

SAMPLE PROGRAMMES 2024/25

‘Night’

These programmes explore night, mystery and suspense through music.

Both are centred on Beethoven’s ‘Moonlight’ Sonata. Marked ‘quasi una fantasia’ by the composer, the moniker ‘Moonlight’ was coined by German music critic Ludwig Rellstab, who wrote “The lake reposes in twilit moon-shimmer; muffled waves strike the dark shore; gloomy wooded mountains rise and close off the holy place from the world; ghostly swans glide with whispering rustles on the tide, and an Aeolian harp sends down mysterious tones of lovelorn yearning from the ruins.”

This sense of mystery, ambiguity and, occasionally, trepidation is emphasised in Debussy’s ‘La soirée dans Grenade’, Fauré’s *Nocturnes* and Ravel’s masterpiece, *Gaspard de la Nuit*. The ‘Chaconne’ by Jacquet de la Guerre and Ravel’s *Sonatine* provide a more measured, meditative element. Florence Price’s majestic *Fantaisie Nègre*, in its confident synthesis of African American idioms and Western techniques, offers a brief moment of assurance and certainty.

In Version 2, Tailleferre’s ‘Notturmo’ and Adès’ *Darknesse Visible*, an ‘explosion’ of a lute song by John Dowland, complement the poetry of Mélanie Bonis’ cryptic *Femmes de légende*.

VERSION 1

ELISABETH JACQUET DE LA GUERRE
‘Chaconne’ from Harpsichord Suite No. 5 in D minor (1687, 6’)

CLAUDE DEBUSSY
Estampes (1903, 14’)
‘Pagodes’, ‘La soirée dans Grenade’, ‘Jardins sous la pluie’

MAURICE RAVEL*
Sonatine (1905, 11’)

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN
Sonata No. 14 in C sharp minor, Op. 27 No. 2
‘Moonlight’ (1802, 15’)

FLORENCE PRICE
Fantaisie Nègre, No. 1 (1923, 9’)

GABRIEL FAURÉ
Nocturnes Nos. 8 and 12 (1902, 1916, 9’)

MAURICE RAVEL*
Gaspard de la nuit (1908, 21’)

**2025 is the 150th anniversary of Ravel’s birth*

VERSION 2

ELISABETH JACQUET DE LA GUERRE
‘Chaconne’ from Harpsichord Suite No. 5 in D minor (1687, 6’)

MELANIE BONIS
‘Desdémona’, ‘Phoebe’ and ‘Mélisande’ from
Femmes de légende (1898, 9’)

GERMAINE TAILLEFERRE
Partita (i. Perpetuum mobile, ii. Notturmo, iii.
Allegramente) (1957, 8’)

THOMAS ADÈS
Darknesse Visible (1992, 7’)

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN
Sonata No. 14 in C sharp minor, Op. 27 No. 2
‘Moonlight’ (1802, 15’)

FLORENCE PRICE
Fantaisie Nègre, No. 1 (1923, 9’)

GABRIEL FAURÉ
Nocturnes Nos. 8 and 12 (1902, 1916, 9’)

MAURICE RAVEL
Gaspard de la nuit (1908, 21’)

ENCORES

GERMAINE TAILLEFERRE
Impromptu in E major (1909, 2’)
‘Jasmin de Provence’ from *Fleurs de France* (1930, 1’10)

ALTERNATIVE WORKS

W.A. MOZART
Sonata in D major, K. 311 (1777, 15’)

CLARA SCHUMANN
3 Romances, Op. 21 (1853, 10’)

MAURICE RAVEL
Miroirs (1905, 26’)

DOREEN CARWITHEN
Sonatina (1946, 11’)

[Watch here](#)

CECILE CHAMINADE
‘Impromptu’ *Etude de concert*, Op. 35 No. 5 and
Etude romantique, Op. 132 (1893, 1909, 9’)

Contemporary

JEFFREY MUMFORD
of ringing and layered space, I. Jenny II. Lura (2010, 8’)
[Listen here and here](#)

ELISABETH LUTYENS
Five Bagatelles (1962, 6’30)
[Watch here](#)

SAMPLE PROGRAMMES 2025/26

‘Pictures’

These programmes investigate music's ability to conjure up images in the mind's eye.

