# Alwyn Suite of Scottish Dances

Moeran Violin Concerto

Butterworth The Banks of Green Willow

# Vaughan Williams Symphony No.6

Soloist: Agnes Daniel violin Conductor: Howard Williams

Infonia Jambric

### Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2016 7:45pm West Road Concert Hall, Cambridge

Tickets: £18, £15 (concessions), £5 (under 16s and student standby) Box Office 08456 801926 www.oxboffice.com & on the door

## Sinfonia of Cambridge Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2016

For their first concert of the 2016-17 season, the Sinfonia of Cambridge invites you on a guided tour of the British Isles, led by Vaughan Williams and accompanied by three other celebrated English composers.

William Alwyn's *Suite of Scottish Dances* begins the journey north of the border. As an orchestral musician himself, Alwyn (1905–1985) knew what audiences enjoyed, and these lively pieces channel the sprightly and good-humoured qualities of folk music, without sentimentality or affectation.

The Moeran *Violin Concerto* takes us into Irish territory, though the Celtic elements of the piece are transformed by an English sensibility. The piece was a favourite of such great English soloists as Albert Sammons and Arthur Catherall, but it has had to wait for Tasmin Little and Lydia Mordkovitch to restore it to the recorded repertoire. It flows seamlessly between joy and melancholy, with an emotional depth not always present in English music.

We return to England itself for George Butterworth's '*The Banks of Green Willow*'. In the 100 years since his death on the Somme in August 1916, Butterworth has increasingly been recognised as the great lost voice of English music, and the idyllic qualities of this short piece make his loss all the more poignant.

Vaughan Williams's *Symphony No.6* forms the centrepiece of the programme, abandoning the pastoral in favour of a harmonic language which evokes the troubled atmosphere of post-WWII Britain. Instantly successful and frequently performed in the years following its premiere in 1948 though it was, Vaughan Williams did his best to persuade audiences to attend to its musical rather than its symbolic qualities, but it remains a profoundly unsettling work, offering a new and powerful critique of the English tradition.



#### Our soloist will be the outstanding violinist Agnes Daniel

Agnes Daniel joins the orchestra and its Musical Director Howard Williams for a rare performance of E.J. Moeran's *Violin Concerto* (1942).

Agnes started her musical education at the age of four under her mother's tuition and at the age of nine she made her concert debut, later specialising in the violin during her undergraduate studies with professor Lutsia Ibragimova.

Subsequently, inspired by her involvement as a volunteer teacher in the El Sistema project in Venezuela, Agnes became a dedicated teacher and campaigner for arts funding and support, working closely in her community to help young under-privileged children follow and realise their dreams. Since 2009, she has been inspiring young players in a variety of schools in West London, and at Pelican Music, her own music school.

Next Concert: Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2017 at West Road Concert Hall Visit **www.sinfoniaofcambridge.org.uk** for further details