

Autumn Season 2021



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BSO On Your Doorstep

St George's Bristol Thursday 9 December

With thanks to



Dvořák Wind Serenade in D minor Op.44 24'

Beethoven Septet in E-flat Major Op.20 40' Edward Kay Holly Randall Oboes

Barry Deacon Douglas Mitchell Clarinets

Tammy Thorn Emma Selby Bassoons

Alexander Wide Ruth Spicer Robert Harris Horns

Mark Derudder Violin

Miguel Rodriguez Viola

Thomas Isaac Cello

David Daly Double Bass

All information is correct at the time of going to print. All timings are guidelines only and may differ slightly from actual lengths.





Serenade for Winds in D minor, Op. 44

Antonin Dvořák

Born: 8 September 1841 Nelahozeves, nr. Prague Died: 1 May 1904 Prague

- 1. Moderato quasi marcia
- 2. Minuetto
- 3. Andante con moto
- 4. Finale: Allegro molto

Dvořák composed his D minor Wind Serenade during a three week period in January 1878. At this time his principal occupation was that of organist at St Adalbert's church in Prague, and he supplemented his income by taking private pupils, having resigned his position as a viola player in the orchestra of the Provisional Theatre. He had also recently been awarded the Austrian State Prize by a committee chaired by Brahms, and the accolade of this recognition would change his life.

These years, in fact, were the turning point in Dvořák's career. It was during the 1870s that his creative achievement developed strongly, for in these years he produced a steady flow of masterpieces: the Serenade for Strings, the first set of *Slavonic Dances*, the *Symphonic Variations*, the Fifth and Sixth symphonies, the Piano and Violin concertos, the opera *The Cunning Peasant*, the *Stabat Mater* and various chamber works. The *Serenade* is written for a full-toned ensemble: pairs of oboes, clarinets and bassoons, 3 horns, plus optional cello and double bass. The music's manner recalls the serenades of Mozart, with a wide-ranging expressiveness allowing for both an 'outdoor' exuberance and the more lyrical style of the *Andante*. And, as usual in Dvořák's compositions, there are frequent excursions into Czech dance idioms.

Terry Barfoot



Septet in E flat Major, Op. 20

Ludwig Van Beethoven

Born: 16 December Bonn Died: 26 March 1827 Vienna

- 1. Adagio Allegro con brio
- 2. Adagio cantabile
- 3. Tempo di menuetto
- 4. Tema con variazioni: Andante
- 5. Scherzo
- 6. Andante con moto alla marcia Presto

The tradition of "entertainment music" for diverse instrumental combinations is one of the strongest of the classical period. In this field Mozart remains the acknowledged master, but other composers too have made worthwhile and lasting contributions to music that is "light but not slight". Beethoven, for instance, achieved one of his greatest successes with his attractive Septet of 1800, while Schubert's Octet of 1824 has deservedly become one of his most popular works.

Beethoven composed his Septet in the autumn of 1799. Although the ensemble is unusual it is extremely effective, and the music proved to be instantly popular. The first public performance took place at a special benefit concert for the composer, which was given on 2 April 1800 in the Hofburg Theatre. There is a playing time of approximately forty minutes, and this is therefore a substantial work with instrumentation consisting of violin, viola, cello, double bass, clarinet, bassoon and horn. The first movement begins as a Classical symphony might, with a slow introduction leading into an *Allegro*. The latter is cast in sonata form, and contains two subjects of contrasting personalities, the one rhythmic and the other more lyrical. The structural basis of the movement is therefore clearly defined and the material cogently developed.

The lyrical second movement has three sections: the two outer parts are generally similar, and there is a contrasting middle section dominated by the violin, which moves towards the top of its range. Throughout the movement both the clarinet and the violin are given melodious solos, while the ending confirms the music's essential characteristic, with the violin once again climbing upwards to sustain an ethereal A flat.