Both are centred on Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition*, a musical depiction of a tour of an art gallery. As the protagonist strolls around the exhibition, we see 'The Ballet of the Unhatched Chicks', catacombs in Paris, the hut of witch Baba Yaga striding about on hen's legs, and the majestic city gates of Kiev.

In Version 1, Chopin's *Barcarolle* immediately suggests a boat rocking on gentle waves, whose lilt is reflected in the first two songs by Fanny Mendelssohn-Hensel. The third immediately transports us to Italy with a vigorous, leaping folk dance. Beethoven's turbulent and intense 'Tempest' sonata opens the second half, to give way to Janacek's more ambiguous *In The Mists*. In 'Summerland', William Grant Still presents a balmy landscape of rare tranquillity. The final pieces, Kapustin's joyously disorientating *Studies in Different Intervals*, provide a striking counterpoint to the rest of the programme. Based purely on intervals, they reference no particular image, yet astound with their inventiveness and wit.

Version 2 presents works by Bacewicz and Gubaidulina that explore different elements of Mussorgsky's pianistic legacy. The textures of Bacewicz's *Sonatina* are immediately reminiscent of the pecking of Mussorgsky's unhatched chicks while her lively take on an 'Oberek' mirrors the jostling of children in Mussorgsky's 'Tuileries'. Gubaidulina's *Chaconne*, in its imposing grandeur, recreates the majesty of Mussorgsky's 'Great Gate of Kiev'.

VERSION 1

FRÉDÉRIC CHOPIN

Barcarolle, Op. 6 (1845, 9')

FANNY MENDELSSOHN-HENSEL

3 Songs: *Mélodies* Op. 4, No. 2 and Op. 5 No. 4,
Lied Op. 6 No. 4 'Il saltarello romano'
(1841-7, 5'30)

MODEST MUSSORGSKY

Pictures at an Exhibition (1874, 30')

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN

Sonata No. 17 in D minor, Op. 31 No. 2
'Tempest' (1802, 22')

LEOS JANACEK

In The Mists (1912, 14')

WILLIAM GRANT STILL

'Summerland' from *Three Visions* (1935, 4')

NIKOLAI KAPUSTIN

3 Studies in Different Intervals, Op. 68
Nos. 3, 2 and 5 (1992, 9')

[Listen here](#)

VERSION 2

FRÉDÉRIC CHOPIN

Barcarolle, Op. 6 (1845, 9')

GRAZYNA BACEWICZ

Sonatina (1955, 7')

[Listen here](#)

MODEST MUSSORGSKY

Pictures at an Exhibition (1874, 30')

SOFIA GUBAIDULINA

Chaconne (1931, 9')

[Listen here](#)

LEOS JANACEK

In The Mists (1912, 14')

WILLIAM GRANT STILL

'Dark Horsemen' and 'Summerland' from *Three Visions*
(1935, 5'30)

NIKOLAI KAPUSTIN

3 Studies in Different Intervals, Op. 68
Nos. 3, 2 and 5 (1992, 9')

[Listen here](#)

ENCORES

DORA PEJACEVIC

'Snowdrops' from *Blumenleben* (1905, 2')

GERALDINE MUCHA

'Furiant' (1941, 2'30)

ALTERNATIVE WORKS

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN

Sonata No. 14 in C sharp minor, Op. 27 No. 2
'Moonlight' (1802, 15')

MAURICE RAVEL

Gaspard de la nuit (1908, 21')

GERMAINE TAILLEFERRE

Partita (i. Perpetuum mobile, ii. Notturmo, iii. Allegramente)
(1957, 8')

