

# Sinfonia of Cambridge

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2019

## *Musical Pairs*

For their first concert of 2019, The Sinfonia presents a programme exploring different combinations of musical partners: lovers, fairy tale characters and a pair of stringed instruments all come together for music which compares and contrasts pairs of themes, styles and sounds.

**Tchaikovsky** was a huge admirer of Shakespeare, writing pieces inspired by 'The Tempest' and 'Hamlet' as well as the *Fantasy Overture: Romeo & Juliet*. In form, this resembles a symphonic poem rather than an overture; the raucous conflict between the Capulets and Montagues contrasts with the lush romantic theme of the two lovers, climaxing in a huge crescendo as they meet their deaths.

**Humperdinck**, like Tchaikovsky in his ballet 'The Nutcracker', set out in his opera '*Hansel and Gretel*' to appeal to young audiences, but in the excerpts we shall be performing in this concert one can sense him rising above the sentimental idealisation of childhood of which some might accuse him. The words here are sung by children who are lost in the forest, not safe in the arms of their family. We are delighted once again to welcome a children's choir from St John's College School to join us for tonight's performance.

The Sinfonia is delighted to welcome **Joy and Emma Lisney** as soloists in **Brahms's** *Double Concerto* for violin and cello. This is the third time Joy Lisney has played a concerto with us at West Road; now her sister Emma, newly based in Cambridge, is joining her on violin. The concerto was written during the summer of 1887, partly as an attempt to re-establish Brahms's friendship with the great violinist Joseph Joachim, for whom he had written his violin concerto. Though he was conscious of writing for instruments he did not play himself, by this time in his career he was a master of orchestration, and here he triumphantly brings off the difficult balancing act of writing simultaneously for two virtuosos and a full symphony orchestra. The concerto was Brahms's last composition on this scale.

Next concerts: Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2019, 2.30pm/7.30pm

[www.sinfoniaofcambridge.org.uk](http://www.sinfoniaofcambridge.org.uk)

## Joy & Emma Lisney



**Joy Lisney** is a cellist, composer and conductor sustaining an international performing career while studying for a PhD at King's College. Joy has enjoyed collaborations with artists including Dame Emma Kirkby and the Allegri Quartet, and also performs regularly with her pianist father James Lisney in venues including Amsterdam's Concertgebouw and the Leipzig Gewandhaus. As a composer, Joy has won several prizes, been commissioned by the Park Lane Group and has had music performed in major concert halls across Europe. Joy is also the conductor of the Seraphin Chamber Orchestra.

**Emma Lisney** recently graduated from Pembroke College, Oxford with First Class Honours. She studies violin with Paul Barritt and has had masterclasses with Vadim Repin, Pinchas Zukerman and Maxim Vengerov. In March 2016 she won first prize at the Oxfordshire Concerto Competition, performing Prokofiev's second violin concerto with the Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra. Emma is now studying for an MPhil in Music at Cambridge University, focusing on Beethoven's sonatas for piano and violin.

# Tchaikovsky

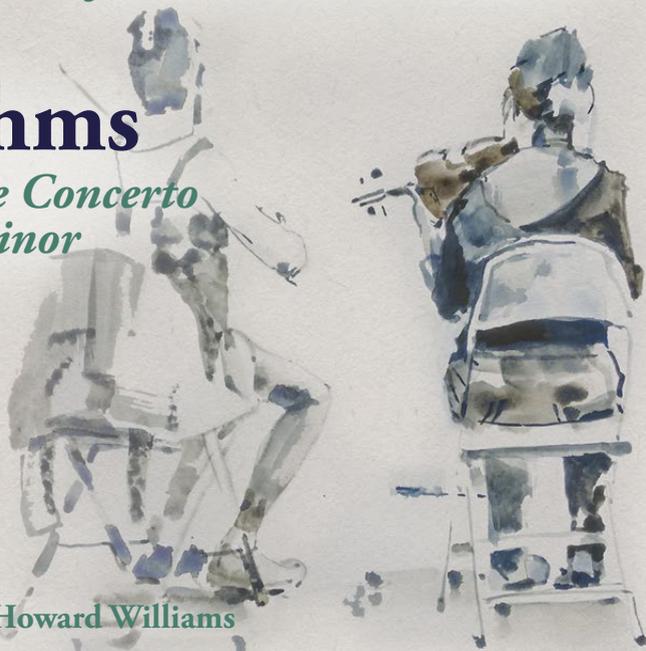
*Fantasy Overture:  
Romeo & Juliet*

# Humperdinck

*Prelude and Evening Prayer  
from "Hansel & Gretel"*

# Brahms

*Double Concerto  
in A minor*



**Conductor:** Howard Williams

**Soloist:** Joy Lisney (cello) & Emma Lisney (violin)

**Children's Choir:** St John's College School Chamber Choirs

Sinfonia of Cambridge

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2019 7:30pm  
West Road Concert Hall, Cambridge

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

Box Office: [www.adcticketing.com](http://www.adcticketing.com) t. 01223 300085 & on the door