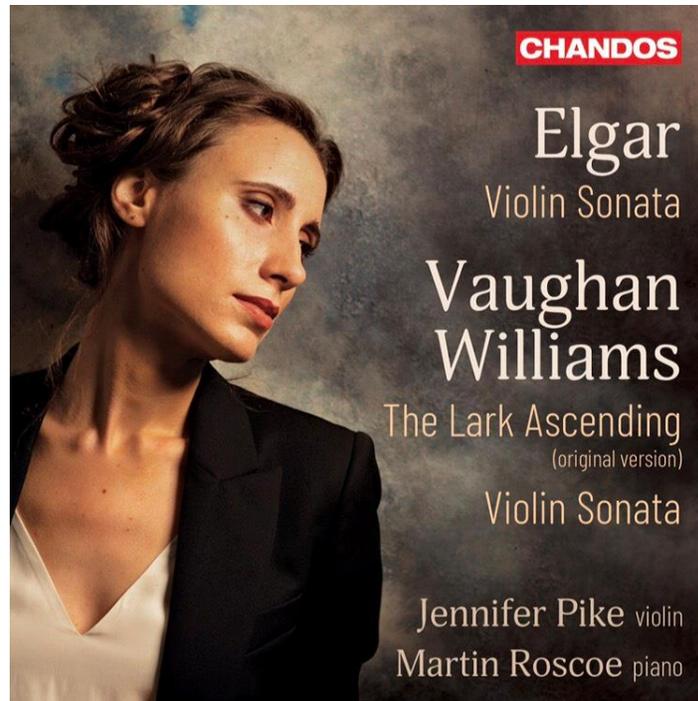


Jennifer Pike announces new album featuring the original version of Vaughan Williams' *The Lark Ascending* for violin and piano



Release date: 31 July 2020

Jennifer Pike releases a new album of works by Elgar and Vaughan Williams with pianist Martin Roscoe on 31 July (Chandos).

Following on from her successful album 'The Polish Violin' last year, Jennifer Pike now turns her attention to British repertoire, exploring the other side of her heritage with a new album coming out this summer. She has purposefully chosen a programme including both well-known and rare gems of violin repertoire that both hold a special place in British musical culture, and have had an indelible imprint on Pike's own musical identity.

The album opens with Elgar's Violin Sonata, an important decision for Pike, as she credits him with inspiring her to take up her instrument; *"in many ways I found my path to the violin through Elgar."* The composer's music was some of the first that Pike ever performed, and continues to enthral her to this day; *"The way he is able to exploit the sonorities of the violin has captivated me throughout my life. The profound lyricism and intensity so synonymous with Elgar is never far from the surface in the violin sonata, and yet the violin is drawn to the edge of daring, fantastical sound worlds through transparent, mystical textures that seem to look forward to a new era of violin writing."*

The album also features Vaughan Williams' own Violin Sonata, one of the composer's later works written just a few years before his death, a masterpiece which Jennifer believes deserves to be

performed more often. On this album, Pike wanted to explore the diversity and stark contrasts of Vaughan Williams' music, pairing "*the tranquil, serene soundscapes of The Lark Ascending and the searing, tempestuous and at times profoundly bleak terrain of his violin sonata*". Although different in musical style she believes the two works hold a "*curious bond*" and hopes to offer audiences a unique opportunity to connect with the genius of this composer by exploring the evolving sound worlds of the composer's voice over his lifetime.

The final piece on the album is the original 1914 version of Ralph Vaughan Williams' one-movement work *The Lark Ascending* which was premiered 100 years ago in 1920. Pike has a personal affiliation with the score, and has performed it around the world, as well as recorded it with choir and chamber orchestra on two previous releases.

This work has seen a particular surge in popularity in the last few years, having recently topped Classic FM's 'Hall of Fame' chart for the tenth time. Pike hopes this recording will shine a light on the lesser-known original. She explains that, although both versions are powerful in their own ways, "*The original version for violin and piano offers a more intimate journey with bell-like colours emanating from the depths of the piano, feeling a world away from the epic, sweeping sostenuto of the orchestral version but equally poignant in its own way.*"

<http://www.jenniferpike.com/>

<https://www.chandos.net/>

-ENDS-

For more information please contact Rebecca Johns at Premier
Rebecca.johns@premiercomms.com | 020 7292 7336 | 07715 205 196

Track listings

Sir Edward Elgar (1857 – 1934)

Sonata in E minor, Op. 82 (1918)

1. Allegro – Tranquillo – Come prima – Più lento
2. Romance. Andante – Più lento – Come prima
3. Allegro, non troppo – Molto largamente –
Tempo I – Poco lento – Tempo I – Come prima –
Con fuoco – Come prima (molto più lento) –
Tempo I – Largamente – Lento