GABRIEL FAURÉ

Nocturnes Nos. 8 and 12 (1902, 1916, 9')

Contemporary

DAVID ÖNAÇ

4 Etudes (2008, 8'30)

[Listen here](#)

KENNETH HESKETH

Fragments aus einem kleinen Totenbuch (2023, 13')

CLARE HAMMOND, piano

Acclaimed as a “pianist of extraordinary gifts” (*Gramophone*) and “immense power” (*The Times*), Clare Hammond is recognised for the virtuosity and authority of her performances. In 2016, she won the Royal Philharmonic Society's 'Young Artist Award' in recognition of outstanding achievement. Recent highlights include Grieg Piano Concerto with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Moussa and Carwithen with the BBC Symphony Orchestra and BBC Concert Orchestra, Panufnik with the Warsaw Philharmonic Orchestra, and recitals at the Aldeburgh Festival, Palazzetto Bru Zane in Venice (broadcast on RAI 3), Husum Festival in Germany, and in Denmark and Norway with Henning Kraggerud.

This season she looks forward to performing Grace Williams' *Sinfonia Concertante* with Jac van Steen and BBC National Orchestra of Wales, Rachmaninoff Paganini Variations with the BBC Symphony Orchestra and Lionel Bringuier, works by Piers Hellawell and Samy Moussa with the Ulster Orchestra and Jamie Phillips, and recitals at the Wigmore Hall, London's National Gallery, Lammermuir Festival and Festival Baroque de Pontoise, among others. She brings *Ghosts and Whispers*, a performance piece for piano and film with composer John Woolrich and animators the Quay Brothers, to Fundación Juan March in Madrid and to the Barbican, and continues her collaboration with actor and writer Tama Matheson.

Contemporary music is at the core of Clare's work. She has given over 50 world premieres, including those of major works by Arlene Sierra, Robert Saxton and Michael Berkeley, and her discography includes world premiere recordings of over twenty works. In 2019, she gave the world premiere of Kenneth Hesketh's *Uncoiling the River* with Martyn Brabbins and the BBC National Orchestra of Wales, and a further performance with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic and Vasily Petrenko. In 2022, she premiered Graham Fitkin's new piano quartet with Fitkin, Ruth Wall and Kathryn Stott at the Aldeburgh Festival, and opened the Southbank Centre's 22/23 season at the Queen Elizabeth Hall with the work.

Clare has recorded six discs for BIS, most recently releasing an album of Etudes by visionary French composer Hélène de Montgeroult. A disc of 20th- and 21st-century variations was released in 2021, and received extensive critical approval for Clare's “shimmering pianism and lightly-worn virtuosity” (*BBC Music Magazine*) and “artistry of the highest order” (*Musical Opinion*), while *Crescendo* (Belgium) hailed her as “one of the most exploratory pianistic personalities of our time”. She previously recorded a disc of Etudes by Unsuk Chin, Nicolai Kapustin, Sergei Lyapunov and Karol Szymanowski which won her an Opus d'Or from Opus HD Magazine and 5 diapasons from Diapason.

Community engagement forms an increasingly important part of Clare's work. Since 2017, she has performed to over 11,830 schoolchildren in partnership with Gloucestershire Music and Wye Valley Music in Schools. She frequently gives children's concerts and masterclasses at festivals in the UK and France, and runs an ongoing series of recitals at prisons.

Clare completed a BA at Cambridge University, where she obtained a double first in music, and undertook postgraduate study with Ronan O'Hora at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama and with Professor Rhian Samuel at City University London. She completed a doctorate on 20th-century left-hand piano concertos in 2012. In 2014 Clare was paired with French pianist Anne Queffélec on the Philip Langridge Mentoring Scheme run by the RPS.

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Find Clare on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube (@clarehammondpiano), Twitter (@clare_pianist) and at www.clarehammond.com.

