



Sunday 23 July 2023, 7.30pm
St Mary's Church, Petworth

Aaron Akugbo (trumpet) & John Kitchen (organ)

PROGRAMME NOTES

Semaine Sainte a Cuzco (Holy Week in Cuzco)

Henri Tomasi (1901-1971)

Born in Marseille of Corsican descent, Henri Tomasi developed a career as both composer and conductor. His theatrical interests lay behind two of his operas, *L'Atlantide* and *Miguel Mañara*, stage works that established his reputation. He is also associated with works for orchestra which include several concertos for solo instruments of which his Concerto for Alto Saxophone (1951) is his best known. His *Semaine Sainte a Cuzco* is a work from 1962 for trumpet and organ in three parts: its initial fanfare gestures are supported by alternating organ chords which give way to a meditative central section marked *comme une prière* (like a prayer). A return to the faster opening material brings the work to a vibrant close.

Trois Prières Sans Paroles

Jean-Michel Damase (1928-2013)

1 Moderato

2 Andantino

3 Allegretto

Acclaimed pianist and composer, Jean-Michel Damase was born in Bordeaux in 1928 to a family of musicians. His compositions span every genre, and his music has been described as inhabiting a 'fluent elegance, characterised by idiomatic instrumental writing'. Stylistically belonging to early 20th century French masters, his Three Prayers Without Words (1993) are heartfelt offerings for trumpet and organ, variously musing and buoyant and always with a invested with a Gallic sensitivity.

Okna

Petr Eben (1929-2007)

1 Rueben, the blue window
2 Isachar, the green window

3 Zebulon, the blood-red window
4 Levi, the golden window

Czech composer Petr Eben was a survivor of a Nazi concentration camp but went on to develop a passion for organ playing and composition. His many works include symphonies, song cycles and chamber works, but it was his organ music that secured international success. *Okna*, known in English as Chagall's Windows, draws inspiration from the artist's stained-glass windows in a Jerusalem synagogue that formed part of a 1976 exhibition entitled 'Pictures and Music'. Eben chose four of Marc Chagall's windows, each one representing a character from the Book of Genesis to fashion a work of solemn nobility. He has commented that the 'glass surfaces awakened in me the image of an organ – and the deep, rich bundle of color as well as the shimmer of light shining through it suggested to me brilliant trumpet sounds'.

INTERVAL

Oboe Concerto in F major, BWV 1053 (arr. Will Foster)

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

1 Allegro

2 Siciliano

3 Allegro

J.S. Bach's contributions to the instrumental concerto are dominated by the six works presented to the Margrave of Brandenburg-Schwedt in 1721. Of his concertos for solo instruments there are only a handful for violin and those written for oboe have not survived. There are, however, reconstructions from other works such as this Concerto in F major, a remodelling of a previous keyboard Concerto in E major, BWV1053. Alternatively, this work might have originated from a work for oboe d'amore. Whatever the provenance, this Concerto (here reworked for trumpet) is typical for its fast, slow, fast design, and is characterised by much refinement and beauty.

Outer Hebrides: A fantasia on three Celtic melodies for solo organ **Paul Halley (b. 1952)**

British born church musician Paul Halley emigrated to Canada at an early age with his parents and has since secured recognition as a conductor and composer of choral and organ music. His organ fantasia makes use of three Celtic melodies: 'Islay Waltz', 'Drops of Brandy' and 'MacCrimmons Lament'.

Tocatta in E minor Op.29 for solo organ **Joseph Callaerts (1830-1931)**

Joseph Callaerts was a celebrated Belgian organist and composer who spent most of his life in Antwerp and where from 1855 he was the organist at the city's cathedral. As a composer, he contributed works in almost every genre, of which those for organ are his best known. His grandiose Tocatta in E minor is redolent of the organ music of J.S. Bach.

Solus **Stanley Friedman (b. 1951)**

Acclaimed composer and trumpet player, Stanley Friedman wrote his four movement *Solus* for unaccompanied trumpet in the mid-1970s. It has since been integrated into the standard trumpet repertoire, in no small measure owing to its use of extended techniques, some of which can be heard in this opening movement.

Adoration, arr. Akugbo **Florence Price (1887-1953)**

Pianist, organist and prolific composer, Florence Price developed her prodigious gifts at the New England Conservatory, Boston, Massachusetts where she registered as Mexican to avoid discrimination. After the Jim Crow laws forced her to join 'the Great Migration' of black people heading northwards, she settled in Chicago where she became the first African American female composer to be performed by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. *Adoration* for solo organ (1951) occupies a devotional restraint typical of a piece intended for use in church.

Trumpet & Organ Concerto D major BWV 972 from Vivaldi RV230 **J.S. Bach**

1 Allegro 2 Larghetto 3 Allegro

J.S. Bach was an undisputed master of the keyboard whose gifts elevated his music for harpsichord and organ to a new level. He also cultivated the concerto form, inherited from Italian models, adding nine re-workings of works by Vivaldi to the repertoire. This Concerto in D, originally by Vivaldi, has two fast outer movements that frame a soulful central section.

David Truslove, 2023

This event is kindly sponsored by an anonymous donor.