

Sunday 1 March 2015, 6pm
at
St Mary-at-Finchley, London
with a retiring collection for the Roof Fund of St Mary-at-Finchley

Songs of People and Places

A short recital by

Alison Smart (Fisher), Carl Gombrich and Rachel Weston – singers
Yukiko Osedo – pianist
Jill Anderson – clarinettist

Alison, Jill and Yuki The Shepherd on the Rock	Franz Schubert
Carl and Yuki O Tu Palermo (from <i>I Vespri Siciliani</i>)	Giuseppe Verdi
Yuki Pagodes (from <i>Estampes</i>)	Claude Debussy
Carl and Yuki Pogner's address (from <i>Die Meistersinger</i>)	Richard Wagner
Rachel and Yuki Paris in New York (from <i>The Pink Jungle</i>)	Vernon Duke
Rachel, Alison and Yuki By my Side (from <i>Godspell</i>)	Peggy Gordon
Rachel and Yuki The Lorelei (from <i>Pardon my English</i>)	George and Ira Gershwin
Rachel and Yuki Feed the birds (from <i>Mary Poppins</i>)	the Sherman brothers
Alison, Carl and Yuki Osmin and Blondchen duet (from <i>Die Entführung aus dem Serail</i>)	Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

This evening's performers

Jill Anderson studied piano and clarinet at the Royal College of Music and then joined the BBC, working for Radio 3 as a studio manager, producer and presenter. After a few years at the World Service, she now works for Radio 3 introducing and scripting programmes and reading the news.

Jill has a keen interest in clarinets and their music and plays early clarinet (reproduction 19th century instruments), basset horn and bass clarinets. She decided to go back to academia about 15 years ago and has a Master's degree in performance and related studies from London University.

Jill plays in various orchestras in and around London and has a trio (clarinet, cello and piano) and also likes to explore chamber repertoire for larger groups, such as the Schubert Octet.

In her spare time, Jill is a keen genealogist and runs a singing group at a local residential home.

Carl Gombrich works at University College London (UCL) where he is Director of their Arts and Sciences (BASc) undergraduate degree programmes. He has degrees in Maths, Physics and Philosophy. Carl also studied piano and singing at the Guildhall School of Music, and trained at the National Opera Studio where he was the Royal Opera House scholar.

With the UCL Orchestra and Chorus Carl has performed as bass soloist in Beethoven's 9th Symphony, *Messe Solennelle* by Berlioz, the Mozart *Requiem* and in UCL's production of Lalo's *Fiesque*.

Carl has sung over 30 major operatic roles with companies such as Welsh National Opera, Garsington Opera, European Opera Centre (for whom he performed Collatinus in the Hungarian premiere of Britten's *Rape of Lucretia* in Budapest), D'Oyly Carte, Wexford Festival Opera and London City Opera.

This is his fifth St Mary's recital with his wife, Rachel Weston.

Yukiko Osedo commenced piano at the age of five and entered a music conservatory at fifteen. She completed a four year undergraduate Bachelor of Music degree in Piano Studies under the tutelage of Professor Moriyasu at Toho University, Tokyo, the alma mater of the famous Japanese conductor Seiji Ozawa.

Following her undergraduate degree, she embarked on a masters in Piano at the Royal Antwerp Conservatory of Music under Pascal Sigrist, where she graduated with honours. She has also studied in Australia under the tutelage of Professor Max Cooke, Adjunct Professor at Monash University's School of Music.

Yukiko Osedo has performed both as soloist and accompanist in a number of professional engagements in Japan, Europe and Australia and now lives and teaches piano in London.

Alison Smart (Fisher) took a degree in Classics at Clare College, Cambridge, where she was a Choral Scholar. She then sang with The Sixteen and other Early Music groups before taking diplomas at the Royal Northern College of Music and Trinity College of Music, London.

Her solo career includes concerts with the BBC Symphony Orchestra, the Hanover Band and the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, with conductors including Stephen Cleobury, Sir Andrew Davis, Jane Glover and Sir Roger Norrington. She is frequently heard on Radio 3 as a member of the BBC Singers.

Alison's discography includes *Peripheral Visions: British Music for voice and piano since 1970* (selected by the *Sunday Times* as their disc of the week) and *New French Song* (twenty newly commissioned songs by British composers), both for MSV. Other solo recordings include *Sounds of the Chionistra* (songs of Cilia Petridou) (2013).

Alison is Director of Music at St Mary-at-Finchley Parish Church and curates this concert series.

Rachel Weston trained as a classical singer in her native New Zealand. After moving to London she sang in *The Phantom of the Opera* before joining the Swingle Singers. Rachel toured with the group for four years, giving concerts in 25 countries and working as their Musical Director. After leaving the Swingles Rachel presented solo cabaret recitals in London and New York.

Rachel has appeared as a soloist with the RTE Concert Orchestra (Ireland), Lahti Symphony (Finland), BBC Concert Orchestra and Halle Orchestra (England) in concerts comprising songs from shows, films and popular music. Rachel also tours internationally with the ensemble Synergy Vocals.

