



King's Hall Wednesday 2nd May 2018

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TRIO APACHES and O DUO (plus Jonny Raper)



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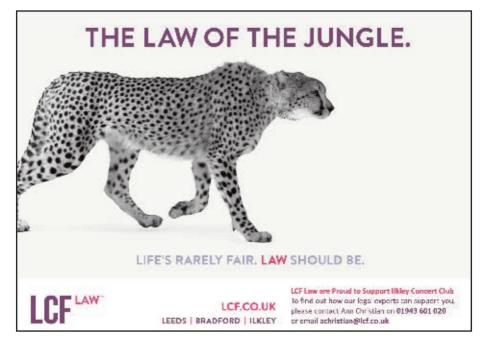
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TONIGHT'S PROGRAMME

Rachmaninov

Trio élégiaque no. 1 in G minor (*First performance at ICC*)

O Duo

Bongo fury (First performance at ICC)

Granados

Spanish Dance no. 5 Andaluza (First performance at ICC)

Glass

Mad Rush (First performance at ICC)

INTERVAL

(Coffee, tea and bar facilities available in the Winter Garden)

Shostakovich

Symphony no. 15 in A major, op 141 (First performance at ICC)

Ilkley Concert Club

Registered Charity No. 506886

The Club records its appreciation of the invaluable assistance and support given by the City of Bradford Metropolitan Council.



PROGRAMME NOTES

SERGEI RACHMANINOV Trio élégiaque no. l in G minor (1873-1943)

Rachmaninov wrote this single movement trio in only three days in January 1892. He was 19 years old, in his graduation year and keen to impress; the piano part, which the composer played at the premiere, is virtuosic. The piece is in classical sonata form, the exposition comprising twelve episodes which are presented symmetrically in the recapitulation. The elegy theme is introduced *Lento Lugubre* by the piano and moves between all the instruments. After a passage *appassionato*, the theme resolves as a funeral march.

The work is strongly reminiscent of Tchaikovsky's A minor Piano Trio with its repetitive theme and funereal mood. The theme played backwards recalls the famous opening of the older composer's first piano concerto, an act of homage which would not have been lost on the university audience at the first performance. Rachmaninov would compose a second trio, mourning Tchaikovsky's sudden death, two years later.

(Duration: 15 minutes)

O DUO

Bongo fury

This piece was written in August 2002 for the premiere of the Duo's Edinburgh Festival show. It uses rhythmic material from a variety of sources, including Cuban Son Montuno and Brazilian Samba Batucada, and is truly a furious bongo extravaganza.

(Duration: 5 minutes)

ENRIQUE GRANADOS Spanish Dance no. 5 Andaluza (1867-1916) arr. by O Duo for marimba and vibes (from 12 Danzas Espanlas op 37)

The music of Enrique Granados is noted for its representation of musical nationalism, and is uniquely Spanish in its style and sound. The 12 Danzas Espanolas, from which this dance is taken, were composed in 1890. It is one of many examples of O Duo reinterpreting a work originally written for the piano to tuned percussion.

We think it transfers well onto marimba and vibraphone.

(Duration: 10 minutes)

Mad Rush (1979)

PHILIP GLASS (1937-)

Mad Rush was written for the occasion of the Dalai Lama's first public address in New York City, in the autumn of 1981. Originally an openstructured or open-ended piece, it was first performed by Glass on organ during the Dalai Lama's entrance into the Cathedral of St. John the Divine. It was later performed on Radio Bremen and finally used by choreographer Lucinda Childs as accompaniment to a dance, Mad Rush.

Oliver and Owen perform an edited version on marimbas and vibraphone.

(Duration: 6 minutes)

INTERVAL

(Coffee, tea and bar facilities available in the Winter Garden)

DMITRI SHOSTAKOVICH Symphony no. 15 in (1906-1975) A major, op 141 (arr. Derevianko) Allegretto Adagio – Largo – Adagio – Largo Allegretto Adagio – Allegretto – Adagio – Allegretto

Strange musical machines, a toyshop glittering in a wasteland, the Lone Ranger's theme tune, Tristan, Siegfried, Isolde and an iron lung wheezing away in a cancer ward; one of the most enigmatic of all symphonic utterances, Shostakovich's last symphony, composed in just a few weeks in 1971 whilst convalescing from serious illness, contains all this and much more. The composer's sufferings under Stalin are well-known; he kept his suitcase permanently packed and even slept on the landing outside his flat so that his family would not be disturbed should NKVD agents arrive to arrest him in the night. Commentators have striven to extract hidden meanings from the music and never more so than in this enigmatic, disquieting last work which is peppered with musical quotations: is Rossini's William Tell overture (first movement) intended to invoke notions of the heroic individual's struggle against state oppression? Do the quotations of the Ring's Fate motif and Siegfried's Funeral March (last movement) indicate that, whilst, like Siegfried, the composer could fight Fate he could never overcome it? Happily, we shall never know; the composer told a friend, 'I do not myself quite know why the quotations are there, but I could not, could not, not include them!' We are left to ponder the more profound questions this symphony poses about the limits of musical expression and individuality and the impossibility of achieving any symphonic coherence in the century of the gulag and the death camp.

