

MUSIC IN THE VILLAGE

ST. MARY'S CHURCH,
WALTHAMSTOW

19th February 2009



Music by Clara Schumann and Rebecca Clarke

Penelope Randall-Davis, soprano

Louise Winter, mezzo soprano

with

Ruth Erlich, violin; Julia Vohralik, cello; Nancey Cooley, piano

Trio, op. 17 (1846)

Allegro moderato - Scherzo (tempo di menuetto) -
Andante - Allegretto

Clara Schumann
(1819 – 96)

Lieder

An einem lichten Morgen
Liebeszauber
Sie liebten sich beide
Die stille Lotosblume
Geheimes Flüstern hier und dort
O Lust, O Lust

Clara Schumann

***** Interval*****

Songs

The cloths of Heaven
Down by the salley gardens
Eight o'clock
The Seal Man
June twilight
Tyger, tyger

Rebecca Clarke
(1886- 1979)

Trio (1921)

Moderato ma appassionato
Andante molto semplice
Allegro vigoroso

This concert is generously sponsored by **Apex Arts** (The Arts Council for Waltham Forest) and **WalthamSoft.com** (who kindly donate webspace and a lot of time to create our website: <http://VillageMusic.WalthamSoft.com>).

Refreshments tonight are provided by June and Roger Butcher to celebrate their retirement.

Ruth Ehrlich was for some years the leader of the Fairfield quartet, with whom she toured and broadcast extensively, and recorded the Debussy and Ravel quartets for Hyperion. Since then she has been in much demand as a chamber player, performing with the Ambache Ensemble, Jeux and Divertimenti, amongst others. She has toured world-wide with the English Chamber Orchestra, and during a spell of living in New York she played in the orchestra of the Metropolitan Opera. Ruth is actively involved with several groups specialising in contemporary music, the Almeida Ensemble, Lontano and Apartment House, with whom she recently took part in a re-creation, at the Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival, of John Cage's famous New York Town Hall concert of 1958. Her most recent recording work has included the solo violin track for a DVD about the life of the artist Margaret Mellis, composed by Andrew Lovett.

Julia Vohralik gained honours in her ARCM diploma whilst still at school. She read Music at Cambridge University and continued 'cello studies with William Pleeth. Julia has performed extensively throughout Europe America and Japan. She is currently a member of the highly acclaimed Britten Sinfonia and Jeux who specialise in chamber repertoire with harp. Julia enjoys the variety of playing in orchestras and for opera and dance companies. She has been featured cellist for many of the Royal Shakespeare Company's prestigious productions, has guested on bestselling BBC Children's CDs and was cello miming coach for the James Bond film *The Living Daylights*.

Penelope Randall-Davis' dramatic coloratura voice has resulted in numerous appearances as the Queen of the Night in Mozart's "Die Zauberflöte". A huge critical and public success in the role with Teatro all'Opera di Roma led to other engagements - with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra in Sydney Opera House, at La Fenice in Jonathan Miller's production, and with Opera Atelier and Tafelmusik in Toronto, for which she was nominated for a Dora award. Other appearances in the role have included those for New Zealand Opera in Gerald Scarfe's production, West Norwegian Opera in Bergen, Oper der Stadt Koblenz, English National Opera, Welsh National Opera, Scottish Opera, Opera North and Opera Holland Park's recent new production.

Other operatic appearances include: soloist in Jonathan Harvey's "Inquest of Love" at La Monnaie, the role of The Bride in Rameau's "Les Boreades" with City of Birmingham Touring Opera, an extensive tour as Violetta with Opera Swansea City's "La Traviata", the Countess in European Chamber Opera's "Marriage of Figaro" and the Russian Mother in Glyndebourne's televised version of "Death In Venice".

Penelope has appeared as soloist at the Aldeburgh, Cheltenham, Brighton and Dijon Festivals, and made her South Bank debut in Keith Burstein's "Prayer for Peace". Concert engagements have included: Beethoven's Ninth Symphony with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, Orff's "Carmina Burana", Mozart's Mass in C Minor, Poulenc's Gloria, Tippett's "A Child of Our Time", Bach's St. Matthew Passion, Handel's Messiah, and Haydn's Missa in Tempore Belli.

Most recently Penelope has appeared as Gilda in an experimental production of "Rigoletto" (to be included in operatic festivals in Co. Durham and in Italy). Future concert work includes a recital series with pianists Nancy Cooley and Lada Valesova which will tour throughout the UK.

Louise Winter was born in Preston, Lancashire, and studied at the Royal Northern College of Music. She made her début in 1982 with Glyndebourne Touring Opera singing *Dorabella* in Mozart's *Così fan tutte* and subsequently sang *Tisbe* in *La Cenerentola*, *Zerlina* in *Don Giovanni*, and *Rosina* in *Il barbiere di Siviglia* for the company. Roles for Glyndebourne Festival Opera have included *Sesto* in *La clemenza di Tito*, *Edwige* in *Rodelinda*, *Varvara* in *Katya Kabanova*, *Pauline* Queen of Spades and *Olga* in *Eugene Onegin*, which she has also sung for the Royal Opera House and Canadian Opera Company. Louise also enjoys a strong relationship with ENO, where roles have included *Carmen* and *Marguerite* in *La Damnation de Faust*.

