



# T B S



## SongHa Choi Kumi Matsuo Violin & Piano Recital

16 March 2024

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## Programme

Niccolò Paganini (1782-1840)

Caprices for solo violin, Op.1 No. 1, 4, 19

Paganini, born in Genoa, was one of the greatest violin virtuosos of all time. His 24 Caprices for solo violin, written in about 1805, were generally declared to be unplayable. Paganini was pioneering new techniques for playing that needed to be mastered in order to play these studies at all. Yet they are not mere exercises in virtuosity but musical gems in their own right, and they became the inspiration for pianistic works by Schumann and Liszt.

Francis Poulenc (1899-1963)

Violin Sonata FP119

*Allegro con fuoco - Intermezzo tres lent et calme - Presto tragico*

This sonata displays many of Poulenc's hallmarks - short pithy phrases and a gift for melody with wide ranging intervals. The **first movement** starts spikily but is answered more lyrically by the piano. Even when the violin introduces a dreamy, calmer section, this soon turns assertive. Eventually the movement dances towards a return of the opening theme, and ends on a confident note. The piano's repeated notes that open the **Intermezzo** set the more contemplative tone of the movement, the melody passing between the two instruments, the violin's final glissando somehow undermining the whole mood. The **Presto tragico** opens frenetically, only later opening up into a wide-ranging melodic line that builds to a 'très violent' climax.

Lili Boulanger (1893-1918)

Nocturne for Violin and Piano

Lili Boulanger was a French composer and the first female winner of the Prix de Rome composition prize. Her older sister was the noted composer and composition teacher Nadia Boulanger.

Pancho Vladigerov (1899-1978)

"Vardar" Bulgarian Rhapsody

Vladigerov was a most influential Bulgarian composer who successfully combined idioms of Bulgarian folk music and classical music. He studied in Berlin, but later returned to Sofia, where he was appointed professor in Piano, Chamber Music and Composition at the State Academy of Music, which is now named after him. This fiery patriotic piece was his most performed and emblematic work.

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 £10 per adult in the afternoon and £15 per adult in the evening (under 25 free).

Payments in cash are preferred, but card payments may be made via our website. We do not operate a machine for card payments at the concerts.

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## Interval

### Karol Szymanowski (1882-1937)

#### Mythes for Violin and Piano No.3 "Dryades et Pan"

Dryades et Pan is the third of three programmatic miniature tone poems drawing on Greek mythology, inspired by the composer's travels in Sicily and North Africa and by impressionist music.

The work is considered an important milestone in 20th-century violin writing and was heavily admired by Szymanowski's contemporaries, such as Bartók and Prokofiev. It features heavy use of advanced violin techniques, and this movement famously contains quarter tones.

### Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

#### Violin Concerto No.4 (arranged for violin and piano)

*Allegro - Andante cantabile - Rondeau: Andante grazioso*

The fourth concerto opens with a martial air, taken up by the soloist on entry, but two octaves higher. In a similar way, throughout the movement, the solo violin is highlighted by being raised from the orchestral texture, and indulges in some virtuosic activity. A broad opening theme ushers in the **Andante cantabile**, and occurs again in the middle of the movement and in the coda. The movement lives up to its heading with an outpouring of melodic ideas.

The **rondo** finale opens with a dance-like Andante grazioso which makes three further appearances throughout the movement. A jig-like Allegro non troppo follows each appearance, always starting in the same way before branching into something different. At one point in the movement a new tune is introduced in the form of a contredanse with a rustic drone.

### Eugène Ysaÿe (1858-1931)

#### Solo Violin Sonata No. 3 "Ballade"

Born in Liège, Ysaÿe studied the violin at the conservatory there, and then in Paris with Vieuxtemps. He was to be especially associated with French music. Returning to Belgium, he taught at the Brussels Conservatoire and founded the Concerts Ysaÿes in which he appeared as both violinist and conductor.

Ysaÿe was a frequent visitor to England and introduced the Elgar Concerto to Berlin in 1911. He was popular, too, in the USA, becoming conductor of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra from 1918 to 1922. He returned to Brussels in 1922 and there revived the Concerts Ysaÿes. His compositions are largely for violin, including six violin concertos and an opera, Peter the Miner. This Sonata, one of a set of six for solo violin, was published as his Opus 27 in 1924.

### Efrem Zimbalist (1889-1985)

#### Le Coq d'Or Fantasy, after Rimsky Korsakov

Born in the southwestern Russian city of Rostov-on-Don, Zimbalist became first violin in his father's orchestra at the age of nine. He graduated from the Saint Petersburg Conservatory at eighteen after winning a gold medal and the Rubinstein Prize, and by 21 was considered one of the world's greatest violinists. He emigrated to the USA and became director of the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia.

## SongHa Choi

SongHa Choi, from South Korea, graduated from the Yehudi Menuhin School and is currently studying at the Hochschule für Musik Hanns Eisler in Berlin, in the class of Professor Kolja Blacher. This is where Coco Tomita, who has played for us before, is also studying.

Described as "mesmerising: full of passion, imagination and daring" by the Times UK, SongHa was named as the second prize winner of Concours Musical International de Montréal 2023. Showing her notable musicality in late romantic period and contemporary works, she was also awarded the Best Interpretation of the Imposed Canadian Work, Best Performance of a Sonata, and Audience Prize.

She has recently given solo performances in venues including the Berliner Philharmonie Kammermusiksaal, the Wigmore Hall, and the Royal Festival Hall, and also chamber performances and tours in venues such as the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, Eglise Station in Verbier and the Alte Oper in Frankfurt.

She has been featured on numerous live media, including BBC Radio 3 and Classic FM.

## Kumi Matsuo

Kumi Matsuo was born in Tokyo, Japan. She graduated from the Toho Gakuen High School of Music and the Toho Gakuen University of Music in Tokyo. In 2007 she moved to London for her further study at the Royal College of Music where she gained an Artist Diploma and a Master of Music in Performance. Kumi studied piano with Jyoko Gondo, Mikhail Voskresensky, John Blakely and Ashley Wass, and chamber music with Jan Repko.

In 2013, she won the 5th Louisiana International Piano Competition. Previously she won Second Prize at the 75th Music Competition of Japan in 2006, Third Prize at the 22nd Ferrol International Piano Competition in 2008 and First Prize at the 6th Isidor Bajic International Piano Competition in 2012. In 2008 Kumi won the RCM concerto competition and gave her London debut playing Ravel's Piano Concerto for Left Hand in Cadogan Hall with RCM Sinfonietta conducted by Peter Stark.

## Future Farnham Concerts

7-30pm Saturday 23 March: Farnham Sinfonia (at St Andrews Church)

7-30pm Saturday 13 April: Maiastra String Quartet – Beethoven & Shostakovich

4-00pm Sunday 21 April: Ben Schoeman & Tessa Uys  
Beethoven Symphonies 1 & 3 (Eroica) for piano four hands

7-30pm Saturday 18 May: Elizabeth Cooney, violin, & Daniel Hill, piano

7-30pm Saturday 25 May: Dante String Quartet

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## Future Conservatoire Concerts Godalming Baptist Church

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