



MARLBOROUGH COLLEGE

CONCERT SERIES

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2020

An afternoon of solo piano to cheer the winter mood and lift the spirits

January welcomes the return of our music series with a recital by the much cherished British pianist, Martin Roscoe. With a career spanning more than 40 years, he is undoubtedly one of our most respected soloists and chamber music performers.

Throughout his distinguished career, Martin has amassed more than a hundred concerto recordings and performance credits with many of the leading British orchestras, including the Hallé, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, and several BBC orchestras.

A prolific recitalist and chamber musician, he regularly tours the UK. His professional associations link him closely with many notable chamber music ensembles such as the Endellion, the Maggini, and the Brodsky Quartets, and the Manchester Camerata.

Martin has performed throughout Europe, Canada, Australia and the Far East, sharing the platform with eminent conductors such as Sir Simon Rattle, Sir Mark Elder and Christoph von Dohnányi. His long-standing partnerships read like a *who's who* of British performers, including Peter Donohoe, Kathryn Stott, and Tasmin Little to name just a few.

Be sure to join us for a complimentary glass of prosecco and a thrilling afternoon of solo piano, when Martin will treat us to many popular favourites by Mozart, Schubert and Chopin.

Opening the programme, Martin will perform the **Fantasia No.3 in D Minor, K.397** by **Mozart**. It is a short, unfinished piece discovered in 1806, some 15 years after the composer's death.

The date attribution of 1782 is an estimation of the origins of the piece



Photo © Eric Richmond

based on its similarities with the Prelude (Fantasy) and Fugue in C Major, K.394, and Mozart's study of the Baroque style shortly after moving to Vienna.

The version most commonly performed is believed to have been completed by August Müller, a devotee of the composer.

Later in the programme, we will hear the delightful and immediately recognisable **Impromptus Numbers 3 and 4, D.899, Op.90** by **Schubert**. Composed in 1827, they are two of eight pieces for solo piano published in two sets of four (Op.90 and Op.142 (posthumous)).

In a musical context, the term *Impromptu* describes a short piano piece

that suggests the illusion of spontaneous improvisation. It is believed to have been conceived by a publisher to describe the series of six piano solos by Jan Václav Voříšek (Op.7) in 1822.

Another favourite on the programme is the perennially popular **Polonaise in A flat Major, Op.53** by **Chopin**. Begun in 1842, it was completed the following year and is dedicated to Auguste Léo, a German banker and friend of the composer.

Frequently in his music, we hear Chopin evoking the cultural spirit of his homeland, and Op.53 is a fine example of this. In its aristocratic form, a Polonaise is a Polish court dance in 3/4 waltz time. Couples promenade the ballroom with gliding steps bending their knees on each third step.

The piece acquired the sobriquet "*Heroic*" from his long-time lover and companion Amantine Lucile Aurore Dupin, the French novelist and activist, who published under the pen name of George Sand. In one of her letters to Chopin, she wrote:

"The inspiration! The force! The vigour! There is no doubt that such a spirit must be present in the French Revolution. From now on this polonaise should be a symbol, a heroic symbol."

(Translation from the French source).

Doors open at 2:15pm for a 3:00pm start in the Memorial Hall, Marlborough College. ■

Sunday 08 March 2020 (3:00pm)

Southbank Sinfonia (Simon Over)

Programme to include:

- Mozart: Sinfonia Concertante in E flat Major, K.364
Soloists: Tasmin Little (violin); Philip Dukes (viola)
- Beethoven: Symphony No 6 in F Major, Op.68 (Pastoral)

Sunday 19 January 2020 (3:00pm)

Martin Roscoe (piano)

Programme to include:

- Mozart: Fantasy in D Minor K.397
- Schubert: Two Impromptus D.899 (numbers 3 and 4)
- Chopin: Polonaise in A flat Op.53

Box Office:

Still time to book tickets for our final two concerts ...

Book online:

<http://marlboroughconcertseries.org/mccs/main.php?varFunction=prices>

or reserve by phone: 01672 892566. Tickets may also be available on the door

Tickets £20 (includes a complimentary glass of Mionetto prosecco or soft drink)