The third movement adopts the minuet form which had been a popular feature of instrumental music since the seventeenth century. This is perhaps the most familiar movement in the *Septet*, since Beethoven used it also in the Piano Sonata in G Major, Opus 49 No.2. Here solo roles are given to the clarinet and horn in the contrasting central section, which brings a change of focus, though the tempo remains fast. The fourth movement is a theme and variations, and the theme, announced by the full ensemble, is strongly projected. There are five variations: the first is given to the strings alone, while the second is a violin solo supported by all the other instruments except the horn. Thirdly, there is a duo for clarinet and bassoon, once again without the horn. The penultimate variation is for horn and winds, and Beethoven concludes the movement with an unexpected fortissimo cadence.

The horn's hunting call sets the tone for the fifth movement, which is a lively *Scherzo (Allegro molto e vivace).* The other instruments follow the horn's lead, while the cello has a solo role in the contrasting trio section.

The finale begins with a slow introduction, moving on into the main body of the movement, which is marked at tempo *Presto*. In this lively movement each instrument is given its opportunity to shine, and there is even a full-scale cadenza for the violin.

Terry Barfoot

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One of the UK's best-loved orchestras, Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra is a professional ensemble known for championing the role of culture in people's lives. With residencies in Bournemouth, Bristol, Exeter, Portsmouth and Poole, it is the largest cultural provider in the South West of England, serving one of the biggest and most diverse regions.

The BSO, under its Chief Conductor Kirill Karabits, is known for pushing artistic boundaries, and its ongoing series of music from former Soviet states, Voices from the East, continues to gain praise. Boasting an enviable list of principal conductors, since its founder, Sir Dan Godfrey, including Constantin Silvestri, Sir Charles Groves and Marin Alsop, the BSO has given memorable performances worldwide and is broadcast regularly on BBC Radio 3 and Classic FM.

The Orchestra's inaugural livestreamed series, which featured Sir John Eliot Gardiner, Benjamin Grosvenor and Alina Ibragimova, was widely praised by audiences and critics alike, with the BSO making history as one of the first British orchestras to return to the stage in 2020. Horn player Felix Klieser makes his UK concerto debut as the BSO's Artist-in-Residence, as the Orchestra resumes symphonic touring in 2021.

Committed to new music, the BSO celebrates a triptych of contemporary works written by women in 2021/22, with premiere performances of works by Carmen Ho, Franghiz Ali-Zadeh and Elizabeth Ogonek. During the pandemic, the BSO also gave premieres by composers Shirley J Thompson and Magnus Lindberg.

The BSO was recognised with the Royal Philharmonic Society's Impact Award in 2019 for its work in improving opportunities for disabled musicians, and BSO Resound – the world's first professional disabled-led ensemble at the core of a major orchestra – continues to receive international attention for igniting change. Challenging access to high-quality music for all, the BSO leads hundreds of events each year, from award-winning work in health and care settings to partnerships with schools and music education hubs.

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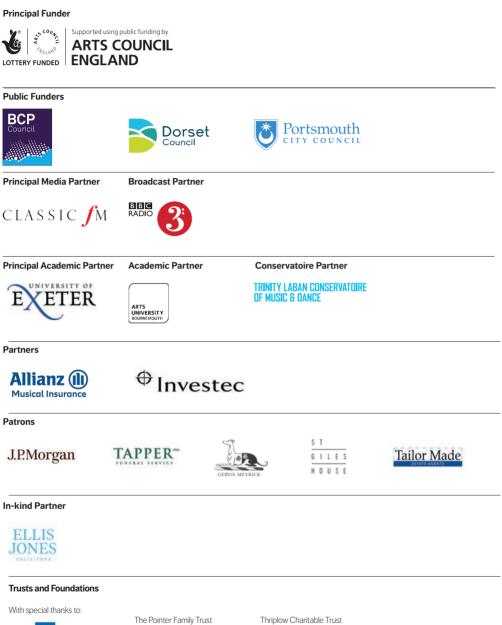
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