



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS INTERNATIONAL CONCERT SERIES

Friday 24 February 2023
Clothworkers Centenary Concert Hall

Student Showcase

Lucy Pullan (clarinet)

Abigail Tuner (flute)

Joseph Edwards (baritone)

Naomi Simms (piano)

Benjamin Frampton (clarinet)

Daniel Gordon (piano)

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Programme

Performed by **Lucy Pullan** (clarinet) and **Daniel Gordon** (piano):
Caroline von Schleicher-Krähmer – Larghetto

Performed by **Abigail Tuner** (flute) and **Daniel Gordon** (piano):
Carl Reinecke – Ballade, op 288

Performed by **Joseph Edwards** (baritone) and **Daniel Gordon** (piano):
Benjamin Britten – Look Through the Port (from Billy Budd)

Performed by **Naomi Simms** (piano)
Sergei Rachmaninoff – Mélodie, op 3, no 3 (from Morceaux de Fantasia)

Performed by **Benjamin Frampton** (clarinet) and **Daniel Gordon** (piano):
Ida Gotkovsky – Images de Norvége
Francis Poulenc – Sonata for clarinet and piano
i. Allegro tristamente
ii. Romanza
iii. Allegro con fuoco

Programme Notes

Caroline von Schleicher-Krähmer – Larghetto

Larghetto is the first movement from a Sonatina by Caroline von Schleicher-Krähmer, which was first published in 1825. Schleicher-Krähmer (1794-1850) is the first (known) female solo clarinetist, and she was also a music director and teacher. She comes from a musical family, and also played violin and piano to a professional standard. She composed this sonatina for her students.

Carl Reinecke – Ballade, op 288

Carl Reinecke was born on 23rd June 1824 in Germany. He was taught music from an early age by his father who was a well-known theorist. He worked at the Leipzig Conservatory in numerous roles, and whilst he was there, he wrote many compositions including piano concertos, chamber music and some flute compositions, most famously *Undine*. *Ballade op 288* is the final piece he wrote and it was originally composed for solo flute and orchestra. It begins with an expansive romantic melody in D minor followed by a contrasting quick passage. It returns to the opening theme, finally modulating to D major.

Benjamin Britten – Look Through the Port (from Billy Budd)

Look Through The Port is a baritone aria from the opera Billy Budd, the 7th opera by Benjamin Britten (1913 – 1976). First performed in 1951, it tells the story of the hero Billy Budd and the great ship the H.M.S Indomitable during the French Revolutionary Wars. From the moment Billy is first recruited on the ship, the master-at-arms is immediately distrustful of him and consequently provokes Billy at every turn and suggests to the captain that he is starting a mutiny. In his anger of these accusations, the good-natured Billy strikes and kills Claggart, leaving the captain no choice but to give him a death sentence. This aria opens with Billy held prisoner on the gun deck at dawn, where he is contemplating his cruel death, before he is hanged at the end of Act II.

Sergei Rachmaninoff – Mélodie, op 3, no 3 (from Morceaux de Fantaisie)

Mélodie in E major is one of five miscellaneous pieces that Rachmaninoff published in a set for solo piano titled 'Morceaux de Fantaisie' (fantasy songs). They were written shortly after Rachmaninoff graduated from the Moscow Conservatory in 1892, and they are dedicated to his harmony teacher, Anton Arensky. Rachmaninoff performed the set for the first time at an exhibition in

Moscow in September 1892, but he received the most praise and critical acclaim for the second piece in the selection, Prélude in C sharp minor, which still is widely considered one of his most famous compositions. Mélodie features a dramatic, lyrical melody at the opening of the piece that returns towards the end at a pianissimo dynamic with the addition of 'bell-like' bass notes, after a climactic B section characterised by a swirling, chromatic accompaniment and a series of passing modulations prolonging the melody's final return. Rachmaninoff revised the work in 1940, just 3 years before he died, but the original composition is usually chosen for performance.

Ida Gotkovsky – Images de Norvège

Images de Norvège by Ida Gotkovsky, written in 1977 for clarinet and piano, is one of a collection of small chamber pieces written by Gotkovsky during the second half of the 20th Century. Gotkovsky is a professor of music theory at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique in France having been very successful in composition, winning six prestigious music awards.

