

Saturday 16th January 2016

Our soloist will be the outstanding Clarinetist Anthony Friend

Clarinetist Anthony Friend studied first at Gonville & Caius College, Cambridge, and then at the Royal Academy of Music with Angela Malsbury and Chris Richards, Lorenzo Iosco and Chi-Yu Mo of the London Symphony Orchestra. He has played under conductors such as Semyon Bychkov, Edward Gardner, Yan Pascal Tortelier, Leif Segerstam and Tamás Vásáry.

His playing has been praised as “delicious” (The Times) and “particularly fine” (Seen and Heard International).

Anthony has performed in the UK and abroad at major venues such as the Barbican, Sage Gateshead, Mariinsky 2 and the St Petersburg Philharmonia, and has been broadcast on BBC Radio 3 and Radio 4.



Anthony Friend

The Sinfonia of Cambridge, travelling across Europe in this programme inspired by dance and folk music, are delighted to welcome Anthony back to Cambridge for a performance of Lutosławski's *Dance Preludes*. Composed during the years of Stalinism in Poland, they conform to contemporary expectations that new music should be accessible and rooted in traditional folk music, while pushing at the boundaries of what was technically and ideologically possible. The result is exhilarating, with a touch of wildness in the final movement.

The programme opens with Bela Bartók's *Romanian Dances*. In 1915, Bartók transformed dance tunes collected several years earlier into a series of pieces for piano, and subsequently for string orchestra. The relative isolation of Romania had, he believed, preserved the authenticity of its folk music intact; the pastoral and joyful spirit of his Romanian Dances seems equally untouched by the turmoil engulfing other parts of Europe at the time.

Dvořák's *Slavonic Dances*, dating from the heyday of Czechoslovak nationalism, also celebrate rural life, but are more in tune with the spirit of the age. Composed initially, like the Romanian Dances, for piano, they employ original rather than folk melodies, and helped to make Dvořák internationally famous. He was particularly proud of his honorary doctorate from the University of Cambridge, and conducted both his 8th Symphony and the Stabat Mater at a concert in the Guildhall during his visit to the city.

The concert ends with Rachmaninov's final masterpiece, his *Symphonic Dances*. Full of nostalgia, in his American exile, for a vanished Russia, Rachmaninov gave these pieces all the grace and vitality of dance music (the alto saxophone is featured as a solo instrument), while harking back to the sombre tones and harmonies of his earlier work. Each of the three movements is a tour de force for the orchestra.

Sinfonia of Cambridge

Next Concert: Sunday 15th May 2016 at West Road Concert Hall

Visit www.sinfoniaofcambridge.org.uk for further details

MILLS & REEVE

Bartók

Romanian Dances

Dvořák

Slavonic Dances

Lutosławski

Dance Preludes

Rachmaninov

Symphonic Dances

Conductor: Howard Williams

Clarinet: Anthony Friend

Sinfonia of Cambridge

Saturday 16 January 2016 at 7:45pm

West Road Concert Hall, Cambridge

Tickets : £18/£15 concessions £5 students & under 16

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