

It's Christmas - AGAIN!

Alle Jahre wieder ... ist Weihnachten! Um Ihnen die Vorweihnachtszeit zu versüssen, möchten wir Sie am 3. Advent zu Weihnachtsmusik, Dresdner Stollen und Glühwein in die Helferei am Grossmünster einladen. Wir werden das Publikum auf unterhaltsame Weise, mit Musik aus ganz Europa, durch die Weihnachtgeschichte leiten. Es wird eine Mischung aus Klassik, traditionellen Weihnachtliedern und (nicht ganz so ernstzunehmenden) Chansons sein, mit dabei natürlich Bach, Händel und Brahms, aber auch Berlin, Poulenc, Rodrigo, Howells und andere.

> Susanne Mecklenburg – *Gesang* William Hancox – *Klavier* Juliet Shaxson – *Viola*

Susanne Mecklenburg - I came to singing rather late in life, consequently my vocal training did not follow the usual route. I grew up in a family where music was present in every day life, if not to professional standards, but it became part of the family's routine. I learned classical Spanish guitar at an early age but when I went to university to study natural sciences I took a break from music for some years. After moving to Zurich, a friend arranged a lesson with her singing teacher for me and from then on I sang in various music ensembles, for example colla 'voce, which I greatly enjoyed.



When I moved to England to follow my career I was introduced to Dartinaton International Summer School, where I met William Hancox, now my singing teacher and accompanist, with whom I have been studying ever since. His professionalism and enthusiasm to discover the different levels of

communication between voice and piano are a great joy and real inspiration. Our collaboration has changed my musical aspirations and I have gravitated towards singing as a soloist. We have successfully given a number of song recitals over the last years in Oxford, London, Rome and Zurich.

I like the luxury of creating my own concert programmes, centering an evening on a theme. The process often begins with one or two songs which mesmerise me to an extent that I have to find an 'excuse' to perform them, and so I begin by 'weaving' a tale around them. This often leads to unusual combinations of styles, composers, musical periods, geographical origins, rhythms, stories, lyrics etc but is always motivated by the desire to tell a story. The searching for and discovering of new repertoire is one of the most enjoyable parts of this process and often we include rarely performed songs in our programmes.

For further information: www.susannemecklenburg.info

Pianist William Hancox has performed as a solo pianist, chamber musician and accompanist throughout the UK and abroad. He has played in all London's major concert halls, and broadcast for Classic FM and the BBC.

His teaching activities have included positions at London's Guildhall School of Music and Drama, Trinity College of Music, the Britten-Pears School in Aldeburgh and visits to Iceland and China, where he taught, recorded and performed, as well as conducting master classes for accompanists and singers.

Recent concert activities have included duo recitals at the Cheltenham International Festival of Music and the Purcell Room on London's South Bank, giving world premieres of song cycles by Roxanna Panufnik and Richard Blackford and a second visit to China to perform Constant Lambert's Rio Grande in the Forbidden City Concert Hall in Beijing. A recent disc of contemporary music for cello and piano, in collaboration with international cello virtuoso Rohan de Saram, will be released in 2009.

Juliet Shaxson is a much sought-after musician who has established an international reputation, performing with major orchestras and chamber ensembles. After graduating from the Royal College of Music in London and winning First Prize for Viola, she joined the Symphony Orchestras of Constance and St. Gallen as Principle Viola. Since 2000 she has been a member of the Orchestra of the Zurich Opera House and the renowned Baroque orchestra, La Scintilla, and has travelled widely, giving concerts in Europe, the USA, South America, Africa and Australia.

Programm

Messiah Georg Friedrich Händel (1685 - 1759)He shall feed his flock Johann Sebastian Bach Magnificat D-Dur (1685 - 1750) Et exsultavit Swedish traditional Jul, jul, strålande jul I wonder as I wander John Jacob Niles (1892 - 1980)Celtic traditional Taladh Chriosta Terence Greaves Coventry Carol (1933 -) Francis Poulenc Nous voulons une petite sœur (1899 - 1963)Maurice Ravel Jeux d'eau / piano (1875 - 1937)Messiah If god be for us Georg Friedrich Händel (1685 - 1759) Come sing and dance Herbert Norman Howells (1892 - 1983)Grosse Messe in C-Moll Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756 - 1791) Laudamus te Claude Debussy L'île joyeuse / piano (1862 - 1918)Gioacchino Rossini Scherzo / piano & viola (1792 - 1868)Paul Ben-Haim Three songs without words

(1897 - 1984)

Johannes Brahms (1833 - 1897)

Eduardo Toldrá (1895 - 1962)

Joaquin Rodrigo (1901 - 1999)

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 - 1750)

- I. Ballad
- II. Sephardic Melody

Zwei Gesänge

- I. Gestillte Sehnsucht
- II. Geistliches Wiegenlied

Cantarcillo

Coplillas de Belen

Weihnachtsoratorium Bereite Dich Zion