

Sinfonia of Cambridge

Purcell

*Music for
'Abdelazer'*

Weill

*Little Threepenny
Music*

Haydn

*Symphony No. 22
in E flat major "The Philosopher"*

Britten

Young Person's Guide To The Orchestra

Conductors: Mark Biggins and Viv Halton

Saturday 21st April 2018 7:45pm
West Road Concert Hall, Cambridge

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

Box Office: www.adcticketing.com t. 01223 300085 & on the door



Family
Concert

INSPIRATIONS

3.45pm, tickets £5

Sinfonia of Cambridge

Saturday 21st April 2018

Inspirations

For the third year in succession, the Sinfonia follow their annual children's concert with an evening programme which partners the afternoon's centrepiece with music written in the same spirit, if not the same style.

Britten's *'The Young Person's Guide To The Orchestra'* takes centre stage. Subtitled 'Variations and Fugue on a Theme of Purcell' and based on a tune from the incidental music to Aphra Behn's play 'Abdelazer', it was originally commissioned for an educational documentary film but has since taken on a life of its own as a concert piece which spotlights the character, and virtuoso possibilities, of each section of the symphony orchestra. The charm and brilliance of Britten's writing, at their peak during the 1940s, are irresistible.

The concert begins, appropriately, with the music for *'Abdelazer'* which inspired **Purcell's** great successor 250 years later. Written in the form of a rondeau, it employs repetition to create dance patterns with a touch of swagger to them, suitable for a drama concerned with passion and revenge.

Inspiration is also at the heart of the next piece on the programme, **Kurt Weill's** *'Little Threepenny Music'*. Performed tonight by the woodwind, brass and percussion sections of the orchestra and conducted by the Sinfonia's Viv Halton, it is excerpted from the music he wrote for Bertolt Brecht's 'The Threepenny Opera'. The key inspirations here are the jazz and dance music of the 1920's and many of Weill's songs, such as 'Mack The Knife', have become popular standards.

As an inspirer of admiration and emulation in other composers, it is difficult to think of anyone as influential as **Joseph Haydn**. In tonight's *Symphony No.22 "The Philosopher"*, Haydn presents serious matter, in this case the question-and-answer structure of classical philosophical debate, in an ebullient and energetic style. Not for nothing was 'Papa' Haydn often called 'The Father of the Symphony'.

Next concert: Sunday 14th October 2018

www.sinfoniaofcambridge.org.uk

Conductors:

Mark Biggins

Mark recently graduated with distinction from the Royal College of Music and was appointed Assistant Chorus Master at English National Opera. This season he has worked with their world-class ensemble over 9 productions at the Coliseum and chorus mastered Artistic Director Daniel Kramer's new production of *La Traviata*. Mark has enjoyed masterclasses with Alexander Polishchuk and Jac van Steen and attended the Magnus Festival last summer with Alexander Vedernikov where he conducted the Norwegian Radio Symphony Orchestra and the BBC Singers. As chorus master Mark has worked with Bernard Haitink, Vladimir Jurowski and Martyn Brabbins. This season Mark will make his concert debut with the Farnborough Symphony Orchestra and the University of London Symphony Orchestra and take up music directorships with the Petersfield Orchestra and Epsom Chamber Choir.



Viv Halton

Having graduated in music from Anglia Ruskin University in 1991, Viv now teaches clarinet and saxophone full-time at the Perse Upper School where she is Head of Wind and Director of Wind Bands; since 2012, Viv has been musical director of the Cambridge Wind Band. She very much enjoys playing jazz with The Halton Trio, and all styles of music with clarinet and saxophone quartet Simply Reeds.