

‘THE WORLD FEELS DUSTY’



RACHEL BARNARD & BETH HAUGHAN

SATURDAY 2ND APRIL, 6PM
ST PAUL'S CHURCH, JEWELLERY QUARTER

PROGRAMME

EDWARD ELGAR (1857-1934)

LIKE TO THE DAMASK ROSE

FRANZ SCHUBERT (1797-1828)

WINTERREISE (D.911)

II. DIE WETTERFAHNE

RALPH VAUGHAN WILLIAMS (1872-1958)

SILENT NOON

REBECCA CLARKE (1886-1979)

THE SEAL MAN

SCHUBERT - WINTERREISE

IV. ERSTARRUNG

V. DER LINDENBAUM

MICHAEL HEAD (B. 1961)

THE ESTUARY

ELGAR

THE POET'S LIFE

COPLAND (1900-1990)

TWELVE POEMS OF EMILY DICKINSON

IV. THE WORLD FEELS DUSTY

SCHUBERT - WINTERREISE

XI. FRÜHLINGSTRAUM

IVOR GURNEY (1890-1937)

I WILL GO WITH MY FATHER A-PLOUGHING

THE FIELDS ARE FULL

IN FLANDERS

SCHUBERT - WINTERREISE

XVI. LETZTE HOFFNUNG

XVIII. DER STÜRMISCHE MORGEN

VAUGHAN WILLIAMS

4 POEMS BY FREDEGOND SHOVE

THE WATER MILL

THE NEW GHOST

COPLAND

TWELVE POEMS OF EMILY DICKINSON

III. WHY DO THEY SHUT ME OUT OF HEAVEN?

NOTES ON THE PROGRAMME

‘THERE IS SOMETHING ABOUT MUSIC THAT KEEPS ITS DISTANCE EVEN AT THE MOMENT IT ENGULFS US. IT IS AT THE SAME TIME OUTSIDE AND AWAY FROM US AND INSIDE AND PART OF US.’ AARON COPLAND PERFECTLY CAPTURES HOW WE CAN CREATE DISCOURSE THROUGH MUSIC, BUT IT CAN ALSO LEAVE US FEELING POWERLESS IN THE FACE OF CURRENT EVENTS.

THIS RECITAL AIMS TO CAPTURE THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HUMANITY AND NATURE, EXPLORING HOW POETS AND COMPOSERS OFTEN SEEK TO PERSONIFY THE NATURAL WORLD AS A WAY OF PORTRAYING THEIR EMOTIONS. IN A SENSE, THIS GOES TO SHOW OUR RELIANCE ON NATURE, OUR CLOSENESS TO IT. YET THAT RELIANCE HAS CONSEQUENCES. THESE SONGS SHOW THE BEAUTY WE ARE ABLE TO FIND IN THE NATURAL WORLD, BUT ALSO THE POWER AND DESTRUCTION IT CAN BRING.

THROUGHOUT THIS PROGRAMME ARE FRAGMENTS OF **WINTERREISE** (WINTER JOURNEY), ARGUABLY SCHUBERT’S MASTERPIECE. THE MENTAL DEMISE OF THE JOURNEYING MAN IS MIRRORED IN THE HARSH WEATHER AROUND HIM. IN **DIE WETTERFAHNE**, THE WAY THE WEATHERVANE IS BLOWN AROUND BY THE WIND IS LIKENED TO THE STORM IN HIS HEART. IN **ERSTARRUNG**, HE REMINISCES ABOUT TIME SPENT WITH THE WOMAN HE LOVES WHEN THE MEADOWS WERE GREEN. YET NOW ICE AND SNOW COVER THE GROUND AND HAVE TRAPPED HIS HAPPY MEMORIES. THE LINDEN TREE IN **DER LINDENBAUM** IS A REMINDER OF WHEN NATURE BROUGHT HIM PEACE. HE HAS KNOWINGLY TURNED HIS BACK ON THIS, AND NOW HAS TO FACE THE CONSEQUENCES. THE PAINFUL MELANCHOLY IN THE OPENING OF **FRÜHLINGSTRAUM** (DREAM OF SPRING) REMINDS THE JOURNEYING MAN OF WHAT HE HAS LOST. HE DREAMS OF PAST HAPPINESS BUT WAKES TO FIND HIMSELF SURROUNDED BY DEAD LEAVES AND RAVENS. BY

THE TIME WE REACH **LETZTE HOFFNUNG** (LAST HOPE), THE MAN HAS PINNED EVERY HOPE HE HAS TO A SINGLE LEAF. IF THIS PIECE OF NATURE FAILS HIM, HE FAILS TOO. IN OUR FINAL SELECTION FROM THIS CYCLE, **DER STÜRMISCHE MORGEN**, HE LIKENS THE STORM IN THE SKY TO HIS MINDSET AND DESCRIBES THE COLD AND WILD WINTER.