Equally at home in the recording studio, Rachel has sung on the soundtracks of dozens of movies (including *Lord of the Rings*, *Harry Potter*, *Shrek*, *Transformers*, *Avatar* and most recently *Cinderella*, *Home*, and *Book of Life*) and on the albums of artists including Björk, Michael Jackson and Yusuf Islam (Cat Stevens).

Find more about Rachel at www.rachelwestonsinger.com

St Mary-at-Finchley Parish Church has a full range of activities including the Parish Eucharist on Sunday at 10 am during which the Junior church meets in the church hall. There is also Holy Communion at 8 am and a range of reflective services for different Sundays in the month at 6 pm. You are most welcome.

www.stmaryatfinchley.org.uk (new website under construction)

The retiring collection for this evening's concert is in aid of the ROOF FUND at St Mary-at-Finchley. Work needs to be done to secure the roof of this lovely listed building. Please give generously! If you are a UK tax-payer please use the gift-aid envelope and fill in your name and address to make the most of your donation.

Text translations

Der Hirt auf dem Felsen, D 965

(text after Wilhelm Müller's poem
"The mountain shepherd")

Wenn auf dem höchsten Fels ich steh,
ins tiefe Thal herneider seh,
und singe, und singe,
fern aus dem tiefen, dunkeln Thal
schwingt sich empor der Wiederhall,
der Wiederhall der Klüfte.

Je weiter meine Stimme dringt,
Je heller sie mir wiederklingt,
von unten, von unten.
Mein Liebchen wohnt so weit von mir,
drum seh ich mich so heiß nach ihr
hinüber, hinüber.

In tiefem Gram verzehr' ich mich,
mir ist die Freude hin,
auf Erden mir die Hoffnung wich,
ich hier so einsam bin,
ich hier so einsam bin.

So sehnend klang im Wald das Lied,
so sehnend klang es durch die Nacht,
die Herzen es zum Himmel zieht
mit wunderbarer Macht.

The Shepherd on the Rock, D 965

(Translation: Lionel Salter)

When on the highest cliff I stand,
gaze down into the deep valley
and sing,
the echo from the ravines
floats upwards from the dark valley
far away.

The further my voice travels,
the clearer it returns to me
from below.
So far from me does my love dwell
that I yearn for her more ardently
over there.

With deep grief I am consumed,
my joy is at an end;
all hope on earth has left me;
I am so lonely here,
I am so lonely here.

So longingly sounded the song in the wood,
so longingly it sounded through the night,
drawing hearts heavenwards
with wondrous power.

O Tu Palermo

(from *I Vespri Siciliani*)

Giuseppe Verdi

O country, o dear country, at last I see you!
The exile greets you after so long an absence.
I will keep my vow to you, with my arm and with my heart!
O thou Palermo, beloved land,
laugh of love so dear to me,
raise up your face, so disgraced,
reclaim your former splendour!

I sought help from foreign nations,
I wandered through castles and cities
But, insensible to my fervid urging,
every one of them said:
Sicilians, where is your former valour?

Go on, rise up to victory, to honour!
O thou, Palermo, beloved land.

Pogner's address (from *Die Meistersinger*)

Richard Wagner

Hear then, and understand me aright!

That beautiful festival, St. John's Day, as you know, we celebrate tomorrow: on the green meadow, by the flowery grove, with games and dancing at the feast; secure in a joyous heart, all cares forgotten, everyone enjoys himself as he pleases. Their solemn song-school in the church have the Masters themselves give up; with merry music they proceed out of the gate and on to the open meadow, in the din of the brilliant festival; they permit the people to listen to the singing with their laymen's ears.

Winners' prizes are awarded for trial and competitive singing, and both are praised far and wide, the gift and also the melody. Now, God has made me a rich man, and everyone gives what he can, so I had to think carefully what I might give so as not to be dishonourable: so hear what I have decided.

When travelling widely in German lands, it has often vexed me that people honour the burgher so little and call him stingy and peevish: at courts and in meaner places I grew tired of the bitter reproach that the burgher was only interested in usury and money.

That we alone in the broad German empire still cherish Art - by that they set little store: but how this may redound to our honour, and that with high resolve we treasure what is beautiful and good, the value of Art, what it is worth; this I became resolved to show the world.

So hear, Masters, the gift which I have decreed as prize:

to the singer who in the Art-singing before all the people wins the prize on St John's Day, be he who he may; to him I, a friend of Art, Nuremberg's Veit Pogner, give with all my goods, such as they are, Eva - my only child - in marriage.

Dates for your diary – the St Mary-at-Finchley concert series continues...

Sunday 7th June: Luca Luciano (clarinet) with Yukiko Osedo (piano): Schumann clarinet sonata plus works for solo clarinet by Luca himself.

Saturday 26th September: Youth Showcase concert; contact Alison Fisher by June 1st if you are interested in auditioning for this concert opportunity. Open to performers living in N3 and N12, aged up to 18 at 26 September.
email: alison.smart@ntlworld.com

Saturday 7th November: Fenella Humphreys (violin) makes a welcome return with works for solo violin. More details to follow.

We look forward to welcoming you to these concerts – please spread the word!
If you would like to join the team of helpers please contact Alison Fisher:
Alison.smart@ntlworld.com