



Fishguard  
**Festival of Music**  
**Gŵyl Gerdd**  
Abergwaun

## Enigma Duo

**Laurence Kempton**  
violin

**Katherine Thomas**  
harp | telyn  
triple harp | telyn deires

Capel Bethel, Abergwaun | Bethel Chapel, Fishguard

Wednesday 23 August | Nos Fercher 23 Awst

<b>Handel</b>	<i>Violin Sonata No.4 in D major, Op 1 No.13, HWV 371</i>
<b>Saints-Saëns</b>	<i>Fantaisie for Violin &amp; Harp, Op 124</i>
<b>Arr. Enigma Duo</b>	<i>Tangos Canciones</i>
	Interval   Egwyl
<b>Grieg</b>	<i>Lyric Pieces, Op 43 No.6 'To the Spring'</i>
<b>Grieg</b>	<i>Violin Sonata in G major, Op 13</i>
<b>Drdla</b>	<i>Fantasie über Carmen, Op 66</i>

Enigma Duo's reflections on this evening's music:

Our recital opens with the beautiful D Major Sonata by Handel, KV 371. It begins with a slow movement intriguingly marked *Affetuoso*, followed by an exuberant *Allegro*, a poignant *Larghetto*, and a dancelike, carefree *Finale*. This music is wonderful to play, full of dramatic contrast as tender intimacy is juxtaposed with unabashed joy.

Next, we play the *Fantaisie* for violin and harp by Saint-Saëns. In one continuous movement, this takes us on a meandering odyssey, searching through unquiet emotions culminating in an extraordinary *passacaglia* before a final peaceful reconciliation. This is one of the few pieces actually composed for our specific instruments, so for once we don't need piles of manuscript paper for the endless re-writes, adaptations and logistical problem solving, as we together search for what a composer may have written if we had been there at the moment of creativity and inspiration.

Such a process informed our next piece; *Tangos Canciones*, a fusing of narrative sung tangos by Piazzola and Gardel, as possibly told by Scheherezade, the greatest story-teller in our field of classical music.

After the interval, we come to the music of Grieg. Katherine plays his lovely lyric piece 'To the Spring', a tentative invocation which becomes a song of thanks for bright times ahead after a long dark winter.

This leads us to Grieg's 2nd Violin Sonata in G. A haunting dreamlike opening awakens to a lively folk-like *Allegro* incorporating Norwegian Hardanger fiddle techniques. The central slow movement is shy and understated, though seems to possess undercurrents of some unacknowledged turmoil and struggle. The final *Allegro* is full of joy and feverish excitement, bringing the piece to a triumphant end.

We finish our programme with dances from Drdla's *Carmen Fantasy*. This is music of great virtuosity; as the music accelerates in a crescendo of excitement, the flying fingers and bow mirror the swirling tempestuous gypsies' display.

## ENIGMA DUO



**Laurence Kempton** violin

**Katherine Thomas** harp

The Enigma Duo have been dazzling audiences for decades with thrilling performances of established repertoire as well as their own unique arrangements and compositions. After numerous concerto and recital performances throughout the country, Laurence met Katherine in 1995 whilst working with the orchestra of Welsh National Opera. Realising immediately that they shared an appreciation for the passion and humility that music evokes, they decided to form the Enigma Duo. Katherine is currently the Principal Harpist of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, and is renowned for her compelling performances of sparkling wit and sincerity. The Duo are about to record the Sonatas of Franck, Grieg and Dvořák, and other future plans include concerts with the Enigma Ensemble; our exciting new venture, commissioning works from composers who share our vision and love for music.

We are grateful to our Friends, Patrons and Sponsors (both named and anonymous) without whose support the staging of this Festival would not be possible.

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