



ST JOHN'S SMITH SQUARE

Orchestra Vitae

Serenades for the Soul

Benjamin Rimmer
Beethoven

Pathway
Piano Sonata Op. 106 *Hammerklavier*
III. Adagio sostenuto (arr. Dani Howard)

Elgar

Serenade for Strings Op. 20
I. Allegro piacevole
II. Larghetto
III. Allegretto

Interval (20mins)

Hilary Tann
Elgar
Tchaikovsky

Water's Edge
Sospiri Op. 70
Serenade for Strings Op. 48
I. Pezzo in forma di Sonatina
II. Walzer
III. Elegie
IV. Finale (Tema Russo)

Pablo Urbina conductor
Philip Keller guest conductor

Friday 1 October 2021 7.30pm
St John's Smith Square, London

6.30pm PRE-CONCERT TALK FREE TO TICKET HOLDERS

The Garden Terrace bar will be open during the interval and after the concert

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| Violin I Catherine Lawlor (Leader) Clare Wheeler Daniel Peev Helena Moore Grace Buttler | Viola George White (Principal) Anna Growsns Katie Perrin | Double Bass Frances Emery (Principal) Enzo Manuel dell'Oglio |
| Violin II Julia Loucks (Principal) Charlie Brookes Laurie McGee Fiona Gibbs | 'Cello Mark Walkem (Principal) Hannah Lewis Davina Shum | Flute Katharine Carter Oboe Fiona Myall Clarinet Mary Tyler Bassoon Ben Exell French Horn Laurie Truluck Harp Henriette Poes |

A graduate of the Royal College of Music, **Pablo Urbina** was a semi-finalist in the 2017 Maestro Solti International Conducting Competition and a 2018 Nominee for the Nestlé & Salzburg Young Conductors Award. He recently made his debut with the Spanish National Radio and TV Orchestra and has just finished his tenure as assistant conductor to Pablo Mielgo at the Balearic Symphonic Orchestra of Spain, where he continues to work regularly as guest conductor.

Orchestras Pablo has conducted include the City Chamber Orchestra of Hong Kong, Tunisian National Symphony, Navarra Symphony Orchestra, Malaga Philharmonic Orchestra, Orquestra Classica de Madeira (Portugal), National Youth Orchestra of Portugal and Malaga Symphony Orchestra among others. He has assisted conductors such as Leonard Slatkin, Bernard Haitink, Lionel Bringuier, Christian Zacharias, Joshua Weilerstein, Lucas Macías, Jonathan Cohen, John Wilson, Oliver Díaz, Pablo Mielgo and Gianluca Marcianò. Pablo was associate conductor of the Lercici Music Festival in Italy (2017-19), associate conductor of the Al Bustan Music Festival (Lebanon, 2019), and music director of the London City Orchestra (2013-19). He has a great passion for musical outreach and is an Ambassador of The Amber Trust UK, an organisation that provides music tuition and support to blind and partially sighted children. In 2021 Pablo will make his debut with the Symphony Orchestra of Castilla y León and will assist orchestras such as the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and London Philharmonic.

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Philip Keller is a lifelong music enthusiast and has been studying conducting since 2012. He has performed with the London Young Sinfonia, the Arch Sinfonia, the Wallace Ensemble and the London City Orchestra and is delighted to be making his debut with Orchestra Vitae this evening. Previous collaborators include Maxim Vengerov and Dani Howard, who orchestrated the piece of music that he will conduct this evening. Philip is currently studying for a masters in Music at Durham University.

Composed in 1818, the Adagio Sostenuto of the **Hammerklavier** piano sonata (Op.106) is Beethoven's longest slow movement revealing an interior world that would be a hallmark of many of his later, more intimate works. This arrangement was created by **Dani Howard**, a longstanding friend of OV, recently nominated by an RPS award and whose works have been performed by the London Symphony, BBC, Royal Liverpool and Orchestra Vitae (her first orchestral commission) among others. The intention behind the orchestral arrangement is to give the audience a different experience of the work that brings out both the melodic and tonal intricacies as well as shining light on the innovations that makes this such an impactful piece of music.

Benjamin Rimmer (b. 1993) is a composer based in London. Since leaving the Guildhall school of Music and Drama in 2016, he has written numerous works both for the ballet stage and for the concert hall. Commissions have included those from Oper Graz, Ballett Im Revier Gelsenkirchen, Classic FM, and many others. His score for the ballet "Sandmann" (Oper Graz, 2018) was described as "a finely tuned network of thoughts and feelings; it is equally romantic as well as it is hard, alienating, and even frightening through soundscapes of unfamiliar tone sequences."

Pathway is open to multiple interpretations, with the composer Benjamin Rimmer preferring not to force too much on the listener wherever possible. The title derives from a number of thoughts and images that passed through the composer's mind while writing the work. This includes journeys through darkness and light, entrapment and freedom, and pain and euphoria.

Hilary Tann was originally due to join us for this performance back in April 2020 but is unable to be here tonight due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Hilary notes,

When I introduced this piece at the Presteigne Festival, I said that I now worked in Upstate NY, near the Hudson River, which flows into the Atlantic, which flows into the Severn, which -- of course -- leads to the Rhondda River, near my first home in Ferndale, Wales. This analogy got a laugh, but it also shows that "you can take the girl out of the Rhondda" but "you can never take the Rhondda out of the girl". Water's Edge does not deal with the tempestuous waters of the Grand Canyon, nor the tidal waves hugging the shores of Britain, but rather, the calm inland waters of the Wye Valley -- my heart home.

