



MARLBOROUGH COLLEGE

CONCERT SERIES

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2018

For the remaining Winter-Spring concerts of our current season, we revert to afternoons in the Memorial Hall at 3:00pm.

The first is on Sunday, 20 January 2019, when we will welcome father and daughter duo Dr Jeremy Pike (piano) and Jennifer Pike (violin).

Central to the recital is the wonderfully lyrical **"The Lark Ascending"** by **Ralph Vaughan Williams**.

Originally composed for violin and piano in 1914, it premièred six years later, and again in 1921 in a re-scored version for solo violin and orchestra; the form we are most accustomed to hearing. This afternoon however, we will hear it in the simpler duet form.

It is based on verse of the same name by English poet George Meredith (1828-1909), comprising a series of rhyming couplets depicting the song of the skylark. [Extracts from the poem are reproduced here].

*He rises and begins to round,
He drops the silver chain of sound
Of many links without a break,
In chirrup, whistle, slur and shake, ...*

Jennifer Pike first came to prominence as the youngest ever winner (aged 12) of the BBC Young Musician of the year award. Three years later, she made her Proms début, and has made many subsequent appearances with the series, most notably as a "featured artist" in 2009.

One of the foremost soloists and recitalists of her generation, she has established a worthy reputation for her depth of interpretation and performance. Still under 30, she is a seasoned performer much in demand across the world.

Born to British and Polish parents, Jennifer shares the family's passion for Polish music. In 2017, she curated a

January Recital

Jennifer Pike (violin), Jeremy Pike (piano) perform music by Bach, Wieniawski and Vaughan Williams

Sunday, 20 January 2019

Buy tickets online or direct from our Box Office. Phone: 01672 892566.



Jennifer Pike © Tom Barnes

Hearts will soar in January

unique event at Wigmore Hall, London performing three concerts on a single day, including the UK premiere of Capriccio for solo violin by Krzysztof Penderecki, and a specially commissioned new work by Paulina Zalubaska.

*For singing till his heaven fills,
'T is love of earth that he instills,
And ever winging up and up,
Our valley is his golden cup, ...*

Highlights from her numerous disc recordings include the *Sibelius Violin Concerto* with the Bergen Philharmonic and Sir Andrew Davis; *Miklós Rózsa Violin Concerto* with the BBC Philharmonic and Rumon Gamba; *Mendelssohn Violin Concerto* with the City of Birmingham Symphony and Edward Gardner, and most recently *The Lark Ascending* with the Chamber Orchestra of New York.

*And he the wine which overflow
To lift us with him as he goes:
The woods and brooks, the sheep and kine,
He is, the hills, the human line, ...*

Jeremy Pike started composing at an early age, taking lessons from Christopher Finzi. Later, he studied piano

with Christopher Elton and violin at the Junior Department of the Royal Academy of Music; simultaneously taking lessons in composition with Bryan Kelly and Sir Lennox Berkeley.

He graduated from King's College, Cambridge winning the university prize for composition in his final year. From 1976, he continued his composition studies with Paul Patterson. And in 1979, he won the annual Polish government scholarship to study composition with Henryk Górecki in Katowice.

In 1985, his fifth string quartet was runner up for one of the most prestigious international competitions, the Carl Maria von Weber composition prize.

*The meadows green, the fallows brown,
The dreams of labor in the town;
He sings the sap, the quicken'd veins;
The wedding song of sun and rains ...*

Subsequently, Jeremy has directed the electro-acoustic music studios at the Royal Academy of Music and the University of Warwick. He is also Head of Composition at Chetham's School of Music in Manchester. Completing the recital, the duo will also perform works by Bach and Wieniawski. ■