



FOUR VIOLINS

Saturday 24 July 2021, 12.30pm | St Martin-in-the-Fields

Amanda Smith
Catherine Morgan
Helena Smart
Robert Salter

Grazyna Bacewicz Quartet for 4 Violins

Julian Andersen Ring Dance

Bartok Selections from 44 Duos

Sally Beamish Prelude and Canon

Telemann Sonata in D Major from Six Sonatas without Bass BWV 40:101-106

Charles Dancla Variations on 'Ah! vous dirai-je, Maman!' Op.161

Grazyna Bacewicz (1909-1969)

Quartet for 4 Violins

- I. Allegretto - Allegro giocoso
- II. Andante tranquillo
- III. Molto allegro

A student of Nadia Boulanger, Grazyna Bacewicz was an outstanding violinist who performed across Europe before a serious injury sustained in a car accident forced her to give up playing. Turning to composing and teaching composition, her folksy Quartet for four violins, written in 1949 as a teaching piece, consists of three contrasting movements that show a strong influence of neo-classicism. It remains one of her most popular and frequently performed compositions.

Julian Anderson (b. 1967)

Ring Dance

Robert Salter and Helena Smart

'I've always been fascinated by dance, especially collective dancing which usually takes the form of dancing in a circle. Ring Dance is the earliest example of this obsession, but quite deliberately it does not dance. Instead it offers a dance in slow motion – extremely slow motion, allowing the listener to hear all the details of sounds such as overtones, sum and difference tones, instability of bowing pressure. The work is extremely loud and slow throughout – an attempt to create a music which is in a perpetual state of climax. The only interpretation marking in the work is at the start of the score: "with unimaginable joy!" Note by Julian Anderson

Béla Bartók (1881-1945)

Selections from 44 Duos for Two Violins

Catherine Morgan and Robert Salter

Bartók did not intend this work to be played in performance, but rather to be useful as a work for young students. The work was commissioned by Erich Doflein, a German violinist and teacher. This intention for educative works was exploited by the fact that he was a teacher himself, then he chose to write works for his pupils to play. Nevertheless, all songs and dances included in this series are based on east European folk songs, but harmonic and rhythmic freedom is evident throughout the whole piece. Catherine and Robert perform 7 duos from the collection:

- 35. Ruthenian Kolomeika
- 38. Romanian Whirling Dance
- 28. Sorrow
- 39. Serbian Dance

YouTube.com/theASMF