoughtfully articulated". Known for her wide-ranging solo and chamber music repertoire that encompasses canonic works and new music, Annie has broadcast live on BBC Radio 3, Classic FM, and national radios in Canada and Portugal, and made her UK concerto debut at LSO St Luke's, London.

Passionate about collaborations and commissioning new works across art forms, Annie founded MusicArt in 2015 in London, an initiative to create original artist-led performance projects. From London to Berlin and Salzburg, her performances with artists and art spaces were featured in New York T Magazine, Artnet, and Gramophone. She is a recipient of Art Council England's Developing Your Creative Practice award in 2021 for her current work in making connections between music and nature, and Help Musicians UK's Do It Differently award in 2022.

Annie has worked closely with contemporary artists including painter Sir Christopher Le Brun PRA, composers Cheryl Frances-Hoad and Raymond Yiu, and poets Zaffar Kunial and Kayo Chingonyi; and with leading art galleries and national organisations including The Poetry Society (UK) and the Mathematical Sciences Research Institute (US). Her most recent collaboration has brought together the piano etudes of Philip Glass and the drawings of artist Richard Serra. Her book chapter 'MusicArt: Creating Dialogue Across the Arts' was published by Palgrave Macmillan in the edited volume 'Researching and Writing on Contemporary Art and Artists' in 2020.

Annie is founding member of the Minerva Piano Trio. She was St John's Smith Square Young Artist in Residence in 2016/17. Her trio album 'Dance!' was released on the SOMM label in 2022 to critical acclaim, which includes her arrangement of a work by Pulitzer Prize-winning American composer Caroline Shaw.

Annie enjoys teaching and mentoring fellow young musicians, and has given lectures, educational workshops and masterclasses at conservatoires and universities.

Farnham Chamber Music Festival Spire Church, South Street, Farnham, GU9 7QU

7-30pm Friday 12 May: **Horn Trio**

7-30pm Saturday 13 May: **Piano Quintet including Elizabeth Cooney**

2-00pm Sunday 14 May: **Masterclasses**

7-30pm Saturday 20 May: **Castalian String Quartet with John Myerscough**

4-00pm Sunday 21 May: **Young Talent – Jamaal & Imaan Kashim at Farnham Pottery**

www.tilbach.org.uk

Future Conservatoire Concerts Godalming Baptist Church

7-00pm Saturday 3 June: **A Night at the Opera**

See website for details
www.conservatoireconcerts.org.uk