

UoS Music Presents:

Mimi Doulton & Ben Smith

Monday 29th April, 13:00

Turner Sims

Presented by University of Southampton Music Department

Following their successful ensemble debut at Spitalfields Festival, pianist Ben Smith and soprano Mimi Doulton bring a musical miscellanea to the University of Southampton. The wry humour of Michael Finnissy and Matthew Shlomowitz features alongside mysterious and intimate works by Nordic composers Rasmus Zwicky and Kaija Saariaho, woven together with personal favourites from their voice and piano repertoire.

Programme

Kaija Saariaho – ‘Sydän’, ‘Sua katselen’ from Leino Songs

Rasmus Zwicky – ‘TELL V’ from TELL

Matthew Shlomowitz – ‘Misery Thesaurus’ from Songs About Words and the Pleasure of Misery

Lili Boulanger – ‘Parfois je suis triste’, ‘Un poète disait’ from Clairières dans le ciel

Timothy Cape – new work (world premiere)

Sandrin arr. Hernando de Cabezón – ‘Doulce memoire’

Evan Johnson – ‘Medée fu en amer’

Beatriz de Dia – ‘A chantar m’er de so ieu no volria’ (improvisation)

Evan Johnson – ‘Ma dame n’a pas ainsy’

Finnissy – ‘lyrics and limericks VII – X’ from Lyrics and Limericks

Rachel Sullivan – ‘Bertha's Vengeance’ (world premiere)

Please note: this piece contains theatrical elements around the theme of fire

Mimi Doulton

Recognised as “a name to watch” (The Times, 2023), British-Pakistani soprano Mimi Doulton has recently made debuts at the Royal Opera House Linbury Theatre in the world premiere of Oliver Leith’s critically-acclaimed Last Days, and at the Bamberger Symphoniker as Max in Oliver Knussen’s Where the Wild Things Are.

She began the 2023/24 season making her debut with Birmingham Contemporary Music Group, performing works by Harrison Birtwistle, Julian Anderson and Hannah Kendall. Concert appearances include Handel’s Messiah at Snape Maltings, recitals with regular pianist collaborators Dylan Perez and Ben Smith, and voice and harp collaborations with Olivia Jageurs and Héloïse Carlean-Jones.

Mimi holds a BMus in Music and Languages from King’s College London and a Masters in Vocal Performance from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. She is a laureate of Fondation Royaumont and Academie Aix-en-Provence. She is currently based in Stuttgart, Germany.

Ben Smith

Ben Smith is a pianist and composer specialising in contemporary and experimental music. Hailed as one of “the finest new-music pianists in London” (Tempo) and a player of “extraordinary precision and insight” (The Guardian), he is in demand both as a soloist and chamber performer (An Assembly, Apartment House, Athelas Sinfonietta, Apartment House, Explore Ensemble, London Sinfonietta, Riot Ensemble, Uproar Ensemble).

Known for daring and virtuosic performances which traverse the extremes of the contemporary repertoire, he has given dozens of world premieres across the UK and Europe (Aldeburgh Festival, BBC Total Immersion, Cafe OTO, Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival, inn:pust festival, London Contemporary Music Festival, Musicon, Ny Musik i Birkerød, Spitalfields Music, Transit: Festival voor nieuwe muziek, and at London venues Ambika P3, Barbican Hall, Hackney Round Chapel, Kings Place, Milton Court Concert Hall, St John’s Smith Square, Queen Elizabeth Hall, and Wigmore Hall).

Ben was a Junior Fellow at Guildhall School of Music & Drama from 2020-2022, where he previously studied with Laurence Crane, Rolf Hind, and James Weeks.

Thank you for your attendance during this year’s UoS Music Lunchtime Concert Series 23-24. We look forward to seeing you in October for the first lunchtime concert of the academic year 24-25.