

Chamber Music by Jean Sibelius (1865–1957)

Fenella Humphreys violin

Anton Kukkonen cello

Sam Armstrong piano

10th June 2015 at 7 p.m.

at the Finnish Ambassador's Residence
14 Kensington Palace Gardens, London W8 4QP

———— Programme ————

Vattendroppar [Water Drops], JS 216 (c. 1875) for violin & cello

Four Pieces, Op. 78, for violin & piano

1. Impromptu (1915) · 2. Romance in F major (1915)
3. Religioso (1917) · 4. Rigaudon (1915)

Andante molto in B minor (1888–89) for cello & piano *First UK performance*

Sonatina in E major, Op. 80 (1915) for violin & piano

- I. Lento – Allegro · II. Andantino · III. Lento – Allegretto

Malinconia, Op. 20, for cello & piano (1900)

[Polka] 'Aino' in C minor (1902–05) for piano *First UK performance*

Souvenir, Op. 99 No. 3 (1922) for piano

Four Pieces, Op. 115 (1929) for violin & piano

1. Auf der Heide · 2. Ballade
3. Humoresque · 4. Die Glocken (Capriccietto)

En glad musikant [A Happy Musician], JS 70 (1924–26) *First UK performance*
for violin solo

La pompeuse marche d'Asis, JS 116 (1891) for piano trio

This concert is arranged by Sibelius One with the generous support and assistance of the Finnish Embassy in London.

Fenella Humphreys



Photo: © Mat Smith

With playing described in the press as ‘mesmerising’ and ‘unforgettable’, Fenella Humphreys has given concerto and chamber performances at prestigious venues including London’s Southbank Centre, Cadogan Hall and the Helsinki Music Centre. She has made numerous broadcasts as well as appearances around Europe, North and South America, Korea and Israel. A busy chamber musician, Fenella is a former member of the Lawson Trio. Since being invited to become *Konzertmeister* with the Deutsche Kammerakademie in 2008, she has worked as guest leader with a number of ensembles including the London Concertante and Salzburg Chamber Soloists. Fenella received her early training from Sidney Griller and Itzhak Rashkovsky at the Purcell School. After winning a scholarship to the Guildhall School of Music and Drama she completed her post-graduate studies at the Robert Schumann Hochschule, Düsseldorf. Concurrently Fenella studied at the Folkwang Hochschule, Essen. She has received a number of awards and prizes. She plays a beautiful violin from the circle of Pietro Guarneri of Venice, kindly on loan from Jonathan Sparey.

Anton Kukkonen



Anton Kukkonen (b. 1982) began his music studies at the East Helsinki Music Institute where his teacher was Csaba Szilvay, continuing at the Sibelius Academy as a pupil of Martti Rousi and Risto Poutanen. In 2000 Kukkonen also studied at the Rubin Academy in Jerusalem. He received his Master of Music degree from the Sibelius Academy in 2010, earning his cello diploma with the highest marks. Two years later he gave his Sibelius Academy début concert, which was chosen as a part of the Euroclassical web platform. At the Sibelius Academy he played Sibelius’s chamber music with the Sibelius expert Folke Gräsbeck. Since then many different Sibelius chamber music projects have taken place. In 2015 Kukkonen is performing a recital consisting of all known original compositions by Sibelius for solo cello and cello with piano. Anton Kukkonen has worked in several orchestras as a tutti and principal cellist. He is a member of the Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra and is also often heard at various chamber music events.

Sam Armstrong



Photo: © Balázs Bórcz/Pilvax Studio

Described as ‘a major new talent’ by *International Piano* following his Wigmore Hall recital début, the English pianist Sam Armstrong is emerging as one of the UK’s outstanding young pianists. He has performed worldwide in concert halls including the Amsterdam Concertgebouw, Carnegie Hall New York, Seoul Arts Centre, Esplanade Singapore, Royal Festival Hall and Wigmore Hall London and in festivals such as Ravinia, Aldeburgh, Cheltenham and Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. He has been a prizewinner in several competitions including the Porto International Piano Competition, Brant International Piano Competition and was laureate in the Épinal International Piano Competition in France. His studies were at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester with Helen Krizos and with Richard Goode at Mannes College of Music in New York. He also worked in masterclasses with Leon Fleisher, Murray Perahia, Pierre-Laurent Aimard and Mitsuko Uchida.

SIBELIUS ONE

Sibelius

2015

Message from the Sibelius Society of Finland

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the birth of the great Finnish composer Jean Sibelius. His compositions have spread all over the world of classical music and will be played this year about in 1,500 concerts.

We in the Sibelius Society of Finland, established in 1957, want to greet our fellow associations and all friends of Jean Sibelius’s music. We wish you enjoyable moments with Sibelius’s unforgettable compositions, his seven symphonies and *Kullervo*, *Violin Concerto*, *Finlandia*, *Valse triste* and numerous tone poems, piano and song pieces.

Sibelius and his music live with us today!

Lauri Tarasti

President of the Sibelius Society of Finland