

SATURDAY 5 JUNE

9.30PM

DAVID ADAMS violin

KATE GOULD cello

ROBERT PLANE clarinet

TIM HORTON piano



CONCERT 4

QUARTET FOR THE END OF TIME

**OLIVIER MESSIAEN
(1908-1992)**



Liturgie de cristal
Vocalise, pour l'Ange qui annonce la fin du Temps
Abîme des oiseaux
Intermède
Louange à l'Éternité de Jésus
Danse de la fureur, pour les sept trompettes
Fouillis d'arcs-en-ciel, pour l'Ange qui annonce la fin du Temps
Louange à l'Immortalité de Jésus

The story of the genesis of this extraordinary work is so inextricably linked with its musical content that it is almost impossible to experience one without the other. Of course one may encounter the music before knowing the story behind it, but once the tale has been told, it cannot be forgotten. In 1940 Messiaen was captured by the German army and sent to a prisoner of war camp in Görlitz (then in Germany, now in Poland). Whilst being transported there he met a clarinettist, Henri Akoka, and at the camp they met Jean le Boulaire and cellist Étienne Pasquier, professional violinist and cellist respectively. Messiaen already had sketches for *Abîme des oiseaux* (for solo clarinet) and began work on a trio for his colleagues, which quickly grew into the present quartet when Messiaen obtained use of a piano. It is hard to imagine the conditions at the camp (Stalag VIII-A) where the first performance took place in freezing temperatures with German soldiers seated in rows alongside the French prisoners. A sympathetic German guard provided Messiaen with writing materials and paper on which to compose and clearly the attitude of the staff in general meant that rehearsals and a performance were allowed. Another prisoner made a programme for the event in art nouveau style. But on the other hand, life for the inmates was grim. All survived the war and Akoka even escaped whilst being transferred to another camp, when he jumped from the top of a moving train with his clarinet under his arm! Looking back at the performance at Stalag VIII-A, Messiaen said 'I was never listened to with such attention and understanding.'



The 'end of time' as described by Messiaen in his title has multiple meanings and associations. For the prisoners, with their empty lives and routines, the perception of time must have changed hugely. Amidst the second cataclysmic war in little over two decades, the end of the world must have seemed a real possibility. But more than anything it is Messiaen's unflinching catholic faith that shines through every note of this piece. The end of time as characterised by the eternity and immortality of Jesus, the natural world encompassed by the birds in the first and third movements, or the angelic apparitions of the second and seventh. Messiaen's manipulation of the ensemble allows for one solo, two duets and a trio (as well as four quartet movements) and his manipulation of meter and tempo often allow the passing of time itself to be obscured or slow almost to a standstill. All of this is achieved with relatively simple, repeating patterns and recurring material that binds the work together and allows time to flow back and forth in a rejection of the Austro-German developmental style of music that had so dominated for two centuries beforehand.

This concert is supported by Richard and Caroline York

The biographies for individual performers can be found on our Festival website:
www.winchesterchambermusic.com/london-bridge-trio/ &
www.winchesterchambermusic.com/guest-artists/

TEA • COFFEE • LUNCH • WINE • GIN • COCKTAILS



CABINET ROOMS

WINCHESTER

Relax with a nice cup of tea, coffee or G&T in
Winchester's stylish café-bar for grown-ups.
Find us opposite the theatre on Jewry Street.



WWW.CABINETROOMS.COM
A LONG OVERDUE TASTE OF NORMALITY

2 DE LUNN BUILDINGS, JEWRY STREET, SO23 8SA
01962 866480 WINCHESTER@CABINETROOMS.COM

WINCHESTER
CHAMBER
MUSIC
FESTIVAL

SAVE THE DATE

28 APRIL – 2 MAY 2022
LONDON BRIDGE TRIO
AND GUESTS

www.winchesterchambermusic.com

KEEP UP TO DATE

with all things musical
by visiting
winchestermusic.info

Home of Classical Music
Events and Festivals in
and around Winchester



THANK YOU

Winchester Chamber
Music Festival would like to
thank the following funders,
without whom the 2021 Festival
could not have gone ahead:

CAVATINA CHAMBER MUSIC TRUST
RAINBOW DICKINSON TRUST
SCHUBERT ENSEMBLE
THISTLE TRUST
WINCHESTER BID



THANK YOU

INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS FROM:

George Gould, Kate's dear late uncle – in support of the cost of a film maker and other venue costs

Cranbourne Farm Concert Society – in support of Concert 3

Richard and Caroline York – in support of Concert 4

Colin Webster – in support of the Weber in Concert 5

All Festival Friends

The Trustees owe a huge debt of gratitude to the Festival Friends' community who have been wonderfully loyal and supportive since Covid struck at the beginning of last year. 'Not only has subscription income held up in the absence of a 2020 Festival but refunded ticket money and other donations have enabled us to compensate artists and sponsor piano hire and various concerts. Without this generosity, the socially distanced 2021 Festival would not have been viable.

Thank you so much.

Richard Thomas, Friends' Coordinator

We also wish to thank:

Cabinet Rooms, Gervades Dry Cleaners, The Home Shop Ltd

FESTIVAL TEAM

Artistic Director

Kate Gould

Festival Manager

Lucy Bending

Friends Team

Richard Thomas,
Tim & Maureen Cox

Concert Manager

Charlotte Templeman

Film makers

Patrick Allen (Concerts
in Winchester)

Andrew Smilie (Schools film
and Open Rehearsal)

Education Animateur

Sam Glazer

Programme notes

Daniel Tong

Winchester Chamber Music

Festival Trustees

Christine Chamberlain

Kate Gould

Carol Orchard

Richard Thomas

Hilary Webster

Independent Examiner

Jeanette Whelton

Design

The Graphic Design House

Website build

Realising Designs

Piano hire

Jacques Samuel

Piano tuning

Chris Allain

Venue

St Paul's Church, with
particular thanks to Katy
Palacio for all her tireless
work behind the scenes

Schools

All Saints

St Swithun's

To contact the Festival, please email

manager@winchesterchambermusic.com | www.winchesterchambermusic.com