TO CONTRAST THIS, ARE A SELECTION OF ENGLISH AND AMERICAN SONGS. THROUGH SONGS LIKE **SILENT NOON**, **THE NEW GHOST**, **THE WATER MILL** AND **I WILL GO WITH MY FATHER A- PLOUGHING**, WE FIND THE PEACE AND CONTINUITY THAT NATURE AND ITS CYCLES CAN BRING. IDEAS OF RENEWAL BRING COMFORT AND CONSISTENCY IN A HARSH WORLD. PARTICULAR POIGNANCE CAN BE FOUND IN IVOR GURNEY'S SONGS. SENT OFF TO FIGHT IN THE FIRST WORLD WAR, **IN FLANDERS** IS A VIVID REPRESENTATION OF HIS LONGING TO RETURN TO HIS HILLS. HUMAN DESTRUCTION HAS CAUSED THIS SEPARATION, AND FINALLY, IT IS IN COPLAND'S SETTINGS OF POETRY BY EMILY DICKINSON THAT THE MORALITY OF HUMANKIND IS BROUGHT STARKLY TO LIGHT.

RACHEL BARNARD IS CURRENTLY 2STUDYING FOR HER MMUS AT THE ROYAL CONSERVATOIRE OF SCOTLAND, UNDER SCOTT JOHNSON. SHE PREVIOUSLY GRADUATED FROM THE ROYAL BIRMINGHAM CONSERVATOIRE WITH FIRST CLASS HONOURS IN 2021, WHERE SHE WAS TAUGHT BY ANNE DAWSON. SHE HAS PERFORMED VARIOUS ROLES IN OPERA SCENES, INCLUDING **DORABELLA** (COSÌ FAN TUTTE) AND **THE FOX** (THE CUNNING LITTLE VIXEN), AS WELL AS FULL ROLES OF **FERDINAND** (THE ENCHANTED ISLAND) AND **MOTHER/OTHER MOTHER** (CORALINE). SHE HAS WON FIRST PLACE IN THE **NORMA GRIEG FRENCH SONG PRIZE**, THE **EDWARD BROOKES LIEDER PRIZE** AND THE **STUART CAMERON SMITH AMERICAN SONG PRIZE**. RACHEL WILL BE A YOUNG ARTIST AT **WATERPERRY OPERA FESTIVAL** FOR THEIR 2022 SEASON.

SCOTTISH-BORN **BETH HAUGHAN** HAS JUST FINISHED A YEAR OF STUDY AT THE **FRANZ LISZT ACADEMY** IN BUDAPEST, STUDYING WITH **GÁBOR FARKAS** AS A **WEINGARTEN SCHOLAR**. PREVIOUSLY SHE COMPLETED HER MMUS (DISTINCTION) AT THE ROYAL BIRMINGHAM CONSERVATOIRE SUPPORTED BY A FULL SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP, STUDYING WITH **MARGARET FINGERHUT** AND **PASCAL NEMIROVSKI** AND GAINED A **BMUS** (1ST CLASS) FROM THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC. PRIOR TO THIS, SHE STUDIED AT THE **PURCELL SCHOOL**, STUDYING WITH **JOHN THWAITES**. SHE HAS PLAYED RECITALS AT VENUES INCLUDING THE **SOUTHBANK CENTRE** AND THE **WIGMORE HALL**. RECENT HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE **DVORÁK'S PIANO QUINTET** AT A PRE-CBSO SHOWCASE IN BIRMINGHAM'S SYMPHONY HALL AND ALSO TOURING CONCERTS OF **POULENC'S WIND OEUVRE** WITH THE **DAPHNIS WIND QUINTET** IN THE SOUTH OF FRANCE. SHE HAS WON **RBC'S SYLVIA CLEAVER CHAMBER PRIZE**, THE **LEAMINGTON PRIZE** AND THE **ENGLISH, AMERICAN AND LIEDER SONG ACCOMPANIMENT PRIZES**.