

SALISBURY
INTERNATIONAL
ARTS FESTIVAL
PART OF WILTSHIRE CREATIVE

27 MAY – 18 JUNE

2022



SOLITUDE ANNA TILBROOK & JAMES GILCHRIST

St Martin's Church, Salisbury
Thursday 9 June 2022 | 7.45pm

James Gilchrist describes solitude as 'A state of being that we need, that perhaps we overlook too easily, that is harder to achieve and harder to endure and understand than we expect'.

Henry Purcell's *O! Solitude, my sweetest choice* (in the arrangement by Benjamin Britten) focuses on the peace found in the meditative state of solitude and the pain felt at being separated from loved ones.

Schubert's *Einsamkeit* represents solitude as an important theme in the German romantic tradition: yearning for homeland, the lonely wanderer and separated lovers appear again and again in the poetry, prose, and music of this era.

In *Under Alter'd Skies*, Jonathan Dove explores the unwanted solitude of grief and loss. The cycle sets excerpts of *In Memoriam*, Alfred Lord Tennyson's response to the sudden death of his friend Arthur Hallam.

Samuel Barber's *Hermit Songs* are settings of the marginal jottings of mediaeval Irish monks as they copied or illuminated manuscripts. These extraordinary texts show the anonymous men, who chose a life of solitude and devotion to God, to be every bit as human as the rest of us!

Programme

Purcell (arr Benjamin Britten)

O! Solitude

Schubert

Einsamkeit

Jonathan Dove

Under Alter'd Skies

Barber

Hermit Songs

This concert does not include an interval.

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About the artists

ANNA TILBROOK – Piano

Anna Tilbrook has collaborated with many leading singers and instrumentalists including James Gilchrist, Ian Bostridge, Lucy Crowe, Mary Bevan, Sophie Bevan, Barbara Hannigan, Sir John Tomlinson, Nicholas Daniel, Michael Collins, Natalie Clein, Philip Dukes, Jack Liebeck, Guy Johnston, Laura van der Heijden and the Fitzwilliam, Carducci, Sacconi, Elias and Barbirolli string quartets. Since her debut at Wigmore Hall in 1999 she has become a regular artist at all the major concert halls and festivals. She has also accompanied José Carreras, Angela Gheorghiu and Bryn Terfel in televised concerts.

Recent performances include Concertgebouw Amsterdam and Carnegie Hall New York with Lucy Crowe, Wigmore Hall, St John's Smith Square, deSingel Antwerp, Alte Oper Frankfurt, Anima Mundi Pisa, Wroclaw Cantans, appearances at the Edinburgh, Aldeburgh, Cheltenham, Oxford Lieder, West Cork and Savannah (Georgia) Chamber Music festivals and curating three series of concerts for the BBC.

In 2022 Anna and James Gilchrist celebrate 25 years as a duo partnership. They have made a series of acclaimed recordings of English song for Linn and Chandos, the Schubert song cycles for Orchid, Schumann's cycles, the songs and chamber music of Vaughan Williams with Philip Dukes and most recently 'Solitude', settings of Purcell, Schubert, Barber and a cycle written for James and Anna by Jonathan Dove.

In August 2021 Lucy Crowe and Anna marked 20 years of working together by releasing their disc *Longing* featuring Lieder by Strauss, Berg and Schoenberg on the Linn label.

www.annatilbrook.co.uk

JAMES GILCHRIST – Tenor

James Gilchrist began his working life as a doctor, turning to a full-time career in music in 1996. His musical interest was fired at a young age, singing first as a chorister in the choir of New College, Oxford, and later as a choral scholar at King's College, Cambridge.

James' extensive concert repertoire has seen him perform in major concert halls throughout the world with conductors including Sir John Eliot Gardiner, Sir Roger Norrington, Bernard Labadie, Harry Christophers, Harry Bicket and the late Richard Hickox. James works consistently at the highest level and is recognised as the finest Evangelist of his generation.

A prolific and versatile recitalist, James enjoys imaginative and varied programming in collaborations with pianists Anna Tilbrook and Julius Drake, and harpist Alison Nicholls. James' impressive discography includes the title role in Albert Herring and Vaughan Williams' *A Poisoned Kiss* for Chandos, *St John Passion* with the Academy of Ancient Music, *Vaughan Williams On Wenlock Edge*, and *Finzi songs* and *Britten's Winter Words* for Linn Records.

www.jamesgilchrist.co.uk

The Steinway concert piano chosen and hired by Salisbury International Arts Festival is supplied and maintained by Steinway & Sons, London.



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