

Tuesday August 27th

HANNAH WATSON

Schubert *Hungarian Melody in B minor D817*

Schubert spent two Summers teaching music to Count Esterházy's two daughters in their summer home at Zseliz where he was of course introduced to all kinds of Hungarian and gypsy music-making. This colourful new musical idiom crept into his own style in just one tiny work – Ungarische Melodie – which remained unpublished and unknown until a full century after the composer's death.

Bartók *15 Hungarian Peasant Songs*

The Fifteen Hungarian Peasant Songs (Tizenöt magyar paraszt'dal) were written during the Great War and are based on authentic Hungarian melodies collected by Bartók on his numerous field trips as a musicologist, between the years 1910 and 1918.

The first four items are labelled Four Old Tunes, then comes a Scherzo, followed by a Ballade (subtitled Theme with variations), and the rest are grouped under the title Old Dance Tunes.

Schubert *Piano Sonata in G major 'Fantasy' D894*

Molto moderato e cantabile
Andante
Allegro – minuet & trio
Allegretto

It was the idea of the original publisher of the Sonata in G, Tobias Haslinger, not to call the work a sonata, presumably because he felt the gentle opening movement to be so far from the traditional, rigorous sonata-opener that he knew his potential customers would expect. Instead he provided it with the rather misleading title 'Fantasie, Andante, Menuetto, and Allegretto' and the Sonata has been known as 'Fantasy' ever since. This is somewhat ironic, since the opening movement that inspired Haslinger's terminology is probably one of the gentlest and, as Schumann said of it, 'most perfect' sonata-allegros Schubert ever composed.

Hannah Watson graduated from Cambridge in French and Spanish in 2012, and is now studying for a masters' in piano performance at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, supported by the Worshipful Company of Tallow Chandlers and the Countess of Munster Musical Trust. She learns with Martin Roscoe and Caroline Palmer.



Highlights of the past year include a Barbican Total Immersion weekend of Takemitsu chamber music at LSO St Luke's, a charity recital in Berlin and a debut on the piano accordion!