Francis Poulenc – Sonata for clarinet and piano

Poulenc wrote his Sonata for Clarinet and Piano in 1962 and dedicated it in memory of Arthur Honegger. This piece is the final work in his collection of Sonatas for woodwind and piano and, in fact, the last piece he ever wrote, having passed away before receiving his editor's notes on the piece itself. The piece is split into three movements in which it somewhat resembles the traditional fast-slow-fast pattern of a traditional sonata. The first movement bears an interesting subtitle of Allegro Tristemente, which if you were to translate to its original meaning it would be read as 'happily sad'. This cements the tone of grief for his friend Honegger throughout this piece, with angry clarinet outbursts and sorrowful, disconsolate melody lines, with this piece ending with an abrupt passage from high to low tessitura of the instrument.

Biographies

Lucy Pullan is a second year joint honours Music and English student from North Yorkshire. She began playing clarinet around age eight, because she was too small to play saxophone. She quickly fell in love with playing music, and at age 11 she began teaching herself piano, and finally picked up the saxophone aged 14. Music became more and more important to her, playing in various orchestras and bands when growing up. She has performed in the Sage in Gateshead, as well as going on tour in Germany and Prague. She achieved her ARSM diploma on clarinet in 2021. As part of her degree, she studies performance on clarinet, her preferred instrument. Lucy loves being an active member of LUUMS and enjoys playing in pit bands whenever she possibly can. This year she plays clarinet in the symphony and symphonic wind orchestras, and saxophone in concert band.

Abigail Turner is a final year BA Music student at the University of Leeds. She grew up in Manchester and began learning the flute when she was nine years old. She later went on to learn the piano and at the age of 16 Abi started having singing lessons. It was at this point she started to take studying music more seriously and went on to sing with the Halle Youth Choir. Abi has always enjoyed performance and at University she currently takes part in the Leeds University Union Music Society (LUUMS) Symphony Orchestra, Symphonic Wind Orchestra and Chamber Choir. Last year she had the pleasure of conducting LUUMS Symphonic Choir and currently manages LUUMS Chamber Choir.

Joseph Edwards is a second year Music and Music Psychology student at University of Leeds, originally from Surrey. He has sung with a church choir in Surrey for 14 years, first as a treble and later as a bass which allowed him to perform in prestigious venues like St Paul's Cathedral. The choir has also gone on tours to Venice and Prague. In 2019, Joe achieved a distinction in his Grade 8 ABRSM exam. He is heavily involved in the choirs that make up LUUMS, including Chamber Choir, Symphonic Choir and Chorus. Aside from singing, Joe has been playing alto saxophone for 11 years, performing with the Symphonic Wind Orchestra here in LUUMS for 2 years. Since joining University of Leeds, Joe has been exploring the world of operatic music and enjoying the challenge of learning and performing an entirely new style of music.

Naomi Simms is a second year music and music psychology student from Bedfordshire. Since beginning violin lessons at the age of six and piano lessons from the age of eight, she has spent her musical life being involved in various school ensembles and playing in regional orchestras, such as the North Bedfordshire Youth Chamber Orchestra, and joining local orchestra courses in the holidays. At university, she has been able to accompany both a student choir and her friends on their solo instruments, as well as playing in pit bands. She is currently enjoying being part of the University's string orchestra, symphony orchestra, sinfonia and symphonic choir.

Benjamin Frampton is a third-year joint honours maths and music student from the Wirral. He started playing clarinet from the age of seven after being told that there were too many flutes so he should play clarinet instead. Throughout his time in education, Ben has been involved in a plethora of orchestras and ensembles playing clarinet and double bass. In 2019, he was lucky enough to be a member of the National Youth Orchestra of Wales on double bass, which furthered his musicianship. He's had further amazing opportunities such as performing at the Menin Gate in Ypres, as part of a Clarinet sextet. Currently, he is an esteemed member of the music society at the University of Leeds, being involved in many ensembles, which includes conducting the symphony orchestra this year, for which he has been labelled as "not bad."

Daniel Gordon is the Répétiteur of the University of Leeds (part-time). He is also the Accompanist and Assistant Chorusmaster of Huddersfield Choral Society, and Conductor of the Huddersfield Singers. He has worked with the Hallé Orchestra (piano), Black Dyke Band (organ and piano), the CBSO chorus (repetiteuring), Manchester Camerata (harpsichord and chamber organ), Westminster Abbey Choir (singing), Sheffield Philharmonic Chorus (honorary member), and many others.