

# Mendelssohn

*Overture: The Fair Melusina*



## Beethoven

*Piano Concerto*

*No.4 in G major*

## Dvořák

*Symphony No.7*

**Soloist: Patrick Hemmerlé**

**Conductor: Howard Williams**

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2017 7:45pm

West Road Concert Hall, Cambridge

Tickets: £18, £15 (concessions), £5 (under 16s and student standby)

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Sinfonia of Cambridge

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Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2016

## *From The Heart Of Europe*

**Soloist:** Patrick Hemmerlé

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The programme begins with Mendelssohn's overture '*The Fair Melusina*'. Composed in 1834, it had its origins in Mendelssohn's disappointment with Constantin Kreutzer's music for an opera about the mermaid Melusina (with a libretto by the celebrated Austrian writer Franz Grillparzer). Romantic, particularly marine, landscapes are evoked by the rippling and cascading effects, while Mendelssohn's capacity to create joy and his zest for life are irresistibly on display.

Mendelssohn was a great admirer of Beethoven's *Piano Concerto No.4 in G major*, which he helped to revive after the years of neglect that followed its first performance (with Beethoven at the piano, in his last appearance as a soloist). Unusually, it opens with the piano alone, and only employs the full orchestra in the final movement; the second movement is another surprise, creating a threatening, even sinister atmosphere. The piano triumphs in the rondo-finale, confronting the orchestra with renewed energy.

After the interval, the orchestra returns to play Dvořák's *Seventh Symphony*; first performed in London in December 1885, it reflects the personal and political struggles of its time. Dvořák had lost his mother and his eldest child not long before, and the slow movement (subtitled '*From the sad years*') alternates calm resignation with anguish and turmoil; however, the outer movements have all the energy, melodic and rhythmic dynamism that characterise Dvořák's mastery of symphonic music, transforming a feeling of loss into a triumphant message of hope.



The Sinfonia of Cambridge are fortunate to be joined in this concert by the brilliant young pianist Patrick Hemmerlé.

Born in Alsace in 1981, he has lived in Cambridge since 2008.

A frequent performer in the city, where he is musician-in-residence at Clare Hall, Patrick has had a distinguished career on the concert platform since leaving the Paris Conservatoire with its top prize in 2002, winning further prizes all over Europe and playing at festivals such as La Roque d'Anthéron and Bagatelle in France, and at the festival of French music in Venice.

As well as being interested in early 20<sup>th</sup> century French composers, Patrick has focused in recent performances on German music, resulting in concert programmes which have paired sonatas by Beethoven and Schubert, and in a recent recording on the Orpheus label, '*Variations on Schumann*'.

Next Concert: Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2017 at West Road Concert Hall

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