

St Edward's Coffee Concert

Saturday 19th January

2019

Nori Hirano (violin) & Alison Dite (piano)

Debussy: Sonata for Violin and Piano

- I. Allegro vivo
- II. Intermède: Fantasque et léger
- III. Finale: Très animé

Six Sonatas for various instruments was a projected cycle of works that was interrupted by Debussy's death in 1918, after he had composed only half of them - the sonatas for cello and piano (1915), for flute, viola and harp (1915) and finally this one (1916-1917). It was the composer's last major composition. The premiere took place on 5th May 1917, the violin part played by Gaston Polet, with Debussy himself at the piano. It was the composer's last public performance.

Schnittke: Suite in the Old Style

- I. Pastorale
- II. Ballet
- III. Minuet
- IV. Fuga
- V. Pantomime

This work by Alfred Schnittke (1934-1998) is a transcription of certain movements from his film scores (with no comment from the composer)

on his reasons for composing a Baroque pastiche) in 1973. The first two movements are taken from a film detailing the amorous adventures of a dentist. The Minuet was taken from a children's animated film. The Fugue is taken from a film about a sportsman's double life. The Pantomime, despite its charming melody, features bare, exposed rhythms, striking pizzicati, and searing dissonances in the violin part. The final cadence feels like an unresolved question.

Stravinsky: Suite Italienne

- I. Introduzione
- II. Serenata
- III. Tarantella
- IV. Gavotta con due Variazioni
- V. Scherzino
- VI. Minuetto e Finale

This work is an arrangement which Stravinsky (1882-1971) made of some of the numbers from his ballet "Pulcinella" (1919-1920). The thematic material is derived from several pieces at the time attributed (although probably spuriously) to the eighteenth-century Italian composer Pergolesi, and effectively re-written in Stravinsky's own style. The arrangement for violin and piano was completed in 1925. In the Stravinsky's own words, Pulcinella was "the epiphany through which the whole of my later work became possible".

Shostakovich

Romance from "The Gadfly"

This short piece is arranged from music which Shostakovich (1906-1975) composed in 1955 for the hugely successful Soviet historical drama film "Ovod" (gadfly), based on the novel by Ethel Lilian Voynich.