

WEDNESDAY 21 OCTOBER

Joseph Spooner cello
Duncan Honeybourne piano



WEYMOUTH LUNCHTIME CHAMBER CONCERTS

Featuring world premieres of Contemporary Piano Soundbites, brand new short piano pieces composed during the recent lockdown by some of our leading composers.

Piano Solos:

Francis POTT (1957-) Poem of the Air
David JENNINGS (1972-) Melancholy. A Fragment
Sadie HARRISON (1965-) in the air...

Cello and Piano:

Ruth GIPPS (1921-1999) Sonata for Cello and Piano, op.63 (1978)
I. Andante espressivo ; Allegro
II. Andantino
III. Finale: Allegro

Piano Solos:

John CASKEN (1949-) Tempus Plangendi
Phillip COOKE (1980-) The Turtle Dove
Adam GORB (1958-) After the Darkness
Clive JENKINS (1938-) Quicksilver

Ruth Gipps is one of the unsung geniuses of 20th-century British music. Pianist, oboist, composer, conductor and lecturer, she was a vibrant and determined figure, striking out on an independent path. In her own time and professional environment, Gipps suffered from two overwhelming disadvantages: she wrote unfashionably lyrical, romantic music; and she was a woman. As conductor of the London Repertoire Orchestra she gave many young artists the opportunity of London debut appearances, and she promoted an eclectic musical mix, but she was more inclined to use her position to help other musicians than to push her own compositions. Gipps' own rhapsodic and warm-hearted music has begun to find a place in the repertoire since her death, and the forthcoming centenary of her birth in 2021 promises a new dawn for the discovery of her music, with many celebrations and recordings planned. Duncan is recording several Gipps chamber works for the centenary, and Joseph and Duncan are set to record the Cello Sonata later this month. In preparation, they offer Weymouth audiences a foretaste of this impassioned, spirited work, which seems not have been performed for 40 years and is ripe to be enjoyed again.

Today's premieres, all composed for Duncan Honeybourne during Lockdown earlier this year, include John Casken's Tempus Plangendi, a miniature masterpiece from one of Britain's most distinguished living composers, and the magical and mysterious After the Darkness by Adam Gorb, who is Head of Composition at the Royal Northern College of Music and has had concerts entirely devoted to his music around the world.