

Sunday 17th May 2015

Our soloist will be the young piano virtuoso Tom Poster

We are delighted to welcome Tom Poster for this concert. He has been described as 'mercurially brilliant' (The Strad) and as possessing 'velvet-tipped sonority' (The Gramophone), and has said that of the great composers, it is Mozart who 'has perhaps brought me the most joy of all', so we look forward to his performance of the Piano Concerto No.21 with particular anticipation.



Tom Poster

Tom graduated from King's College with a Double First in Music, having previously studied with Joan Havill at the Guildhall, and made his London concert debut at the age of 13. Among other competition successes, he won first prize in the Scottish International Piano Competition in 2007, and has since performed both as a soloist and with many celebrated ensembles and orchestras in the UK, Europe and the United States. As pianist of the Aronowitz Ensemble, he has appeared at many music festivals as well as at Wigmore Hall, and has recorded three discs for Chandos with the violinist Jennifer Pike. His critically-acclaimed solo CD (In Dance and Song), for Champs Hill Records, came out in 2014 and Tom has regularly featured as soloist on film and television soundtracks.

The Austrian musical tradition is celebrated in this concert with a programme of music by composers from three centuries, in moods ranging from the dashing and flirtatious to the poetic and pastoral.

Strauss's overture 'Die Fledermaus' evokes the spirit of Viennese festivity and sensuality with a flair for melody envied by Brahms, who once expressed the wish that he could have written Strauss's most famous waltz, 'The Blue Danube', himself. Detached from its parent operetta, the overture omits the absurdities of the plot while preserving its vigour and joie-de-vivre.

There could hardly be a sharper contrast with the next piece, Webern's arrangement of the Ricercar from J.S.Bach's 'Musical Offering'. Scrupulous and delicate, it remains a rapturous homage to the greatest of all exponents of the fugue.

Tom Poster's performance of Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 21 in C (famous as the soundtrack to the 1967 film 'Elvira Madigan') forms the centrepiece of the programme. Perhaps the most poetic concerto ever written, it displays not only flashes of Viennese energy and wit but achieves sublimity beyond the reach of any of Mozart's contemporaries.

The concert concludes with Beethoven's Symphony No. 6 in F, the 'Pastoral'. Beethoven's own programme for the symphony invites us to experience it as a journey through the countryside from 'cheerful' ('heiterer') to 'grateful' ('dankbare') feelings, in a kind of Wordsworthian transcendence. However, he also echoes Wordsworth's sense of the savage power of the natural world, which for Beethoven too was never simply picturesque.



Strauss



Webern



Mozart



Beethoven

Sinfonia of Cambridge

Next Concert: Saturday 10th October 2015 at West Road concert hall
Visit www.sinfoniaofcambridge.org.uk for further details

Strauss

Die Fledermaus
Overture

Bach/Webern

Ricercar a 6

Mozart

Piano Concerto K467 (No. 21)

Beethoven

Pastoral Symphony (No. 6)

Conductor: **Howard Williams**

Soloist: **Tom Poster**

Sinfonia of Cambridge

Sunday 17th May 2015 7:45pm

West Road Concert Hall, Cambridge

Tickets: 0845 6801926 www.oxboffice.com & on the door
£18/£15 concessions £5 student standby