

Next Concert – Clare Hammond

Saturday 9th April 2022 @7:30pm, Gibson Hall, Dollar FK14 7DU

This season's solo pianist is another stellar concert performance name. Clare Hammond is recognised as one of the foremost interpreters of several composers. She regularly performs on BBC Radio 3 in a variety of roles, from solo performer, alongside orchestras and in chamber ensembles.

Recognised for the virtuosity and authority of her performances, Clare is a multiple award winner and has also appeared in feature films.

This will be one to savour!

“pianist of extraordinary gifts” (Gramophone)

“shimmering pianism and lightly-worn virtuosity” (BBC Music Magazine)

<https://clarehammond.com/>

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Prodanova Ritivoiu Duo

Sunday 6th March 2022, 3:00pm
Gibson Hall, Dollar Academy FK14 7DU



Our pre-concert performance *TBC*.

Prodanova Ritivoiu Duo

Yoanna Prodanova (cello) and Mihai Ritivoiu (piano) are Tunnell Trust winners from last year. Their repertoire spans many of the great Romantic era classics (eg Schumann, Mendelssohn, Faure), alongside works from the 20th century.

Cellist **Yoanna Prodanova** was born in Varna, Bulgaria and completed her studies in 2019 at the Royal Academy of Music in London where she was a Bicentenary Scholar on the prestigious Advanced Diploma course, after Bachelor and Masters degrees at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. Yoanna has performed with several leading orchestras.

In 2019 she gave her recital debut in Switzerland at the Studio Ernest Ansermet where she played the Swiss premiere of Valentin Gheorghiu's Sonata for cello and piano with her duo partner Mihai Ritivoiu. Yoanna's debut album including works by Janacek, Fauré and Chopin with Mihai Ritivoiu was released in 2020 on the Linn Records label. She has also recorded the Brahms clarinet trio with Joseph Shiner and Somi Kim for Orchid Records.

Yoanna's awards include The Philip and Dorothy Green Award for Young Artists (2016), the Sylva Gelber Award (2017, 2018), Tunnell Trust Award (2019) and the First prize at the International Joachim Competition in Weimar with her string quartet, the Barbican Quartet. Her most important cello mentors have been, in chronological order: Daniela Kirilova, Denis Brott, Louise Hopkins, Rebecca Gilliver, Richard Lester and Hannah Roberts.

Pianist **Mihai Ritivoiu** is the winner of the Dinu Lipatti National Competition in 2010 and of numerous international competitions, including the George Enescu Competition in 2011 (Bucharest), the Tunbridge Wells International Youth Competition in 2014 and the Citta di Cantu International Competition in 2018. He was awarded the gold medal at the Beethoven Piano Society of Europe Intercollegiate Competition in London. He has performed with many leading orchestras. Graduated with the highest distinction from the National University of Music in Bucharest and the Guildhall School of Music & Drama in London, Mihai studied with Professors Viniciu Moroianu and Joan Havill.

In addition to his solo recitals and concerto appearances, Mihai has a rich chamber music activity, most notably as duo partner of the cellist Yoanna Prodanova. Their duo has performed in the UK, France and The Netherlands, and they have been invited to festivals such as Les Rencontres de Violoncelle de Belaye, Alderney International Chamber Music Festival, Orkney International Festival and Buxton International Festival.

"it was refreshing to hear late Beethoven in the hands of such a distinguished young duo" Christopher Axworthy

Programme

Debussy Sonata in D minor

The sonata for cello and piano, L135, was written in 1915 as the first of an intended 6 part sonata chamber music cycle, for various instruments. The cycle was never completed, the composer's death in 1918 leaving it half complete.

1. Prologue: Lent, sostenuto e molto risoluto
2. Sérénade: Modérément animé
3. Finale: Animé, léger et nerveux

The two final movements are joined by an attacca. The piece is in the style of the 18th century monothematic sonata, influenced by the music of François Couperin.

The piece makes use of modes and whole-tone and pentatonic scales, as is typical of Debussy's style. It also uses many types of extended cello technique, including left-hand pizzicato, spiccato and flautando bowing, false harmonics and portamenti.

Schubert Sonata in A minor Arpeggione

Written in Vienna in Nov 1824, The sonata is the only substantial composition for the arpeggione (which was essentially a bowed guitar, invented in 1823) extant today.

1. Allegro moderato
2. Adagio in E major
3. Allegretto in A major

Interval

Chopin Selection from Polish Songs Op 74

Chopin wrote these songs at various times, from perhaps as early as 1827 when he was 17, to 1847, two years before his death. Only two of them were published in his lifetime. In 1857 they were collected as a set of 17 under Op 74. In 1910 2 further songs were added.

All but one of the texts of the Chopin songs were original poems by his Polish contemporaries, with most of whom he was personally acquainted.

Dohnanyi Sonata in B flat major Op 8

Ernst von Dohnanyi (1877-1960) is generally regarded, after Liszt, as Hungary's most versatile musician. He was active as a concert pianist, composer, conductor and teacher and must be considered one of the chief influences on Hungary's musical life in the 20th century. The cello sonata dates from 1899.

1. Allegro ma non troppo
2. Scherzo: Vivace assai
3. Adagio non troppo
4. Tema con variazioni (Allegro moderato)