



Cambridge University Orchestra
Saturday 20 November, 7.30pm
WEST ROAD CONCERT HALL

Ruth Gipps Song for Orchestra, op.33

Rodrigo Concierto de Aranjuez

Brief Intermission - 10 minutes

Brahms Symphony No.2 in D major

Cambridge University Orchestra

Natalia Luis-Bassa conductor

Kevin Loh guitar (CUMS Concerto Competition 2020 joint-winner)

Violin I

Jacqueline Seki	<i>CL</i>
Tommaso Scimemi	<i>K</i>
Jeremy Weinstein	<i>JE</i>
Alexander Dawkins	<i>Q</i>
Sameer Aiyar-Majeed	<i>R</i>
Sophie Rogan	<i>CAI</i>
Ella Fraser	<i>MUR</i>
Yao-Chih Kuo	<i>JN</i>
Ying Lo	<i>CL</i>
Lizzie Robbings	<i>HO</i>

Violin II

Alistair Burton	<i>CL</i>
Charlotte Howdle	<i>G</i>
Lottie Swainston	<i>EM</i>
Siân Ellis	<i>SE</i>
Victor Baycroft	<i>G</i>
Hannah Patterson	<i>JN</i>
Henrietta MacFarlane	<i>EM</i>

Viola

Julius Kiln	<i>CL</i>
Zoe Turoff	<i>K</i>
Louisa Clogston	<i>EM</i>
Justin Chen	<i>Q</i>
Ju Yi Tai	<i>CHR</i>
Robert Jones	<i>G</i>

Cello

Doraly Gill	<i>SS</i>
Sarah Henderson	<i>T</i>
Mika Curson	<i>JE</i>
Isabella Chan	<i>G</i>
Humphrey Allen	<i>JN</i>
Ted Perkin	<i>EM</i>

Double Bass

James Kiln	<i>T</i>
Ella Collier	<i>K</i>
Gregory May	<i>CL</i>
Jess Hoskins	<i>CL</i>

Oboe

Alice Rivers *G*
 Jennifer Ryan *JN*

Clarinet

Tom Myles *PEM*
 Iona Salter *CHR*
 Isidore Hiscock *PEM*

Bassoon

Emma Williams *K*
 Tim Tian *M*

Horn

Michael Kohn *PEM*
 Marina Mitchell *N*
 Jonathan Davies *PET*
 Georgia Burr *Q*

Trumpet

Rachel Armitage *G*
 Neve Mayes *TH*

Trombone

Lawrence Schofield *TH*
 Charlie Curtis *R*
 Maximilian Wiesmann *HH*

Tuba

Alistair Mathieson *PEM*

Timpani

George Wise *HO*

The Cambridge University Orchestra (CUO) returns to West Road for its first symphonic concert of the new season. The orchestra is joined by conductor Natalia Luis-Bassa, professor of conducting at the Royal College of Music, as well as guitarist Kevin Loh, joint-winner of the CUMS 2020 Concerto Competition and undergraduate student at Girton College.

Ruth Gipps' Song for Orchestra was composed in 1948 and is a short tone poem for orchestra. Whilst retaining some qualities of her mentor, Ralph Vaughan Williams, this rarely performed composition presents a strong personal voice from Gipps, one that would permeate throughout the rest of her oeuvre.

Rodrigo's Concierto de Aranjuez is by far the composer's best-known work, and its popularity has cemented his reputation as one of the most significant Spanish composers of the 20th century. Infused with flamenco rhythms and dances in the outer movements, the middle movement gives way to perhaps one of the most beautiful yet mournful melodies in the repertoire.

Compared to the 21 year composition period of his First Symphony, Brahms' 2nd was composed in a matter of months during a summer holiday in 1877. Its bright and pastoral mood often invites comparison with Beethoven's Sixth Symphony. From the lulling opening notes of the first movement to the sprawling cello melody of the slow movement; the perky oboe of the third movement to the rushing strings of the finale, this cornerstone work of the orchestral repertoire is sure to delight!

Natalia Luis-Bassa

Natalia is a dynamic conductor and a passionate advocate for young musicians' education, forming partnerships with many institutions like the National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain, National Youth Orchestra of Scotland, Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, Leeds College of Music, Oasby Music Group and most recently with the Benedetti Foundation amongst others. She is also a record breaker as the first person to obtain a degree in Orchestral Conducting in her native country of Venezuela.

After completing her postgraduate studies at the Royal College of Music in London, she held the RCM Junior Fellowship in Opera Conducting for two years. Her relationship with the RCM continues to this day as she is a Professor of Conducting there.

Natalia holds a Master's degree from the University of Huddersfield where she is a part-time lecturer and has been appointed Elgar Ambassador.

Promoting the conducting craft for young people has been a highlight of her career and she has held many successful workshops around the country.

Kevin Loh

Born in Singapore, Kevin Loh is one of the leading classical guitarists of his generation, having won many international awards, including the Cambridge University Musical Society Concerto Competition and, in 2020, the London International Guitar Competition. Kevin has performed at Wigmore Hall, London, Konzerthaus Berlin and Suntory Hall, Tokyo. In 2013, he premièred the Guitar Concerto by Bernard Tan with the Singapore Symphony Orchestra. In 2019, as Singapore Symphony Orchestra's 'President's Young Performer', he performed the Concierto de Aranjuez by Joaquín Rodrigo.

Kevin is also passionate about giving back to society. He actively visits schools to share more about the guitar and music education. He also raises funds in Singapore and in the region for various charities and initiatives such as ChildAid, to provide opportunities for underprivileged children to have exposure in the arts.

Kevin studied with Richard Wright for seven years at the Yehudi Menuhin School in Britain. After finishing two years of mandatory military service in the Singapore Armed Forces, he is now pursuing his undergraduate degree in Music at Girton College, University of Cambridge as the College Music Scholar and a scholar of the Loke Cheng-Kim Foundation.

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Dates for your diary

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY ORCHESTRA

Saturday 22 January

King's College Chapel

Brahms Eine Deutsches Requiem

Dan Hyde conductor

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY ORCHESTRA

Saturday 19 February

West Road Concert Hall

Vaughan-Williams Five Variants of Dives and Lazarus

Sibelius Violin Concerto

Sibelius Symphony No.3

Jac van Steen conductor

Leo Appel violin (CUMS Concerto Competition 2020 joint winner)

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