

Music : New Artists Series



New Artist Series Christmas Concert: Ethel Merhaut

Thursday 13 December 2012, 7.00pm | Austrian Cultural Forum London

For our final New Artist recital in the 2012 season we are delighted to have one of the emerging stars of the Austrian opera circuit, soprano Ethel Merhaut. Born in Vienna, she made her professional debut last summer in two Mozart roles: Barbarina (Figaro) in the Oper Klosterneuberg festival, and Zerlina (Don Giovanni) in the Sommertraum festival on the Semmering.

This seasonal programme, presented by Michael White, includes songs by Richard Strauss, Zemlinsky and Rachmaninov, along with a rarely heard cycle by Korngold and what we believe to be the UK premiere of settings by the recently rediscovered Austrian emigre composer Walter Arlen.

Venue:

The Austrian Cultural Forum London promotes cultural contacts between the UK and Austria by organizing events and supporting artists and projects in the fields of music, performing arts, visual arts, literature, film and science. We provide a venue in central London for recitals, lectures, readings, film screenings, conferences and exhibitions, while also cooperating with various partners throughout the UK.

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Ethel Merhaut, soprano Lech Napierała, piano

presented by
Michael White

Thursday 13 December 2012, 7pm

austrian+cultural forum^{lon}

Programme

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- **Alexander Zemlinsky (1871 - 1942)**

Walzer-Gesänge nach toskanischen Liedern von
Ferdinand Gregorovius, Op.6

*Liebe Schwalbe, kleine Schwalbe
Klagen ist der Mond gekommen
Fensterlein nachts bist du zu
Ich geh des Nachts
Blaues Sternlein
Briefchen schrieb ich*

- **Erich Wolfgang Korngold (1897 - 1957)**

Unvergänglichkeit Liederkreis, Op. 24

*Unvergänglichkeit
Das eilende Bächlein
Das schlafende Kind
Stärker als der Tod
Unvergänglichkeit*

- **Walter Arlen (1920)**

Three Fragments from The Song of Songs

*As an apple tree
Very dark am I
Upon my bed by Night*

- **Richard Strauss (1864 – 1949)**

*Du meines Herzens Krönelein
Die Nacht
Freundliche Vision
Allerseelen
Zueignung*

- **Sergei Rachmaninov (1873 – 1943)**

*Son (Dream)
Sirjen (Lilac)
Paljubila ja (To my sorrow)
Ne poi chrasawitza (Don't cry my beautiful girl)*

Ethel Merhaut – soprano

For our final New Artist recital in the 2012 season we are delighted to have one of the emerging stars of the Austrian opera circuit, soprano Ethel Merhaut. Born in Vienna, she made her professional debut last summer in two Mozart roles: Barbarina (Figaro) in the Oper Klosterneuberg festival, and Zerlina (Don Giovanni) in the Sommertraum festival on the Semmering.

Born and raised in Vienna, Ethel has studied at the University of Music and Performing Arts in Vienna with Gabriele Lechner and Irina Gavrilovici. She has been championing the repertoire of exile composers since featuring in the Exile Arte Anniversary Concert in December 2011 at the Vienna House of Music with songs of E. W. Korngold und A. v. Zemlinsky. In February 2013 she will be performing the role of Pisana in Verdi's "I due Forcari" at the Philharmonie in Munich.

Lech Napierała – piano

Lech Napierała comes from Bydgoszcz, Poland. In 2006 he earned his Master of Arts degree from the Frederic Chopin Academy of Music in the piano class of Professor Krzysztof Jabłoński, and piano chamber-music class of Professor Barbara Halska. He was awarded the 3rd prize at the 2nd International Piano Duo Competition in Białystok, Poland. Playing in a piano duo with Aleksandra Szczęsnowicz he recorded his first CD for DUX Recording Producers in Poland. As accompanist he worked at the Frederic Chopin Music University in Warsaw and at the State Primary and Secondary Music School no.1 in Warsaw, as well as teaching several master-class courses in Poland and France. Lech Napierała lives in Vienna where he is completing postgraduate studies at the vocal-accompaniment class of Professor David Lutz at the University of Music and Performing Arts in Vienna.

Michael White

Voted Britain's least boring music critic by listeners to Classic FM – an honour of sorts - Michael White studied at Oxford and began his journalistic life on the Guardian before joining the Independent, becoming chief critic there and lead columnist of the BBC Music Magazine. Now writing for the Telegraph and New York Times, he also contributes weekly columns to the Catholic Herald and Ham & High series.

As a broadcaster he has presented BBC Radio 3's long-running Opera in Action and Best of Three, chaired Radio 4's arts show The Sound Barrier, and made documentaries on composers like Menotti, Nielsen and Walton. For BBC TV he has attempted to explain Wagner's Ring in half an hour, fronted events like Cardiff Singer of the World, introduced the Proms, and done a long, live, tactful commentary on Pavarotti's funeral.

Ethel Merhaut



Lech Napierała

About the New Artists Series

The ACF's New Artists Series is a platform for young performers selected partly on account of their connections with Austria but more importantly because of their outstanding calibre. These are not just gifted young musicians. They are distinctive, special and destined for conspicuous careers.

The series is presented by the distinguished music critic, writer and broadcaster, Michael White, who with the ACF selects the artists on the basis of personal auditions and recommendations. Each concert includes a recent work by a composer resident in Austria or Britain and is introduced by Michael White in conversation with the artists and when possible composers.

Recent concerts in the New Artists Series have featured among others the following musicians:

- Stefan Stroissnig (piano)
- Adam Clifford (percussion) & Mary Dullea (piano)
- Anna Magdalena Kokits (piano)
- Catalina Butcaru (piano)
- Stefan Stroissnig (piano) & Sebastian Bru (violincello)
- Christoph Urbanetz (viola da gamba)
- Daniel Auner (violin) & Robin green (piano)
- Wilhelm Pflegerl (cello) & Margarete Babinsky (piano)
- Martin Mallaun (zither)

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Future Events

Wednesday 9 January, 7:30pm, Barbican Centre, London
LSSO Concert Celebrating Nali Gruber

Conductor, composer, chansonnier: HK Gruber is one of music's great originals. London's premier youth orchestra celebrates his 70th birthday, as he takes the helm for a fun-filled musical journey through the last one hundred and fifty years of his native city, Vienna.

Venue: Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London EC2Y 8DS;
www.barbican.org.uk

Thursday 24 January, 7pm, ACF London
New Artist Series: Chen Reiss

For one night only our New Artists Series is branching out with something very special – because our artist will be the Vienna-based soprano Chen Reiss who, although unquestionably new to London, is established among the most dazzling younger stars of the Vienna State Opera. Soon to open there as Susanna (Figaro), her schedule includes concerts with the Berlin Philharmonic, Orchestre de Paris and Concertgebouw. The ACF is excited to be hosting her UK recital debut accompanied by the renown British pianist Charles Spencer.