The first movement opens (like Nielsen's last symphony) far from the musical certainties of Brahms and Beethoven with a solo glockenspiel. Shostakovich originally entitled this movement 'the Toy Shop' but this is a playground surrounded by darkness. There is a long passage for solo flute before the rhythms prefigure the William Tell quotation. Despite the glitter, the music is unsettling; one is reminded of Yeats and the Turn of the Screw by Shostakovich's friend, Benjamin Britten: *'the ceremony of innocence is drowned.'*

The second movement, opening in the distant key of F minor, is sombre, heavy chords inviting no argument. A solo cello embarks on a meandering lament moving from the lowest C string to the highest register. A mighty climax is reached but this is not at all a moment of triumph, still less exaltation. A reference to the opening chorale brings the movement to an end.

There is something furtive and a little febrile about the *Allegretto*. Some rather hollow humour precedes a percussion ensemble which alludes to the composer's own 4th Symphony which he kept locked away for a quarter of a century after he had been denounced in Pravda.

The Finale opens with Wagner's Fate motif which returns five times. There are quotations from Tristan and Isolde and the last, dark work of a compatriot, Rachmaninov's Symphonic Dances. There is, you will not be surprised to learn, no straightforward triumphant ending or even the sardonic, forced jollity of the fifth symphony. Instead, the jingles, bangs and whistles of the toyshop return in the coda but now transformed into the bleak, soulless mutterings of the medical contraptions which had surrounded Shostakovich in the hospital ward. The work began with two bell chimes; now it ends with a bell's single chime, all the questions posed lingering, unanswered.

Tonight's performance is in a transcription by Viktor Derevianko, professor of piano at the University of Tel Aviv.

(Duration: 48 minutes)

Programme notes: © C.N. Lane (Rachmaninov and Shostakovich) © O Duo (Bongo Fury, Spanish Dance and Mad Rush)

Matthew Trusler violin Thomas Carroll cello

Ashley Wass piano

In 2012 three of the UK's most respected soloists, who also happened to be great friends, formed **Trio Apaches.** The word *apache* means ruffian or hooligan and the trio is named after an innovative and often controversial group of Parisian-based composers, Ravel, Stravinsky and Manuel de Falla, as well as painters, poets and music critics of the day. Their chosen name is apt due to the friends' shared desire to focus on imaginative projects and challenging cross-genre collaborations, as well as to present masterworks of the trio repertoire in unfamiliar contexts. Embraced on the international concert scene, the ensemble is praised for the infectious joy and virtuosity of its performances and the innovative nature of its programmes.

This is not Trio Apaches' first visit to Ilkley. They were here in March 2015 when their programme featured a newly commissioned transcription of Debussy's *La Mer* by Sally Beamish. This work alongside one of Beamish's original compositions, her powerful setting of the Anglo-Saxon poem, *The Seafarer*, featured on their first album on Orchid Classics in 2014. In the latter work the group was joined by Sir Willard White who was the Narrator.

Since then the group have delved further into the orchestral repertoire, with transcriptions of pieces by composers such as Shostakovich, Ravel and Rossini, arranged by the Trio themselves. In 2017 they gave the premier of a specially commissioned work, written by Sally Beamish to commemorate the 350th anniversary of Milton's *Paradise Lost*, and later this year they will give the first performance of a new soundtrack by Carl Davis, composed especially for them to accompany the classic 1925 silent film adaptation of *Lady Windermere's Fan.* Their quest to create new and audience-friendly projects has also seen them collaborate with the UK's leading mime artist and physical comedian, Les Budd, in a family show combining music, visual story-telling and comedy entitled *3 Men and a Mime*.

Trio Apaches have made numerous appearances on BBC Radio 3, including a live broadcast of Beethoven's Triple Concerto with the BBC National Orchestra of Wales, and they are Trio in Association at the Royal College of Music.

O DUO AND JONNY RAPER

Oliver Cox and Owen Gunnell

Oliver and Owen were both scholars at the Royal College of Music when they formed **O Duo** in 2000. Graduating with First Class Honours they immediately took up the first Junior Fellowship to be given to a percussion duo at the RCM. Twice winning Best Music Act of the Fringe at the Edinburgh Festival, O Duo joined the Young Concert Artists Trust (YCAT) in 2005-2007. Making a great impact on the UK music scene, O Duo has broadcast with BBC Radio 2 and 3 and Classic FM and recorded with the BBC Symphony Chorus. Furthermore, as outstanding communicators, Oliver and Owen have worked at Abbey Road and Sony on television and film scores and broadcast on Channel 4 and BBC TV.

