

PROGRAMME

ALL
SAINTS
SESSIONS

All Saints' Church, Edmonton
Saturday 16th June 2018 9.30pm

Hosted by Cheryl Moskowitz and Alastair Gavin

email: allsaintssessions@gmail.com

PROGRAMME

Instructions for the new city

poem by Bryony Littlefair

music by Elinor Popham

Chanson des cueilleuses de lentisques (The Song of the Girls Collecting Mastic)

from *Cinq mélodies populaires grecques* by Ravel

Reading

Bryony

including song: *Extase (Ecstasy)* by Henri Duparc

Reading

poem by Cheryl Moskowitz

music by Alastair Gavin

INTERVAL

L'Invitation Au Voyage

Part I: song by Henri Duparc

Part II: poem sequence by Cheryl & Bryony with extracts from songs:

L'Heure Exquise (The Exquisite Hour) by Reynaldo Hahn, *Particles*

by Olafur Arnalds, and music by Elinor & Alastair

Special thanks to Revd. Stuart Owen
for his support and enthusiasm for this venture,
and to our special guests Bryony and Elinor.

NOTES

- **Chanson des cueilleuses de lentisques** (The Song of the Girls Collecting Mastic)

O joy of my soul, joy of my heart,
treasure which is so dear to me,
joy of my soul and heart,
you whom I love ardently,
you are more handsome than an angel.
O when you appear,
angel so sweet, before our eyes,
Like a fine, blond angel,
under the bright sun,
Alas! all of our poor hearts sigh!

The five songs of *Cinq mélodies populaires grecques* were composed during 1904-06. The texts were translated from the original Greek into French by Michel Dimitri Calvocoressi. *From wikipedia*: Mastic is a resin obtained from the mastic tree. In pharmacies and nature shops, it is called “Arabic gum”. In Greece, it is known as the “tears of Chios,” being traditionally produced on that Greek island, and, like other natural resins, is produced in “tears” or droplets. Mastic has been harvested for at least 2,500 years since Greek Antiquity. The first mention of actual mastic ‘tears’ was by Hippocrates. Hippocrates used mastic for the prevention of digestive problems, colds and as a breath freshener.

- **Henri Duparc** (1848 – 1933) was a French composer of the late Romantic period. Duparc is best known for his 17 *mélodies* (“art songs”), with texts by poets such as Baudelaire, Gautier, Leconte de Lisle and Goethe. A mental illness, diagnosed at the time as “neurasthenia”, caused him abruptly to cease composing at age 37, in 1885. He devoted himself to his family and his other passions, drawing and painting. But increasing vision loss after the turn of the century eventually led to total blindness. He destroyed most of his music, leaving fewer than 40 works to posterity.

- **L’Invitation Au Voyage** (words translated from a poem by Charles Baudelaire)

My child, my sister,	Cleaming furniture,	See on the canals
Think of the rapture	Polished by the years,	Those vessels sleeping.
Of living together there!	Will ornament our bedroom;	Their mood is adventurous;
Of loving at will,	The rarest flowers	It’s to satisfy
Of loving till death,	Mingling their fragrance	Your slightest desire
In the land that is like you!	With the faint scent of amber,	That they come from the ends of the earth.
The misty sunlight	The ornate ceilings,	– The setting suns
Of those cloudy skies	The limpid mirrors,	Adorn the fields,
Has for my spirit the charms,	The oriental splendor,	The canals, the whole city,
So mysterious,	All would whisper there	With hyacinth and gold;
Of your treacherous eyes,	Secretly to the soul	The world falls asleep
Shining brightly through their tears.	In its soft, native language.	In a warm glow of light.
There all is order and beauty, Luxury, peace, and pleasure.	There all is order and beauty, Luxury, peace, and pleasure.	There all is order and beauty, Luxury, peace, and pleasure.

Bryony Littlefair won the Mslexia pamphlet prize in 2017 and her debut collection *Giraffe* is out now with Seren Books. Her work has previously appeared or is forthcoming in *The Eyewear Review*, *New Welsh Reader*, *Popshot and Ink*, *Sweat and Tears* among others. She lives in South London and works for a community centre as well as national literature charity *The Reader*, setting up Shared Reading groups for older people in Croydon.

Elinor Popham is a young soprano with a wide range of musical interests, now training with Theresa Goble. She has played an extensive range of roles with companies including Opera Warwick, Opera Coast and the Winchester Operatic Society, and has sung as both a member and soloist in several choirs and music groups, including Winchester Consort, Warwick World Music and Field Fisher Waterhouse. After recent festival successes (North London Music Festival), recitals and performance art pieces, she is very excited to explore her interests in setting poetry to music and exploring improvised voice and electronics in performance.

Cheryl Moskowitz is a poet, novelist and translator. She teaches at the University of East London and facilitates writing in a wide range of healthcare, community and educational settings. She is co-editor for the Film Issue of *Magma Poetry Magazine* (no.71 Summer 2018) and on the organising committee for the 10th European Psychoanalytic Film Festival (Epff10). She is on the current shortlist for the International Moth Poetry Prize. Publications include the novel, *Wyoming Trail* (*Granta*), poetry collection *The Girl is Smiling* (*Circle Time Press*), and poetry collection for children *Can It Be About Me?* (*Otter-Barry Books*). She is currently running writing workshops for the Cotton Tree Trust, a UK based charity working to benefit refugees, asylum seekers and their families. www.cherylmoskowitz.com

Alastair Gavin is a keyboardist, composer and sound artist. He has composed for film, theatre and dance, and over 70 tracks for Warner/Chappell production music library. He has worked as a keyboardist for artists ranging from Mari Wilson to the Michael Nyman Band, and on various West End shows. Until Aug 2016 he was assistant musical director for the London production of *Mamma Mia!*, and last year completed a Masters in Scenography at Central School of Speech and Drama. He is married to Cheryl Moskowitz and they are developing a poetry and electronics performance project. www.alastairgavin.com

The All Saints Sessions will be back in October.
Have a great summer!

*for further details please check our All Saints Sessions
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