



Fishguard
Festival of Music
Gŵyl Gerdd
Abergwaun

Claire Booth
soprano

Nicky Spence
tenor

Andrew Matthews-Owen
piano

Neuadd y Dderwen, Rhosygilwen

Wednesday 30 August | Nos Fercher 30 Awst

"Since She Whom I Loved"

Life, love and loss are explored and celebrated through a special friendship and some of the greatest songs ever written

THE CAFE

Ned Rorem	<i>'Early in the Morning'</i>
Jonathan Dove	<i>'All You Who Sleep Tonight': No.4, "Prandial Plant"</i>

"I'VE SEEN SOMEONE ..."

Robert Schumann	<i>'Frauenliebe und Leben', Op 42 No.1, 'Seit ich ihn gesehen' (Since first I saw him)</i>
Robert Schumann	<i>'Frauenliebe und Leben', Op 42 No.2, 'Er, der Herrlichste von allen' (He, most wonderful of all)</i>
Benjamin Britten	<i>'Fancie'</i>

"I'VE MET SOMEONE TOO ..."

Nathan J Dearden	<i>First Song</i>
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THE TEXT

Robert Schumann	<i>'Frauenliebe und Leben', Op 42 No.3, 'Ich kann's nicht fassen, nicht glauben' (I cannot believe it, grasp it)</i>
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THE RING

Nathan J Dearden	<i>Second Song, 'Diamonds'</i>
Robert Schumann	<i>'Frauenliebe und Leben', Op 42 No.4, 'Du Ring an meinem Finger' (You, ring on my finger)</i>

THE WEDDING DAY

Robert Schumann	<i>'Frauenliebe und Leben', Op 42 No.5, 'Helft mir, ihr Schwestern' (Help me, my sisters)</i>
M.W. Balfe	<i>'Trust Her Not'</i>
Jonathan Dove	<i>Adelaide's aria from 'The Enchanted Pig'</i>

INTERVAL | EGWYL

INTERVAL | EGWYL

Benjamin Britten

'Since She Whom I Loved'

NEW LIFE

Robert Schumann

'Frauenliebe und Leben', Op 42 No.6, 'Süßer Freund, du blickest' (Sweet friend, you look)

Leonard Bernstein

'The Greeting'

Robert Schumann

'Frauenliebe und Leben', Op 42 No.7, 'An meinem Herzen, an meiner Brust' (In my heart, on my breast)

SOMETHING ISN'T RIGHT

Stephen Hough

'Radical Hope'

Francis Poulenc

'Fancy'

Nathan J Dearden

Songs 3 and 4

PARTING

Jennifer Higdon

'Breaking'

Jonathan Dove

'Soon'

YOU, MY WORLD!

Robert Schumann

'Frauenliebe und Leben', Op 42 No.8, 'Nun hast du mir den ersten Schmerz getan' (Now you have caused me my first pain)

Nathan J Dearden

'Postlude' (Chamisso poem not set by Schumann) leading to:

Robert Schumann

'Frauenliebe und Leben', Op 42, Postlude

Aaron Copland

'The World Feels Dusty'

Aaron Copland

'At the River'

Claire Booth soprano

“An actor-singer who can raise the dramatic heat as soon as she enters the stage” (Opera Now), “that most questing, resourceful and intelligent of sopranos” (Daily Telegraph), British soprano Claire Booth has been widely acclaimed for her “radiant, rapturous, wonderfully nuanced performances” and her voice of “piercing purity [and] luscious richness” (The Scotsman). She is renowned for her breadth of repertoire, and for the vitality and musicianship that she brings to the operatic stage and



concert platform, with a versatility that encompasses repertoire spanning from Monteverdi and Handel, through Rossini, Berg and Britten, to a fearless commitment to the music of the present day

Booth's plans for the 2023/24 season include performances of Berg's *'Seven Early Songs'* with the National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland and Prague Radio Symphony Orchestra in collaboration with Jessica Cottis, and her first performances of Strauss' *'Four Last Songs'* with the Nordwestdeutsche Philharmonie and Sinfonica de Galicia under Jonathon Heyward's direction. She maintains her regular connections with Wigmore Hall, in a memorial concert for Sir Harrison Birtwistle with the Nash Ensemble, and Britten Pears Arts, returning once again as course director for the Composition and Performance Residency, and performing one of her signature pieces, Schoenberg's iconic *'Pierrot Lunaire'*, at the Aldeburgh Festival. She also marks Schoenberg's 125th anniversary year with a recording of his lesser known songs with pianist Christopher Glynn.

Engagements from recent seasons include the title role in Handel's *'Berenice'* for the Royal Opera House's first production of the opera since its 1737 Covent Garden premiere, Nitocris in Handel's *Belshazzar* for the Grange Festival, Stravinsky's *'Pulcinella'* with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, Vivier's *'Lonely Child'* with Ilan Volkov and the London Sinfonietta, critically acclaimed recordings of songs by Mussorgsky, Grieg and Percy Grainger, Tippett's *'A Child of Our Time'* with the City of Birmingham Symphony at Hamburg's Elbphilharmonie, George Benjamin's *'A Mind of Winter'* with the Hong Kong Philharmonic, and the world premiere of Alex Woolf's *'A Feast in the Time of Plague'* for Grange Park Opera.

Booth's diverse discography includes Grainger Folksongs and Grieg lieder (hailed as BBC's Disc of the Month in January 2020), with Christopher Glynn for Avie Records, Wigglesworth's *'Augenlieder'* with the Hallé, Lucia in Britten's *'The Rape of Lucretia'* for Decca, and the melodies of Debussy and Faure with Andrew Matthews-Owen (CD of the Year 2019 for Classical Source). Other recordings include John Eccles' *'The Judgement of Paris'* with Christian Curnyn's Early Opera Company and works by Webern, Knussen, Alexander Goehr, Jonathan Dove, Augusta Read Thomas and Mussorgsky.

