



Somerville Music Society

Friday Lunchtime Recital Series, 12 November 2010

Ruth Hopkins, soprano

Tristan Mitchard, piano

John Ireland (1879-1962)

What art thou thinking of?

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

Vedrai, carino (from *Don Giovanni*)

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Blute nur, du liebes Herz (from *Matthäus-Passion*, BWV 244)

Ich folge dir gleichfalls (from *Johannes-Passion*, BWV 245)

Henri Duparc (1848-1933)

Extase

Franz Schubert (1779-1828)

Frühlingsglaube

Jules Massenet (1842-1912)

Adieu, notre petite table

Giuseppe Verdi (1813-1901)

Saper vorreste (from *Un ballo in maschera*)

Ruth Hopkins, soprano

Ruth Hopkins read Music at Somerville College where she was President of the Music Society. On graduation, she secured funding to do a Masters at Royal Holloway working with Nicholas Cook and Jim Samson, specialising in the music of women composers. She then went on to work as a headhunter in London before continuing professional vocal training last year.

Ruth started out as an instrumentalist, learning violin, flute and piano. As a child she performed extensively with orchestras in major concert venues in the UK and Europe and worked with soloists including Julian Lloyd Webber and Crispin Steele Perkins. She also forayed into the world of Jazz, playing piano live on Jazz Radio Berlin.

Ruth's love for singing was fostered at Oxford University, where she held a Choral Bursary at Worcester College and sang with the New Chamber Opera. She also sang in the Oxford Summer Opera Festival, Commotio contemporary chamber choir and Somerville Choir under Francis Knights. Ruth worked as a dep, touring with other choirs including Keble College Choir and has been a soloist for several professional recordings.

Ruth has won numerous scholarships including the Dame Felicity Lott Bursary, Kathleen Nixon Award, Margaret Pollock Scholarship and Joan Conway Scholarship. This facilitated performing in master classes with Emma Kirkby and James Gilchrist, as well as funding a diploma in Operatic Performance at Birkbeck College. Operatic roles performed have included Juno (*La Calisto*), Romilda (*Xerxes*), Alcina (*Alcina*), the Sandman (*Hänsel und Gretel*), 2nd Lady (*Die Zauberflöte*) and Susanna (*Le nozze di Figaro*).

Currently a postgraduate at Birmingham Conservatoire, Ruth studies with Christine Cairns and is coached by Robin Bowman, Stephen Barlow, Richard Jackson, Helen Yorke and Jane Robinson. She was one of two singers to reach the final of the Delius Society Prize in 2010 and has premiered many contemporary compositions under Chi Hoe Mak with Icarus Choir and as a soloist including "A spark lights the void within" by George Holloway. She also jointly founded Syrinx Chamber Choir and Fourtunes Quartet.

This year Ruth has won a place on Birmingham School of Acting's Advanced Stage Course, where she is currently working on the role of Hedda Gabler in Ibsen's play. She has also benefited from drama coaching with RADA's Sebastian Harcombe and ROH's Elaine Kidd.

Ruth's other interests include dancing and world music. She enjoys performance art and has studied tap dancing as well as salsa, ballroom and belly dancing. She plays a variety of indigenous instruments from the Bolivian Andes with which she has performed and danced at the Brighton Early Music Festival.



Tristan Mitchard, piano

With performances across the world hailed as 'brilliant' (*Oxford Times*), 'phenomenal' (Gedächtniskirche, Berlin) 'captivating' (*Daily Info*), and 'extremely well appreciated' (*Il Cittadino di Lodi*), 20-year old Tristan Mitchard is 'one of the world's hottest young talents' (*GT magazine*). In a recent interview he said enjoys 'pushing the boundaries of what is possible on the organ' and 'wants to reverse the trend of young people not taking it up'.

Tristan has performed in many of the world's major venues including at the Basilica di San Marco and the Cathedrals of Berlin and Brandenburg, and throughout Italy, Germany, France and the UK. In London he has played at the National Film Theatre and the Royal Albert Hall for the Classical Brit Awards. In December Tristan is playing recitals at four Cathedrals in Australia. In 2011 he is due to appear in Switzerland, Germany and Israel.

Aged seven Tristan won a scholarship to Oxford University as a choirboy in New College Choir, where he recorded five CDs and toured Japan, the Czech Republic, France, Italy, Holland, Spain, Poland and in Germany. In 2003 he was awarded the Major Music Scholarship to Abingdon School. Aged fifteen Tristan was appointed Organist at Pembroke College, Oxford, as well as gaining the first of his three professional ABRSM Performance Diplomas. At school he also achieved ABRSM Distinctions at Grade VIII on six different instruments, won the Frances Kitching Award for the Thames Valley region, and toured Beijing and Hong Kong. Tristan was awarded the Associate of the Royal College of Organists (ARCO) aged just seventeen, at the same age as winning an Organ Scholarship to Oxford University to read Music at Somerville College.

As an accompanist in 2010 Tristan performed with the renowned violinist Wolfgang David in concert in London, in France with the cellist Béatrice Bouguin, and in Lord Dyson's home. He has accompanied all the major choral works (including complete Finzi with the 'Syred Consort' in May 2010 at Dorchester Abbey), and is also répétiteur for the chamber choir 'Jubilate!'.

Tristan featured in *Hello!* magazine when a choirboy, and since then in the *Sunday Times*, Oxford Fashion Week, and *GT magazine*. He regularly sings countertenor for New College Choir (and was invited to appear on its most recent CD), Magdalen College Choir, Queens College Choir, and Christ Church Cathedral Choir (becoming its youngest Lay Clerk in 2009-10), all in Oxford. Tristan is a keen footballer, often plays classical and jazz piano for concerts and wedding receptions, and also presents a radio show on Oxide where he has interviewed Martin Sheen, Alan Johnston, Andrew Neil, Scott Mills, Richard Schiff and Howard Goodall. Tristan studied with David Sanger, the former President of the Royal College of Organists.

Website: <http://concert-organist.com>

Next Recital

Friday, 19th November 2010, 1:15pm, Somerville College Chapel
Schubert: String Quintet in C major (Gragnani Quartet and Tim Coombes)