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872 – 1958)

Sonata in A minor (1954)

4. Fantasia. Allegro giusto – Largamente – Tempo I – Lento – Tempo I tranquillo – Lento – Tempo I – Lento
5. Scherzo. Allegro furioso ma non troppo – Tempo giusto

6. Tema con variazioni

Andante –

Variazione 1 -

Variazione 2 -

Variazione 3 -

Variazione 4 -

Variazione 5 -

Variazione 6 – Allegro -

Tempo del preludio, ma tranquillo -

Tempo rubato. Cadenza

The Lark Ascending (1914)

Romance for Violin and Piano

7. Andante sostenuto – Poco animato – Largamente –

Allegretto tranquillo (quasi Andante) – Tranquillo –

Poco meno mosso – Allegro tranquillo – Animato – Tranquillo – Allegretto molto tranquillo –

Tempo del principio – Poco animato – Largamente

Jennifer Pike violin

Martin Roscoe piano

Jennifer Pike

Renowned for her unique artistry and compelling insight into music from the baroque to the present day, Jennifer Pike has firmly established herself as one of today's most exciting instrumentalists. She made her concerto debut with the Hallé Orchestra aged eleven, and her international career was launched the following year when she won the BBC Young Musician of the Year and became the youngest major prize winner in the Yehudi Menuhin International Competition. Appearing as soloist in a broad repertoire at the world's top concert halls, she has performed with eminent conductors including Sir Andrew Davis, Jiří Bělohlávek, Sir Mark Elder, Vladimir Fedoseyev, Juanjo Mena, Andris Nelsons, Sir Roger Norrington, Alondra de la Parra, Jukka-Pekka Saraste, Leif Segerstam, Tugan Sokhiev, and Mark Wigglesworth. She has appeared at Carnegie Hall, New York, and with St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra, Nagoya Philharmonic Orchestra, Oslo Philharmonic, Royal Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra, Singapore Symphony Orchestra, Staatsorchester Rheinische Philharmonie, Tchaikovsky Symphony Orchestra, Moscow, Tokyo Symphony Orchestra, Zürcher Kammerorchester, all the BBC orchestras, and major orchestras across the UK. She has appeared as a guest director with the BBC Philharmonic, Manchester Camerata and English Chamber Orchestra, among others.

Equally sought after as a recitalist and chamber musician, she has collaborated worldwide with artists including Anne-Sophie Mutter, Nikolaj Znaider, Nicolas Altstaedt, Sir Bryn Terfel, sarod players Ayaan and Amaan Ali Bangash, Igor Levit, Martin Roscoe and Mahan Esfahani, with whom she recently toured China. She has curated concert series at LSO St Luke's for BBC Radio 3 and at the Wigmore Hall, where she celebrated her Polish heritage with three recitals of Polish music, including several UK and world premieres.

Her critically acclaimed discography on Chandos includes 'The Polish Violin,' a disc championing Polish composers, the concertos by Sibelius, Rózsa, and Mendelssohn, sonatas by Brahms, Schumann, Debussy, Ravel, and Franck and the complete works for violin and piano by Janáček.

Jennifer Pike is an ambassador for the Prince's Trust and Foundation for Children and the Arts, and patron of the Lord Mayor's City Music Foundation. She plays a 1708 Matteo Goffriller violin.

Martin Roscoe

His career spanning over four decades, Martin Roscoe is inarguably one of the UK's best-loved pianists, renowned for his versatility at the keyboard, and equally at home in concerto, recital, and chamber performances.

He is Artistic Director of Ribble Valley International Piano Week and the Manchester Chamber Concerts Society, and Co-Artistic Director of the Beverley Chamber Music Festival. He continues to work regularly with many of the UK's leading orchestras, having especially close links with the BBC Philharmonic, BBC National Orchestra of Wales, BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, Hallé, Manchester Camerata, Northern Chamber Orchestra, and Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, where he has given more than ninety performances. He also performs widely across continental Europe, Canada, Australia, and the Far East, under eminent conductors such as Sir Simon Rattle, Sir Mark Elder, and Christoph von Dohnányi.

A prolific recitalist and chamber musician, he tours the UK extensively every season, and enjoys long-standing associations with Peter Donohoe, Kathryn Stott, Tasmin Little, and the Endellion and Maggini quartets, as well as more recent collaborations with Jennifer Pike, Ashley Wass, Liza Ferschtman, and the Brodsky, Escher, and Vertavo quartets. Having made more than 600 broadcasts, including seven appearances at the BBC Proms, he is one of the most regularly played pianists on BBC Radio 3 and has made numerous commercial recordings.

Currently Professor of Piano at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London, where he has been awarded a Fellowship, Martin Roscoe treasures the development of young talent not least as it helps him constantly to re-examine and re-evaluate his own playing.