Nicky Spence tenor

Winner of the BBC Musician Magazine Personality of the Year 2022, Opera Singer Nicky Spence is an artist and broadcaster of great integrity and one of Scotland's proudest sons. Nicky was made an OBE in the King's inaugural Birthday Honours in 2023 for services to Music.

Nicky was schooled locally in Dumfries and Galloway before receiving a scholarship to the Guildhall School. During his training, he won a record contract with Decca Records before taking a place at the National Opera Studio and latterly a position at the English National Opera as one of their inaugural Harewood Artists.

Nicky is prized for his portrayal of Janáček roles and is fulfilling his exciting potential as a Heldentenor having recently made his role debut as *'Parsifal'* with the Hallé Orchestra under Sir Mark Elder. Nicky has recorded prolifically and is a regular featured recitalist at the Wigmore Hall, London though he can mostly be found on the International stages of Opera de Paris, Covent Garden and the Metropolitan Opera, New York. In 2020, he won both the BBC Music Magazine Vocal Award and Gramophone's Solo Vocal Award for his critically acclaimed recording of Janáček's vocal work *'The Diary of One who Disappeared'* with Julius Drake.

Recent operatic successes include his debut at the Deutsche Staatsoper as Albert Gregor in *'Vec Makropulos'* his debut as Siegmund in a new production of *'Die Walküre'* for the English National Opera directed by Richard Jones, Laca in Claus Guth's new production of *'Jenůfa'* at the Royal Opera, and Eric in *'Der Fliegende Holländer'* alongside Bryn Terfel for Grange Park Opera.



Upcoming appearances include a series of concerts with Jakub Hrůša in Janáček's *'The Eternal Gospel'* (Santa Cecilia, Rome / l'Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France), his role debut as Loge in a new Wagner Ring for La Monnaie with Romeo Castellucci, *'Jenůfa'* in concert with the LSO and Sir Simon Rattle, an artist's residency at Ryedale Festival and return visits to The Metropolitan Opera, Covent Garden, Opéra National de Paris and the Glyndebourne Festival.

Nicky is using his space to bring more people to classical music than ever before and recently presented an acclaimed run of TV programmes: *'Anyone can sing'* and *'Sing When You're Winning'* (Sky Arts), and is host of the English National Opera's new podcast, *Opera Actually*. Considered a force for good in the classical music world, Nicky is President Elect for the Independent Society of Musicians, an official Ambassador for the charity Help Musicians UK and patron for the Scottish Opera Young Company. Nicky gives masterclasses internationally and is a visiting professor at both the Royal Academy of Music and the Royal College of Music, London.

Andrew Matthews-Owen piano

Described as “an immaculate accompanist” (BBC Music Magazine) who creates recital programmes and recordings that are “beautifully curated” (BBC Music Magazine), Welsh pianist Andrew Matthews-Owen enjoys a busy career partnering some of the outstanding artists of our time on the concert platform, on commercial recordings and broadcasts and as a vocal coach.

Specialising in vocal accompaniment, Andrew has partnered singers including Patricia Bardon, Susan Bickley, Claire Booth, Susan Bullock, Lucy Crowe, Anne Sophie Duprels, Rebecca Evans, Helen Field, Natalya Romaniw, Nicky Spence, Elin Manahan Thomas, Katie Van Kooten and Sir Willard White, at venues including the Southbank Centre (QEH and Purcell Room), Wigmore Hall, Kings Place, St John's Smith Square, National Portrait Gallery, Birmingham Symphony Hall, St David's Hall and festivals including Cheltenham, Chichester and Cambridge Summer Music. He has also performed with French horn player Richard Watkins, percussionist Joby Burgess and the Allegri Quartet.



Andrew has a passionate commitment to contemporary music, giving first performances of scores by many composers, most notably Michael Berkeley, Charlotte Bray, Laurence Crane, Jonathan Dove, Alun Hoddinott, Simon Holt, Hannah Kendall, Joseph Phibbs, Arlene Sierra and Augusta Read Thomas.

Andrew's critically acclaimed discography for the Naxos, NMC, BMS and Nimbus labels includes diverse repertoire from Debussy, Fauré and Satie to Jonathan Dove, Alun Hoddinott, Charlotte Bray, Dobrinka Tabakova and Joseph Phibbs. The discs have been in the Classical Charts and are often broadcast on BBC Radio 3 and Classic FM.

Andrew studied at the Royal Academy of Music, where he has been elected an honorary associate, supported by the RAM Trust, S4C Wales Television, Coutt's Bank and Sir Edward Heath. His teachers have included Eugene Asti, Christine Croshaw, Roger Vignoles and Andrew West.

Andrew is the recipient of numerous prizes and awards including the Sir Henry Richardson Award for Accompanists, Elisabeth Schumann Lieder Prize, John Ireland Trust Prize and the Ryan Davies Memorial Award. Andrew is a Fellow of the Royal Society of the Arts, and received the Outstanding Achievement in Music in Wales award from the Welsh Music Guild.

A fascination with the psychology of learning has led to Andrew developing a reputation as an innovative teacher and coach. He is currently on the professorial staff at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance in London.

Cerddorfa WNO Orchestra

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EGLWYS GADEIRIOL TYDDEWI
ST DAVIDS CATHEDRAL

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Fishguard Festival of Music
Gŵyl Gerdd Abergwaun
2024

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