

PROGRAMME

ALL
SAINTS
SESSIONS

Hosted by Cheryl Moskowitz and Alastair Gavin

All Saints' Church, Edmonton
Thursday 6th Dec 2018 7.30pm

email: allsaintssessions@gmail.com

PROGRAMME

Four arias after Vincenzo Bellini Richard Scott
Ah! non credea mirarti *Aria from “La Sonnambula” by Vincenzo Bellini*
Elinor Popham - Soprano
Alastair Gavin - Electric Piano

Reading Richard

Ebben? Ne andrò lontana *Aria from “La Wally” by Alfredo Catalani*
Elinor/Alastair

23 Words Cheryl Moskowitz
Music by Alastair

INTERVAL

No One’s Rose A poem sequence by Richard and Cheryl

- 1) That Word All Over Again *after Walt Whitman’s ‘Reconciliation’* - Cheryl
- 2) le jardin secret (*from ‘Soho’*) - Richard
- 3) Lines from ‘Psalm’ by Paul Celan – Cheryl
- 4) botany4boys - Richard
- 5) Making Our Own Garden (*a Golden Shovel* after Paul Celan’s Psalms*) - Cheryl
- 6) Oh My Soho! (section I) - Richard
- 7) Creation Story ‘Before there was anything there was...’ - Cheryl
- 8) Oh My Soho! (section IX) - Richard

Music by Elinor & Alastair,
concluding with **Ma rendi pur content**
from “Composizioni da Camera”
by Vincenzo Bellini

**The Golden Shovel is a poetic form devised and given its name by American poet Terrance Hayes (who, with Richard, is also on this year’s TS Eliot prize shortlist). Part cento and part erasure, the form takes a line or a section from a poem by another poet and uses the words from that line or section as the end words in the new poem. The result is an honouring, a response to, and a reinvention of the original.*

Special thanks to Revd. Stuart Owen for his support and enthusiasm for this venture, Anthony Fisher for his generous donation of sound equipment, and of course to our very special guests Richard Scott and Elinor Popham.

From wikipedia: **La sonnambula** (The Sleepwalker) is an opera semiseria (containing elements of comedy but also of pathos, sometimes with a pastoral setting) in two acts, with music by Vincenzo Bellini set to an Italian libretto by Felice Romani, based on a scenario for a ballet-pantomime called 'La somnambule, ou L'arrivée d'un nouveau seigneur'. The ballet had premiered in Paris in September 1827 at the height of a fashion for stage works incorporating somnambulism.

The phrase *Ah! non credea mirarti / Si presto estinto, o fiore*, from Amina's final aria is inscribed on Bellini's tomb in the Catania Cathedral in Sicily.

*Oh, I didn't believe to see you so quickly extinct, o flowers
you have passed away like love that one day only lasted.
Perhaps new life my tears will bring to you/but to revive love my tears, o no, cannot.*
(Translation by Elise Curran)

La Wally is an opera in four acts by composer Alfredo Catalani, to a libretto by Luigi Illica, first performed at La Scala, Milan, on 20 January 1892. Wally, short for Walburga, is a girl with some heroic attributes. The story is based on an episode in the life of Tyrolean painter Anna Stainer-Knittel. The opera is best known for its Act I aria "Ebben? Ne andrò lontana" sung when Wally decides to leave her home forever. American soprano Wilhelmenia Fernandez sang this aria in Jean-Jacques Beineix's 1981 movie *Diva*. Catalani had composed this aria independently as *Chanson Groënlandaise* in 1878 and later incorporated it into his opera.

The opera features a memorable operatic death in which the heroine throws herself into an avalanche. It is seldom performed, partly because of the difficulty of staging this scene, but Wally's principal aria is still sung frequently.

*Ah well then! I shall go far away/Like the echo of the pious church-bell goes away,
There somewhere in the white snow/There amongst the clouds of gold,
There where hope, hope/Is regret, is regret, is sorrow!*

*O from my mother's cheerful house/La Wally is about to go away from you, from you!
Quite far away, and perhaps to you/And perhaps to you, will never more return,
Nor ever more see you again!/Never again, never again!*

*I will go away alone and far/There, somewhere in the white snow, I shall go,
I will go away alone and far/And amongst the clouds of gold!*
(Translation by JC London)

Cheryl writes about 23 Words: These words were given to me by a young Muslim refugee who I am currently mentoring. He himself selected them from song lyrics by a band he has taken deep inspiration from, Linkin Park, and in particular the band's lead singer Chester Bennington who took his own life in July 2017. They form the skeleton of his story.

Our composition takes inspiration from a KEXP Live performance Alastair and I saw this year at the Iceland Airwaves music festival in Reykjavik, by 'Les Aventures de President Bongo' featuring vocalist Ester Bibi, where the marriage of music and words took on new meaning.

The **Composizioni da Camera** is a set of fifteen collected compositions for voice and piano by Bellini.

*Only make happy/The heart of my beautiful [lady],
And I will pardon you, love/If my own [heart]is not glad.
Her troubles I fear/More than my own troubles,
Because I live more in her/Than I live in myself.*

Richard Scott was born in London in 1981. His poems have appeared widely in magazines and anthologies including Poetry Review, Poetry London, PN Review, Swimmers, The Poetry of Sex (Penguin) and Butt Magazine. He has been a winner of the Wasafiri New Writing Prize, a Jerwood/Arvon Poetry Mentee and a member of the Aldeburgh 8. His pamphlet 'Wound' (Rialto) won the Michael Marks Poetry Award 2016 and his poem 'crocodile' won the 2017 Poetry London Competition. Soho (Faber & Faber), Richard's first book, is on this year's TS Eliot Prize shortlist. <http://richardscott.info/poetry.html>

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 writes for children and adults and works in a wide variety of arts, therapeutic and community settings. From 2014 to 2017 she was poet-in-residence at Highfield Primary School, Winchmore Hill and last year taught Story and Myth on the Creative and Professional Writing BA at University of East London, and previously on the Creative Writing and Personal Development MA at Sussex University. She is on the organising committee for the European Psychoanalytic Film Festival, on the board of Magma Poetry and co-editor of their current Film issue (71). Publications include the novel, Wyoming Trail (Granta) and poetry collection The Girl is Smiling (Circle Time Press) and a poetry collection for children Can It Be About Me? (Frances Lincoln Books).

www.cherylmoskowitz.com

Alastair Gavin is a keyboardist, composer and arranger. He has composed for theatre and dance, and has over 70 production music tracks to his name. 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!*, then took a year out to do 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

Please check our Facebook page for details of our
next All Saints Session early February 2019.

If you would like to be put on our email list please
leave your name on the list by the door.