

# MISHKA RUSHDIE MOMEN

Saturday 15 January

7.15pm

Crucible Studio Theatre, Sheffield

BACH Prelude & Fugue in C from the  
Well-Tempered Clavier, Book I

MOZART Fantasia in C minor K475

ROBERT SCHUMANN Ten Impromptus on a  
Theme by Clara Wieck Op.5

PROKOFIEV *Visions fugitives*

BYRD Fantasia in A minor

LIGETI Etude No.10 *Der Zauberlehrling*

SCHUBERT Fantasia in C *Wanderer Fantasy*

## JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH (1685-1850)

### Prelude & Fugue in C from the Well-Tempered Clavier, Book 1

This opening to the 48 Preludes and Fugues in every key was composed in 1722 when Bach was employed as Kappelmeister to Prince Leopold in Cöthen. On the title page of the manuscript, Bach explained his intentions as "for the profit and use of musical youth desirous of learning, and especially for the pastime of those already skilled in this study".

## WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART (1756-1791)

### Fantasia in C minor, K475

When Mozart first moved from Salzburg to live in Vienna, he was commissioned to arrange Bach's Well-Tempered Clavier for strings, to be performed in fashionable salons. This C minor Fantasia was composed at the same time, and there's clear influence of Mozart's immersion in JS Bach's music, but perhaps even more of Bach's son, Carl Philipp Emanuel.

## ROBERT SCHUMANN (1810-1856)

### Ten Impromptus on a Theme by Clara Wieck, Op.5

Clara Wieck was only 14 when she composed the *Romance variée* which she dedicated to Robert Schumann. Robert immediately returned the compliment with these Ten Impromptus that use Clara's *Romance* as their starting point. Clara and Robert were married in 1840, a union that created the greatest musical power couple of the 19th century.

## SERGEI PROKOFIEV (1891-1953)

### *Visions fugitives*, Op.22

During the First World War, Prokofiev composed more prolifically than at any other point in his life, perhaps as a diversion from the terrifying rumblings of Revolution. These 20 miniatures for piano date from that time, and he first performed them privately for

the poet Konstantin Balmont, who was so impressed that on the spot he improvised this poem:

*In every fugitive vision*

*I see whole worlds: They change endlessly,  
Flashing in playful rainbow colours.*

**Interval of 20 minutes**

## WILLIAM BYRD (c.1543-1623)

### Fantasia in A minor

Next to nothing is known of William Byrd's life until his appointment as organist and choirmaster at Lincoln Cathedral in 1563. A decade later he was appointed organist at the Chapel Royal and became a central figure in Protestant life in Elizabethan England. In the later decades of his life, Byrd moved to the Essex village of Standon Massey, where he wrote some of his most adventurous and radical works for keyboard, such as this Fantasia in A minor, part of a collection that was published to celebrate the marriage of King James I's daughter Princess Elizabeth.

## GYÖRGY LIGETI (1923-2006)

### Etude No.10 *Der Zauberlehrling*

Ligeti's 18 Etudes were composed between 1985 and 2001, and have become some of the most frequently performed piano works by any composer in the last half century. Ligeti once explained his approach to composing for piano: "I lay my ten fingers on the keyboard and imagine music. ... The result sounds completely different from my initial conceptions: the anatomical reality of my hands and the configuration of the piano keyboard have transformed my imaginary constructs." *Der Zauberlehrling* (*The Sorcerer's Apprentice*), comes from the second book of Etudes published in 1994. It's dedicated to the pianist Pierre-Laurent Aimard, who premiered nearly all of the later Etudes and was the first to record the complete cycle.

## FRANZ SCHUBERT (1797-1828)

### Fantasia in C *Wanderer Fantasy*

Like Schubert's famous *Trout Quintet*, this *Fantasia* in four movements also uses a melody from one of his own songs, in this case 'The Wanderer', a setting of a poem by Georg Lubeck:

*I come from the mountains;  
the valley steams, the ocean roars.  
I wander, silent and joyless,  
and my sighs for ever ask: Where?*

## MISHKA RUSHDIE MOMEN

Mishka Rushdie Momen was *The Times Arts* critics' chosen nominee in the field of classical music for their 2021 Breakthrough Award. This award is given by Sky Arts and The South Bank Show, who profiled her for an episode of the programme broadcast in July 2020.

Highlights of recent and future performances include two solo recitals at Wigmore Hall, concertos with BBC National Orchestra of Wales, Mozarteum Orchester Salzburg, tours with Orchestre National d'île de France and Britten Sinfonia, and recitals at the Lucerne Festival, Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall and Philadelphia Chamber Music Society. Four recitals with Steven Isserlis were streamed and broadcast live from Wigmore Hall during the 2020/21 season.

Her debut solo recording, 'Variations', was released in October 2019 by SOMM Recordings, a programme centred around linked works by Robert and Clara Schumann, Mendelssohn and Brahms. She also appears on the same label as one of the soloists in Mozart's Triple Concerto with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. Her playing has been broadcast on BBC Radio and Television, Classic FM, Sky Arts, France Musique and New York's WQXR.

Committed to performing new music, Mishka Rushdie Momen has commissioned works by Nico Muhly and Vijay Iyer (both for *Variations*), and Heloise Werner for

the Lucerne Festival, kindly supported by the I&I Foundation.

She studied with Joan Havill and Imogen Cooper at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. She also studied periodically with Richard Goode, and at the Kronberg Academy with Sir András Schiff. This study was generously funded by the Henle Foundation.

## 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 and presenting the Sheffield Chamber Music Festival each year at our home venue, the Crucible Studio, and concert series across the city and South Yorkshire. Our events 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.

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