

ENSEMBLE 360

Premieres on Friday 14 May 11.00am

Filmed at Cast, Doncaster

MATTHEW HUNT clarinet

RUTH GIBSON viola

TIM HORTON piano

BEETHOVEN Piano Sonata No.27

CHOPIN Waltz in A minor Op.34 No.2

MOZART Kegelstatt Trio K498

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN (1770-1827)

Piano Sonata No.27 in E minor Op.90

Mit Lebhaftigkeit und durchaus mit Empfindung und Ausdruck (With liveliness and with feeling and expression throughout)

Nicht zu geschwind und sehr singbar vorzutragen (Not too swift, and played in a singing manner)

Beethoven had not written a piano sonata for five years when he composed the E minor Sonata Op.90 in 1814 (the year in which the definitive version of his opera *Fidelio* was first performed with great success). This Sonata has a two-movement structure that moves from intense and energetic to lyrical and unhurried – a plan that is mirrored (and made more expressive) by the change in key from E minor in the first movement to E major in the second. It was dedicated to Count Moritz von Licknowsky and published by the Viennese firm of Steiner in 1815.

FRYDERYK CHOPIN (1810-1849)

Waltz in A minor, Op.34 No.2

Chopin's three 'Grandes valse brillantes' Op.34 were published in 1838. This piece, the second waltz in the set, suggests that the collective title was a misnomer. Chronologically, it was the first to be composed, probably in 1831, and rather than 'brilliant', the mood is lachrymose and melancholic. Marked 'Lento', it opens with a melody in the left hand that seems to wander disconsolately, before giving way to an idea in the right hand, at first halting but eventually taking wing. Two brief episodes in A major hint at something more hopeful, but at the end, Chopin returns to the left-hand melody from the opening, and the piece fizzles out in a state of despair.

WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART (1756 -1791)

Trio in E flat K498 'Kegelstatt'

Andante

Menuetto

Rondo: Allegretto

This is Mozart's only trio for his three favourite wind, string and keyboard instruments: clarinet, viola and piano. The nickname 'Kegelstatt' needs a little explanation – and may well be a complete myth. It means 'skittle alley', and legend has it that Mozart wrote this work during a game of skittles. While this may be far-fetched – especially given the rather noble character of the work – what is certain is that he wrote it in Vienna, and entered it in his own thematic catalogue on 5 August 1786. The first movement – spacious and lyrical – is a marvellous example of Mozart's invention at its most concentrated and brilliant: every idea in the movement, which is in Sonata Form, derives from the ornamental turn that is such a distinctive feature of the opening phrase. After this, the Minuet surprises by its almost grand character – this is no mere courtly dance, but something more imposing and more important.

All notes © Nigel Simeone

ENSEMBLE 360

Ensemble 360 has gained an enviable reputation across the UK not only for the quality and integrity of its playing, but also for its ability to communicate the music to a range of different audiences. Formed in 2005, 11 musicians of international standing came together to take up residency in Sheffield with Music in the Round, establishing a versatile group of five string players, five wind players and a pianist. The musicians believe that concerts should be informal, friendly and relaxed occasions, and perform 'in the round' wherever possible. Critical acclaim has greeted all the group's CDs to date: Mozart and Spohr (ASV Gold), Beethoven and Poulenc (Nimbus Alliance).

Ensemble 360 has performed at many of the leading festivals and venues in England, including Wigmore Hall, National Centre for Early Music, Bath and Buxton International Music Festivals. It appears regularly on BBC Radio 3 and at a number of small-scale venues nationally with Music in the Round. Ensemble 360 is at the heart of chamber music in South Yorkshire, appearing regularly in Sheffield, Barnsley and Doncaster as part of Music in the Round's concert series, and is central to the nine-day Sheffield Chamber Music Festival in May each year.

Outside Ensemble 360 many of the musicians have highly successful careers, performing with groups including the Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie, English National Opera, Royal Scottish National Orchestra, London Philharmonic Orchestra, Camerata Bern, Manchester Camerata and Nash Ensemble.

MUSIC IN THE ROUND

Music in the Round is the leading national promoter of chamber music. For over 35 years we have been bringing people and music closer together through our friendly and informative style of 'in the round' performances, touring to numerous venues around the country as well as presenting two concert series and the Sheffield Chamber Music Festival each year at our home venue, the Crucible Studio. Our concerts are characterised by passion, excellence and proximity, and even in these challenging times of a global pandemic we have been striving to connect people through music by presenting socially-distanced live concerts and creating films featuring our musicians to enjoy online.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING SHEFFIELD CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL

The Sheffield Chamber Music Festival is the highlight of the year for all of us, so although it's online again, we have put everything into creating a digital event that everyone can come together to enjoy, across Sheffield, South Yorkshire, the UK, and even the world!

Your generosity in the last year has made it possible for us to continue with our aim to bring people closer to music. It is thanks to you, our Friends, supporters and audiences, that we are able to bring you such a full Festival programme this May.

We are not charging for any of the events, but we are relying on your generosity to keep us going. For over a year now, musicians have been unable to work properly and earn a decent living. After facing such a challenging time for so long they need us more than ever. Any support that you give us makes a difference to them. **Please donate as you feel: every single gift makes a difference.**

Music in the Round is a registered charity no. 326811



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