

Sunday 18th May 2014 7:45pm

Fratres for Percussion and String Orchestra

By the Estonian composer Arvo Pärt

It has been described as “A mesmerising set of variations on a six-bar theme combining frantic activity and sublime stillness that encapsulates Pärt’s observation that ‘the instant and eternity are struggling within us’”

Oboe concerto

By Richard Strauss

Oboists tend to go pale when you say the dread words “Strauss Concerto.” Most particularly this response has to do with the opening, where, after two twitches from the cellos, the oboe has a solo of fifty-seven bars in a fairly leisurely tempo and with not so much as a single quaver rest. However, having faced this technical obstacle, the oboist finds a melodic line that is sinuous and lovely, thoroughly vocal in manner.

The piece was inspired by John de Lancie, an American serviceman who in civilian life was a professional oboist.

After World War II the American army moved into the Bavarian resort town of Garmisch-Partenkirchen. There de Lancie, who was affiliated with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra and was a longtime admirer of Strauss’s works, met with the composer and asked him, de Lancie later recalled, “if, in view of the numerous beautiful lyric solos for oboe in almost all of his works, he had ever considered writing a concerto for oboe.” Strauss had not, but he apparently took the question as a challenge, for he soon was at work on just such a piece.

Symphony No.1 in E minor

By Jean Sibelius

The mood is established by the wonderful long clarinet solo played over over a timpani roll, which opens the first movement. This idea returns at the start of the fourth movement, fortissimo in the strings, with wind and brass chordal accompaniment, and subsequent movements which include violin, viola, and cello solos. The symphony is beautifully characterized by its use of string and woodwind solos.



Soloist:
Janet Wrench

Sinfonia of Cambridge

Next
Concert:

Saturday 12th July 2014 7.45pm, at Emmanuel United Reformed Church
with Director and soloist Roger Coull (principal of the Coull string quartet)
Programme to include Mozart Symphony No. 16 in C, Concerto in G for violin and
orchestra, Barber Adagio for strings and Schubert Symphony No. 5 in Bb.



Pärt
Fratres for Strings
& Percussion

Strauss
Oboe Concerto

Sibelius
Symphony No 1
in E minor

Conductor: William Kunhardt

Soloist: Janet Wrench

Sinfonia of Cambridge

Sunday 18th May 2014 7:45pm
West Road Concert Hall, Cambridge

Tickets: 0845 680 1926 www.oxboffice.com & on the door

£18/£15 concessions £5 student standby