Most recently Louise has begun working on more dramatic repertoire, including *Brangäne* in *Tristan und Isolde*, *Venus* in *Tannhäuser* and *Lady Macbeth* in Ernst Bloch's *Macbeth* for Frankfurt Opera.

Louise enjoys concert work with many of the world's leading orchestras and conductors, including the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra with Sir Simon Rattle, the BBC Symphony Orchestra with Sir Andrew Davis, the Hallé Orchestra with Mark Elder, the Philharmonia Orchestra under Sir Charles Mackerras, and has taken part in many of the BBC Proms over the last decade. Recital engagements have included appearances at the Wigmore Hall, St John's, Smith Square, the Théâtre du Châtelet, the Bath, Belfast and City of London Festivals and at the Amsterdam Concertgebouw.

Performances this season and beyond include Mozart's Requiem at Cadogan Hall, Mahler's *Das Lied von der Erde* in York Minster, and a recital in the London Song Festival.

Nancy Cooley (piano) won the accompanist's prize in the Walther Gruner International Lieder Competition in 1987. She has given recitals with singers and instrumentalists for the BBC, on the South Bank and at St. John's, Smith Square, and has performed at the Aldeburgh, Brighton, Cheltenham and Aix-en-Provence Festivals. Concert work has taken her abroad to Canada, America, Holland and France, as well as to local festivals around Britain. She has long-standing musical partnerships with singers Louise Winter and Penelope Randall Davis, and began working with Ruth Ehrlich when they were undergraduates at Cambridge together.

Nancy worked as accompanist and coach for many years at the Britten-Pears School for Advanced Musical Studies. She spent eight years on the music staff at Glyndebourne.

In her home town, Hastings, she has taken many music projects into schools, accompanied and prepared choirs for performances at the De La Warr Pavilion, put on Britten's 'Noye's Fludde' in St. Leonards, and has given many recitals. She teaches at Battle Abbey School and conducts a childrens' choir which has won an award from Youth Music.

An einem lichten Morgen (Rollett)

One bright morning clear through the valley rings.
Wake up, sweet flower, I am a sunbeam!

Trustingly open your flowery chamber
And let love's heat into your sanctum.

I ask nothing more than to lie in your lap
And kiss your petals before they wither to moss.

I desire nothing more than to lie at your breast
And transfigure you thus with pleasure sun-bright.

Liebeszauber – Love's magic (Geibel)

Love perched as a nightingale in a rose bush and sang:
its wondrous-sweet echo soared through the green forest.

And as it sounded, an encircling fragrance rose up from a thousand sepals,
And all the treetops murmured soft, and softer blew the breeze.

The brooks turned silent, that had scarce yet splashed down from their heights,
The fawns stood as in a dream, listening to the sound.

And bright and ever brighter streamed the radiant sun,
Its light, gold-red, flooding flower, forest, gorge.

I walked along the pathway, and heard its singing too.
Ah! Whatever I have sung since then has been but its faintest echo.

Sie liebten sich beide (Heine)

They loved one another, but neither was prepared to tell the other;
They looked at each other so coldly, yet were pining away with love.

Finally they parted and only saw each other at times in a dream:
They died a long time ago and were hardly aware of it.

Die stille Lotosblume (Geibel)

The still lotus flower rises out of the blue lake.
The leaves shimmer and sparkle, the cup is white as snow.

From heaven the moon pours out all its golden light,
Pours all its rays into its depths

A white swan draws its circles around the flower in the water,
It sings so sweetly, so softly, and gazes at the flower.

It sings so sweetly, so softly, dying as it sings,
O flower, white flower, can you understand the song?

Geheimes Flüstern hier und dort (Rollett)

Here and there mysterious whispers, hidden murmuring of springs,
Woodland, o woodland, you sacred place,
Let me eavesdrop on life's perfect expression in twig and leaf!

And striding forth into the wood I'm greeted by the trees –
Beloved, open house of God, in raging storms you shelter me in your cool spaces!

That which soars and sounds around me I'll faithfully preserve,
And that which pierces deep my heart I shall, enlivened by love's spirit,
Make manifest in song!

O Lust, o Lust (Rollett)

Oh joy, oh joy, to sing a song
From mountain down to all the land!
The smallest note drifts down
As if on giant wings!
The softest breath which from plangent heart
Escapes in joy and sorrow,
Becomes, unwitting, a voice
That's sung for all the world.

It soars earth and heavenwards,
This yearning soul made sound,
Touching the heart of all the world
To happiness or tears.
That which else in silence flows through the heart
Flies out on wings of sound,
Oh joy, oh joy, to sing a song
From mountain down to all the land!

OUR NEXT CONCERT ON **March 12th 2009 London Baroque** *Ingrid Seifert, violin;*
Charles Medlam, viola da gamba and Stephen Devine, harpsichord: exquisite music from the French
Baroque played by one of Britain's longest-running and most famous early music ensembles.

These programme notes are sponsored by MATTHEW WING,

Maker Restorer and Dealer of Fine Violins, Violas, 'Cellos and Bows.

Best quality bow repairs now available. 63 Orford Rd. Walthamstow, London E17 9NJ

Tel: 020 8509 2726 mwingviolins@hotmail.com Tues. to Fri. 10 - 5 by appointment

An Extra Event for Music in the Village! May 7th 2009:
world-famous countertenor, James Bowman performs ravishing early baroque
music with Gli Amici della Rana.