

PROGRAMME

THE
ALL SAINTS
SESSIONS

All Saints' Church, Edmonton
Thursday 1st Feb 2018 7.30pm

Hosted by Cheryl Moskowitz and Alastair Gavin

email: allsaintssessions@gmail.com

PROGRAMME

Après Un Rêve *Fauré*

Ian Burdge - Cello
Alastair Gavin - Electric Piano

Reading

Mario Petrucci

Reading

Cheryl Moskowitz
Song arranged by Ian & Alastair

INTERVAL

For The LOVE of GOD - Mario Petrucci's translations of Persian mystic poets

Fire-Fly, In Love	<i>Saadi</i>
Night Star, Skirts, No, Fish	<i>Rumi</i>
Three untitled poems	<i>Hafez</i>

Mario & Cheryl
Music by Ian & Alastair, including:
Louange à l'Éternité de Jésus *Messiaen*

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

For the LOVE of GOD. Hafez (1315 - 1390), Rumi (1207 – 1273) and Saadi (1210 - 1291) are among the most admired and revered of Persian mystic poets. They combine respectful sensuality and carefree devotion in ways that are mesmerising to the Western ear. As familiar to many in the Middle East as the Quran, these writers have also been quietly but hugely influential in the West.

Hafez is known for his unique blend of the mystical and the human, blending representations of both divine and romantic love in verses filled with elaborate metaphors and vivid imagery which convey multiple meanings. He lauded the joys of love and wine but also targeted religious hypocrisy. His poems are commonly described as antinomian (against legal laws) and theosophical (teaching religion from a mystical viewpoint). **Rumi's** work is largely spiritual, stemming from his Sufi beliefs and his position as an important spiritual teacher and leader. Revolving around ideas of universality, divinity and love in all its manifestations, Rumi's verses contain intense lyricism and beauty of expression. One of his most famous works, *The Masnavi*, is a collection of over 25,000 verses filled with tales, moral discourses and analogies which explore the relationship between the self and God. In the mid 70s new translations of his works were published in the US and became hugely popular. **Saadi's** best known works are *Bustan* (The Orchard) and *Gulistan* (The Rose Garden). *Bustan* is entirely in verse (epic metre) and consists of stories aptly illustrating the standard virtues recommended to Muslims (justice, liberality, modesty, contentment) and reflections on the behaviour of dervishes (Sufi Muslims who had taken vows of austerity, and known for their wild rituals) and their ecstatic practices. *Gulistan* is mainly prose and contains stories and personal anecdotes. The text is interspersed with a variety of short poems which contain aphorisms, advice, and humorous reflections, demonstrating Saadi's profound awareness of the absurdity of human existence.

Louange à l'Éternité de Jésus is the fifth movement from Messiaen's *Quatuor pour la fin du temps* for clarinet, violin, cello and piano, composed and premiered in 1941 whilst captive in Stalag VIII-A, a prisoner-of-war camp in Görlitz, Germany.

From Wikipedia: The quartet was premiered at the camp, outdoors and in the rain, on 15 January 1941. The musicians had decrepit instruments and an audience of about 400 fellow prisoners and guards. The cello was bought with donations from camp members. Messiaen later recalled: "Never was I listened to with such rapt attention and comprehension." [In the 5th movement] ...a broad phrase, "infinitely slow", on the cello, magnifies with love and reverence the eternity of the Word, "whose time never runs out". The melody stretches majestically into a kind of gentle, regal distance.

The piece is tonight performed behind Mario and Cheryl's reading of Hafez' poetry.

Award-winning poet, ecologist, PhD physicist and Royal Literary Fund Fellow **Mario Petrucci** has held major poetry residencies at the Imperial War Museum and with BBC Radio 3. *Heavy Water: a poem for Chernobyl* (Enitharmon, 2004) secured the Daily Telegraph/Arvon Prize. *i tulips* (Enitharmon, 2010) takes its name from his 1111-strong Anglo-American sequence, described as “modernist marvels” (Poetry Book Society). Petrucci has been at the forefront of poetic experimentation and innovation for decades. He was co-founder of ShadoWork, a radical collaborative writing and performance group that toured the country. ShadoWork’s aim is to enrich and challenge the conventional division between author and audience, whilst keeping the text itself at the most poignant centre of stimulated attention. www.mariopetrucci.com

Ian Burdge studied music at Surrey University, learning cello with Alexander Baillie. Since 2003 he has lived and worked in London, enjoying a varied freelance career focussing primarily in the recording industry. He has played on more than 200 television and film soundtracks, including *The Dark Knight*, *The Hobbit* and *Paddington*, as well as recording for numerous artists and bands, including Radiohead, Florence and the Machine, Paul McCartney and Sam Smith. He is a member of Nitin Sawhney’s band, including performing at the proms and with Akram Khan at Sadler’s Wells and is a member of the Max Richter Ensemble. In the last year live work has included Mulatu Astatke, Hans Zimmer, Stevie Wonder and U2. He has also written and arranged music for various projects.

Cheryl Moskowitz writes for children and adults and works in a wide variety of arts, therapeutic and community settings. For the past four years she has been poet-in-residence at Highfield Primary School, Winchmore Hill and currently teaches Story and Myth on the Creative and Professional Writing BA at University of East London. 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). She was on the organising committee for the European Psychoanalytic Film festival (epff9) and co-editor for the Film issue (71) of *Magma Poetry Magazine*. 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

The next All Saints Session:

Thursday 12th Apr 2018, 7.30pm

*for further details please check our All Saints Sessions
Facebook page or email allsaintssessions@gmail.com*