

'All things truly wicked start from innocence.' - Ernest Hemingway

Laurence Kilsby tenor Ella O'Neill piano

Unbewegte laue Luft Op. 57 No. 8 (c.1871) Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

Camille Saint-Saëns (1835-1921) La coccinelle (1868)

Der Knabe und das Immlein from Mörike Lieder (1888) Hugo Wolf (1860-1903)

Galathea from Brettl-Lieder (1901) Arnold Schoenberg (1874-1951)

Flickan kom ifrån sin älsklings möte Op. 4b No. 1 (1893) Wilhelm Stenhammar (1871-1927)

Rebecca Clarke (1886-1979) The Seal Man (1922)

**Hugo Wolf** Nimmersatte Liebe from Mörike Lieder (1888)

Hugh Wood (b.1932) Horizon from Wild Cyclamen (2006)

Kurt Weill (1900-1950) Complainte de la Seine (1934)

Schenk mir deinen goldenen Kamm Op. 2 No. 2 (c.1899-1900) Arnold Schoenberg

Benjamin Britten (1913-1976) Fish in the unruffled lakes (1938)

Canticle I: My beloved is mine Op. 40 (1947)

Rebecca Clarke The Tiger (1929-33 rev. 1972)

Jake Heggie (b.1961) Animal Passion from Natural Selection (1997)

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This highly imaginative programme is devised as a journey from innocence to experience, and ultimately to 'animal passion'. Refreshingly eclectic in its 'playlist', the programme becomes an evolving, involving experience, each song enhanced by its juxtaposition with a surprising companion. The songs are sometimes 'wicked', occasionally dark or tragic, at other times finding a means of expression despite the necessity of concealment. The animals have the final word: liberated, for better or worse, from societal constraints.

The opening song sets the mood for the programme as a whole. **Brahms**, not generally recognised for the sensuality of his music, created gloriously evocative settings of Daumer's texts in his Op. 57 8 *Lieder*, exemplified powerfully in 'Unbewegte laue Luft'. From an almost motionless, heavily-charged opening section, Brahms turbo-boosts the second half of the song, building ecstatically towards 'Komm, O komm'.

Returning to a state of innocence, or ignorance, we find young love receiving advice from the insect world. The boy in **Saint-Saëns**'s 'La cocinelle' is too shy to kiss the girl he loves, easily distracted by the ladybird on her neck. Saint-Saëns treats the story with whimsical yet scathing irony, appearing to share the ladybird's view of the boy's 'bêtise'. Another worldly-wise insect is the main protagonist of **Wolf**'s 'Der Knabe und das Immlein'. The song of this somewhat cynical bee is lightly illustrated by flutterings and trills in the piano under a beautifully lyrical vocal line, suggesting the sweetness of honey while encouraging the boy, a little sarcastically, to work up to a kiss.

The narrator of **Schoenberg**'s 'Galathea' has no problem with kissing, in theory, yet Galathea's lips remain a fantasy (she is the 'ideal' woman in *Pygmalion*, moulded by the imaginings of her creator). The song is from the *Brettl-Lieder*, written when Schoenberg was associated with the emerging *Überbrettl*, based on the French cabaret scene but given a German twist of mordant humour. Schoenberg provides this knowing text with a suitably slinky setting.

Badly treated young women are given voice in Stenhammar's 'Flickan kom ifrån sin älsklings möte' and Clarke's 'The Seal Man'. 'Flickan' has the tragic contours of a folksong both in its trajectory from romance to betrayal and its melancholy 'once upon a time' melody, appearing as a refrain throughout. The heroine – who ultimately sounds furious as well as heartbroken – briefly silences this melody with a spat-out monotone in the final verse, revealing the devastating truth. 'The Seal Man' is an eerie tale of blind love: a maiden lured to sea by a selkielike figure who 'never thought that she wouldn't bear the sea like himself'. The text is from John Masefield's A Mainsail Haul, and Clarke cleverly converts the prose into a dramatic 'scena'. Piano and voice move responsively through a series of moods, anchored - subtly - by falling minor-thirds at prominent moments and on significant words (for example, on 'calling,' 'to him', and 'bleeding').

The romantically-charged journey to the sea is bluntly curtailed by the tragic conclusion.

Moving into the more consummated side of love, Wolf's 'Nimmersatte Liebe' is surprisingly explicit in its depiction of sado-masochism, with its bitten lips and plea for pain. Yet Wolf frames passion's absurdity – pounding with syncopation as it is – with a witty, lyrical satire. By contrast, **Wood**'s 'Horizon' is from *Wild Cyclamen*, a cycle concerned with, as the composer puts it, 'the rise and fall of a love affair'. 'Horizon' is about three-quarters through, at the start of the 'fall'; it is an elegiac depiction, or realisation, of infidelity, lightly thrumming with habanerastyle rhythms. Overall it has a harmonically suspended quality, somewhere 'between sea and sky'.

