
Programme

J S Bach (1685-1750) **Sonata in G minor BWV 1029**

Bach's three sonatas for cello (originally viola da gamba) and keyboard are not to be confused with the dance suites for unaccompanied cello. They probably belong to his Leipzig years. Both in its style and in its three movements (sonatas of Bach's time generally having four) this third sonata has some resemblance to a concerto.

Antonin Dvorak (1841 - 1904) **Silent Woods Op. 68 no. 5**

Published in 1883 as part of a suite of pieces for piano duet, Silent Woods ('peaceful' might be better) was later re-cast by Dvorak for cello with piano. It was first performed in this form on a farewell concert tour which the composer undertook before his departure for the New World in 1892.

George Walker (1922-2018) **Sonata for Cello and Piano**

1. Allegro passionato
2. Sostenuto
3. Allegro

George Walker published 90 compositions, almost one for each year of his long life. His success as a composer was such that he had commissions from all the major American orchestras. He had to wait until the age of 74, however, to become the first black American to receive a Pulitzer Prize for music. The cello sonata dates from 1957.

The passion and disquiet of the first movement resolve in the very last bars, preparing the way for a slow movement of poignant lyricism. The drive and rhythmic surprises of the third movement bring the sonata to a thrilling conclusion.

Interval

Kaija Saariaho (1952-2023) **Sept Papillons**

Saariaho was the pre-eminent Finnish composer of her time, though she spent much of her life in Paris. Initially her art sprang from a fascination with the sounds of nature and the elements, but she made extensive use of whatever possibilities the most sophisticated technology could provide. These seven pieces for solo cello take the butterfly as an emblem of the ephemeral nature of experience and existence. Commissioned by the Rudolph Steiner Foundation (she herself was educated at Steiner schools), they were first performed in the year 2000.

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827) **Sonata for piano and cello in D Op. 102 no.2**

1. Allegro con brio
2. Adagio con molto sentimento d'affetto
3. Allegro Fugato

Beethoven's five sonatas are at the heart of the repertoire for cello and piano. The two of Opus 102 were written in 1815 for Josef Linke, a friend of Beethoven who played in the quartet kept by the music-loving Russian ambassador in Vienna. They're the first pieces to show evidence that

Beethoven was moving into a third phase of his composing life, seen in retrospect as his 'late' period.

The piano opens with a bold, arresting motif, but the piece moves more quickly and freely onto more lyrical and even humorous material than of old. The adagio – eleven minutes of it – becomes ever more intimate, subtle and deeply felt, the players being asked to show 'much feeling of affection'. The playful finale follows without a break, the first of many fugal movements to feature in Beethoven's late compositions.

(Notes by David Lindley)

Kosta Popovic

Montenegrin Cellist **Kosta Popović** Is currently pursuing his Master's degree at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. For four years Kosta was the Cellist of the Fibonacci Quartet. With his colleagues, he regularly performed at music festivals in the UK and abroad. Notable appearances include performances on BBC Radio 3 on In Tune and for Dutch TV in Podium Witteman, the Schiermonnikoog Chamber Music Festival as well as Art Amanti Chamber Music Festival. Most recently Kosta won the 71st Royal Over-Seas League Music Competition (Chamber Music) and The CAVATINA Chamber Music Competition.

Kosta studied at the International Chamber Music Institute at Reina Sofia School of Music as well as the Dutch String Quartet Academy (NSKA).

Valentina Wang

... is an Italian pianist based in London, currently in demand as a versatile collaborative pianist, chamber musician and song accompanist. She is a recent graduate of the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London, where she completed an Artist Diploma course in Piano Accompaniment under the guidance of Caroline Palmer.

She previously obtained her Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Solo Piano Performance at Conservatorio Peri in Reggio Emilia, Italy, where she was awarded the "Giovanna and Fabrizia Magnani" scholarship for outstanding academic achievement.

NEXT CMS CONCERT

Tuesday 11th November at 7.30pm:
United Reformed Church
Palisander - Early Music's very own Spice Girls

OTHER CONCERTS

Carlisle Music Society:
Thursday 16th October at 7:30pm:
The Fraternity, Carlisle Cathedral.
The Lark Piano Trio

Keswick Music Society:
Sunday 2nd November at 7:30pm:
St John's Church.
Maxim Calver, cello & Kumi Matsuo, piano

Penrith Music Club:
Monday 17th November at 7:30pm:
Penrith Methodist Church.
Prince Bishops Brass

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Cockermouth Music Society

Number

Tuesday, 14th October 2025

7:30 pm

United Reformed Church

Kosta Popović

(Cello)

Valentina Wang

(Piano)

Admission £20.00

Free to members, students with SU cards
and people 18 years old and under.

We are here, together, to listen deeply.
Please take the opportunity as you take your
seat to make sure your phone is on silent
and put away.

No photography or recording allowed.