O Duo's repertoire spans more than 300 years and is an invigorating mix of popular classics and accessible contemporary music as displayed by their critically acclaimed CD of works by Chopin, Poulenc, Bach and Stephen McNeff on the Sony BMG label. Their eclectic repertoire includes performances of the Bartok Sonata with Artur Pizzarro and Vita Panomariovaite and music by Moondog (the iconic American composer).

Renowned for their '*phenomenal artistry*' (The Daily Telegraph), O Duo have performed across the world. In the UK, highlights include appearing twice at the BBC Proms and at the Last Night of the Proms in Hyde Park. They gave the premier of Stephen McNeff's *Concert O Duo* at the Barbican as part of the BBC Symphony Orchestra's 80th birthday concert.

As passionate supporters of new music O Duo has won a Special Commissioning Award from the Borletti-Buitoni Trust, and, as inspiring educators they have been appointed Artistic Directors of the Children's Classic Concerts series in Scotland.

Jonny Raper developed a passion for all things percussion at school and studied music at Trinity College of Music in London. He has played in a wide variety of musical genres from rock to baroque, and has been required to play all manner of instruments from tubular bells to coconut shells! He is passionate about bringing classical music into schools and has performed in school education projects with English National Ballet and the Philharmonia Orchestra and has worked with English Touring Opera for a number of years.

73rd SEASON 2018-2019

10 October 2018 LEONORE PIANO TRIO

Haydn, Parry and Beethoven trios

"The Leonores play with truly glorious affection and security" The Observer

14 November 2018 ELIAS & NAVARRA QUARTETS

Schubert, Beamish and Mendelssohn

Schubert's 'Rosamunde', 'Reed Stanzas' by Beamish and Mendelssohn's great Octet, played by the Navarra and their friends the Elias, who are welcomed to ICC for a second time.

12 December 2018 NICHOLAS DANIEL in BRITTEN OBOE QUARTET

Moeran, Rodney Bennett, Françaix, Bach, Knussen and Mozart

"The quartet give a wonderfully relaxed and refined account of the Mozart . . ." The Guardian

16 January 2019 PIXELS ENSEMBLE

Debussy, Mozart and Françaix

The Pixels Ensemble is a collective of established chamber music players . . . experienced and versatile . . . The group comprises wind, strings, harp and piano for this concert.

13 February 2019 STEPHEN HOUGH piano

Bach/Busoni, Hough, Chopin, Busoni and Liszt

"The most perfect piano playing conceivable" The Guardian "A virtuoso who begins where others leave off" Washington Post

13 March 2019 KAMMERPHILHARMONIE EUROPA chamber orchestra

Vivaldi, Albinoni, Suk, Bach and Nielsen

"They delighted with the quality of their ensemble playing and their individual virtuosity." Ilkley Gazette

10 April 2019 RODERICK WILLIAMS baritone & IAIN BURNSIDE piano

A Voyage Around Hardy

Finzi settings of Thomas Hardy poems interspersed with Schubert songs

A favourite with llkley audiences, Roderick Williams returns for a fourth time. "Enthusiastic applause from the generously filled hall emphasized the inspired five star entertainment . . ." Geoff Read

8 May 2019 **STEPHEN OSBORNE** piano **& ALBAN GERHARDT** cello *Schumann, Brahms, de Falla, Debussy and Ravel*

"[they are] both superbly instinctive players, with an almost subliminal sense of what the other is about to do, so that every musical gesture they make seems totally spontaneous . . ." The Guardian

RECOMMENDED RECORDINGS

Rachmaninov: The Trio Testore on Audite 92691 (SACD/CD full price) supplement the First Trio with Tchaikovsky's Piano Trio on a well recorded disc. As a medium price alternative Naxos 8.557423, with Russian artists, include both Rachmaninov's Trios.

O Duo: There is a good sample of the group's work, with 10 items including Glass's 'Mad Rush', available on Champs Hill CHRCD 083 (full price), with excellent sound.

Shostakovich: There is little choice for this arrangement of the 15th. Symphony, but Trio Opus 8 and percussion make a good case for it on Profil PH 08014 (medium price). Shostakovich's two Piano Trios complete the CD.

Raymond Waud. raywaud@gmail.com

CLUB NOTES

PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY AS YOU LEAVE TONIGHT

Once again, our charity will be **Help Musicians UK** who offer help for musicians throughout their career. Help Musicians UK are able to claim tax relief on donations from those who use the Gift Aid envelopes. There will be plenty available (with pens) around the Halls for tonight's collection.

2018 – 2019 BROCHURES and APPLICATION FORMS

Brochures will be posted to you towards the end of June. Very occasionally they go astray. On 4 July, American Independence Day, ask yourself — Did my brochure arrive? If not, please contact Pam Harris our Membership Organiser at <u>olicanapam@gmail.com</u> or 01943 608585.

Applications for Season Tickets must be returned by the closing date given in the Brochure. If you miss the deadline there is a real danger of losing your seat — and we do **not** want to lose you. If you know you will be away when your Brochure could arrive, please contact Pam — she will reserve your seat(s).



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