

Sinfonia of Cambridge

Sunday 26th January 2020

Bird Songs

Music which echoes, imitates and celebrates birdsong is the inspiration for the Sinfonia of Cambridge's winter concert, with the exceptional young violinist **Emma Lisney** playing the solo part in Vaughan Williams's '*The Lark Ascending*' and '*Song of the Birds*', a Catalan folk song arranged by the orchestra's musical director **Howard Williams**, for which chamber choirs from **St John's College School** join the soloist and orchestra.

Respighi's '*The Birds*' is a magpie composition, stealing cheerfully from 17th and 18th century composers whom he admired (Pasquini, Gallot and Rameau). Unusually for an Italian composer, he had a strong connection with Russia; Respighi not only played principal viola in the opera orchestra of St Petersburg, but studied orchestration there with Rimsky-Korsakov, just a few years after the death of Tchaikovsky, whose incomparable ballet '*Swan Lake*' provides the suite which concludes the programme.

The Sinfonia are delighted to welcome **Emma Lisney** for the second time as their soloist. **Vaughan Williams's** '*The Lark Ascending*', perhaps more than anything written for the violin, has an airborne lightness which invites the soloist to soar and float above the orchestra. Having begun to write it in 1914, Vaughan Williams completed it in 1919 with a keen sense of what England had lost in the years between.

Chamber choirs from **St John's College School** return to West Road for the Catalan folk song, '*Song of the Birds*', made famous by the cellist Pablo Casals, often sung as a Christmas carol, and here arranged for choir, violin solo and small orchestra.

Tchaikovsky's '*Swan Lake*' remains one of the most beautiful ballet scores ever written, reflecting as it does our love for the grace and mystery of bird song and flight.

Next concert: Sunday 26th April 2020, 7.30pm

www.sinfoniaofcambridge.org.uk

Emma Lisney

Emma Lisney started playing the violin at the age of six, won first prize at the 2016 Oxfordshire



Concerto Competition and after graduating in 2018 with First Class Honours from Oxford, currently studies with Paul Barritt. She has had masterclasses with Vadim Repin, Pinchas Zukerman and Maxim Vengerov and has performed throughout the U.K., including recitals for Operation Smile UK and with Dame Emma Kirkby, and concerts with the Lisney Trio. Other collaborators include the Endellion String Quartet, Ryan Wigglesworth, Sian Edwards, Duncan Ward, Huw Watkins and Michael Whight.

Recent performances have included the Tchaikovsky concerto with Newbury Symphony Orchestra, and in the 'Battle Proms'. She has a fellowship with Southbank Sinfonia for their 2019 season, as well as being guest leader of Cambridge University Orchestra and permanent leader of the Seraphin Chamber Orchestra.

Current projects include Messiaen's *Quatuor pour la fin du temps* and a Piano Trio cycle celebrating the 250th anniversary of Beethoven's birth.

Emma currently plays a violin made by G.B Guadagnini (Turin, 1772), kindly lent by a generous benefactor.

Sinfonia of Cambridge

Respighi

The Birds

**Vaughan
Williams**

The Lark Ascending

Trad. Catalan folk song

Arr. **Howard
Williams**

Williams

Song of the Birds

Tchaikovsky

Suite from Swan Lake



Soloist:

Emma Lisney (violin)

Conductor:

Howard Williams

Children's Choir:

St John's College School Chamber Choirs

NEXT
CONCERT:

Sunday 26th

April 2020

Sunday 26th January 2020 7:30pm
West Road Concert Hall, Cambridge

Tickets: £20, £16 (concessions), £5 (under 16s and student standby)

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

www.sinfoniaofcambridge.org.uk

