



Saturday 29 July 2023, 7.30pm
St Mary's Church, Petworth

Jess Gillam Ensemble

PROGRAMME

Will Gregory	Orbit
CPE Bach arr. Simon Parkin	Allegro Assai from from Flute Concerto in A Minor
Ayanna Witter Johnson	Lumina
Barbara Thompson	The Unseen Way
Kurt Weill	Je ne t'aime pas
Bjork	Venus as a Boy
Piazzolla arr. Simon Parkin	Nightclub from Histoire du Tango

INTERVAL

Leonard Bernstein	Extracts from West Side Story -
Debussy	Clair de Lune
Rune Tonsgaard Sørensen (arr. Simon Parkin)	Shine You No More
Nyman	If
James Blake	Retrograde
John Harle	Briggflatts: Flare, Garsdale and RANT!

The programme has been changed since the brochure went to print, so we do not have programme notes for all pieces. Jess Gillam will be announcing from stage.

PROGRAMME NOTES

Orbit

Will Gregory (b. 1959)

Will Gregory is best known as the lead composer and producer of the electronic music duo Goldfrapp. *Orbit* is built on repeated rhythmic patterns that create, in the words of the composer, 'a circular journey presenting different facets of the same underlying view... being by turns subtle and crude, rational, then cajoling, then pleading'. Conceived for saxophone, string quartet, bass synth and marimba, *Orbit* is a pulse-dominated score written specially for Jess Gillam.

Allegro Assai from Flute Concerto in A Minor arr. Simon Parkin C.P.E. Bach (1714-1788)

The second son of Johann Sebastian Bach, Carl Philipp Emanuel held court appointments in Berlin and Hamburg. Described as ‘the perfect embodiment of the rebellious son’, he represented as a composer an aesthetic intended to ‘touch the heart and move the affections’. Stylistically, he occupies a key position between the end of the Baroque and the emergence of the Classical style. His Flute Concerto in A minor is a version of an earlier work for harpsichord of 1750 but its transfer to the flute loses nothing in translation. The opening ‘Allegro assai’ begins with an exciting and dramatic orchestral ritornello, before the gentler entry of the soloist, with successive solo passages increasing in elaboration and technical demands.

Lumina

To be announced from the stage

Ayanna Witter Johnson

The Unseen Way

Barbara Thompson (1944-1922)

Barbara Thompson was an inspirational and trailblazing saxophonist who dismantled barriers within the once male-dominated British jazz scene. Her career included associations with The Who, Andrew Lloyd Webber and front woman for her fusion band Paraphernalia. A prolific composer, including TV’s *A Touch of Frost*, her solo piece *The Unseen Way* sounds improvised but is notated throughout.

Kurt Weill

Je ne t’aime pas

Bjork

Venus as a Boy

Bordello, Cafe & Nightclub from Histoire du Tango arr. Parkin Astor Piazzolla (1921-1992)

Originally conceived for flute and guitar, Piazzolla’s *Histoire du Tango* is a vital part of the classical tango repertoire, conveying the genre’s history. ‘Bordello, 1900’ is a lively evocation of women offering their services to men, while ‘Café, 1930’ is a languorous slant on the tango, also referencing Dowland’s song, ‘Flow my tears’. In ‘Night Club, 1960’ tango has merged with jazz, improvisation and European classical music, yet its distinct rhythms are still readily identifiable.

INTERVAL

Extracts from West Side Story arr. Parkin

Leonard Bernstein (1918-1990)

Sixty-six years after its first performance in Washington in 1957, the popularity of *West Side Story* remains undiminished. For some, this work is neither Broadway Show nor Opera but an unclassifiable genre that blurs the parameters between Musical and Opera. Its distinctive blend of low and high art, however, makes it one of Bernstein’s most interesting and significant scores. Inspiration came from both Shakespeare’s *Romeo and Juliet*, but also from reports of social tensions and gang warfare in Los Angeles that famously morphed into rivalries between New York Italians and Puerto Ricans.

Clair de Lune

To be announced from the stage

Debussy

Shine You No More**Rune Sørensen (b. 1983)**

Composer and professional violinist, Rune Sørensen is also a keen folk musician, an interest reflected in this lively reel Shine You No More – a work inspired by the 16th century composer John Dowland whose song ‘Flow my tears’ prompted the title.

Nyman**If**

To be announced from the stage

James Blake**Retrograde**

To be announced from the stage

Flare**John Harle (b. 1956)**

The English saxophonist John Harle is also an acclaimed composer, educator and record producer credited as an Ivor Novello Award winner. In addition to composing over 100 film and TV scores, including his much-respected theme for the BBC’s *Silent Witness*, his numerous concert works include the saxophone concerto, ‘Briggflats’, conceived for Jess Gillam, from which ‘Flare’ is drawn.

David Truslove, 2023