Falling even further, we join Weill at the bottom of the Seine in his take on a French cabaret song. The sometimes shocking darkness of Magre's text is apt enough – the song was composed in 1934, not long after Weill left Nazi Germany for Paris - and Weill's setting, swivelling uneasily from minor to major and back again, becomes increasingly searing. Schoenberg's 'Schenk mir deinen goldenen Kamm' sets a voluptuous text from Richard Dehmel's collection Weib und Welt; Dehmel was tried for obscenity and blasphemy over this work due to its depiction of a woman who believes herself to be both Mary Magdalene and Jesus's mother Mary. In Schoenberg's setting, the ardent expressions to the beloved are infused initially with a rich chromaticism, rising to an operatic outburst at 'Maria', then subsiding eventually to a questioning 'Magdalena' and an exhausted piano postlude.

Britten's 'Fish in the unruffled lakes' comes from the feverish period in the late 1930s when the composer would set around 20 poems by his friend and collaborator WH Auden. Britten was drawn to Auden's verses which had a settable, lyrical quality to them, yet were simultaneously suggestive of much more. In this song, there is a great deal being said (or unsaid) under the song's sparkling surface. Canticle I is, even more powerfully, a masterclass in both expression and concealment, with a vocal line that seems liberated from years of 'polite' English restraint. Written for Britten's lover Peter Pears in 1947, it seems almost outrageously bold in its refrain 'I my best beloved's am, so he is mine': virtuosic in the first section, playful in the middle, transcendent by the end.

Ultimately we arrive, passions fully laid bare, in the animal kingdom. Rebecca Clarke's ominous setting of Blake's meditation on evil features a ferociously growling 'Tiger', drawing the vocal line down to its 'fearful' depths. **Heggie**'s tangoing bobcat ('Animal Passion') is rebelling against a future of 'pussy-footing' into 'fat' domesticity. Periodically letting out a Clarke-like tiger growl, this 'great cat' is uninhibited in its desire for a good time.

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#### Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

#### Unbewegte laue Luft **Op. 57 No. 8** (c.1871) Georg Friedrich Daumer

#### Motionless mild air

Unbewegte laue Luft, Tiefe Ruhe der Natur; Durch die stille Gartennacht Plätschert die Fontäne nur; Aber im Gemüte schwillt Heissere Begierde mir; Aber in der Ader quillt

Leben und verlangt nach Leben. Sollten nicht auch deine Brust

Sehnlichere Wünsche heben? Sollte meiner Seele Ruf Nicht die deine tief

durchbeben? Leise mit dem Ätherfuss Säume nicht, daher zu schweben! Komm, o komm, damit wir

Himmlische Genüge geben!

Motionless mild air. nature deep at rest; through the still garden niaht

only the fountain plashes; but my soul swells with a more ardent desire:

life surges in my veins and yearns for life.

Should not your breast heave with more

passionate longing? Should not the cry of my soul

quiver deeply through your own? Softly on ethereal feet

glide to me, do not delay!

Come, ah! come, that we might

give each other heavenly satisfaction!

#### Camille Saint-Saëns (1835-1921)

#### La coccinelle (1868) Victor Hugo

#### The ladybird

She said to me:

on it

'Something's

itching me.' And I saw

a small rose-coloured

her snow-white neck, and

Elle me dit: 'Quelque

chose Me tourmente.' Et j'aperçus Son cou de neige, et, dessus, Un petit insecte

rose.

J'aurais dû, - mais, sage ou À seize ans, on est farouche,

Voir le baiser sur sa bouche

Plus que l'insecte à son cou.

insect. I should - but right or at sixteen one is shy have seen the kiss on her more than the insect on her neck.

On eût dit un coquillage; Like a shell it shone; Dos rose et taché de red back speckled with noir. black. Les fauvettes pour The warblers, to catch a nous voir glimpse of us,

Se penchaient dans le feuillage.

Sa bouche fraîche était

Je me courbai sur l a belle, Et je pris la coccinelle;

Mais le baiser s'envola.

'Fils, apprends comme on me nomme,' Dit l'insecte du ciel bleu, 'Les bêtes sont au bon Dieu:

Mais la bêtise est à l'homme.'

craned their necks in the branches.

Her fresh mouth was there: I leaned over the lovely girl, and dislodged the

ladybird,

but... the kiss flew away!

'Son, learn my name,' said the insect from the

blue sky. 'Creatures belong to our

good Lord, but cretins belong to

man.'

#### Hugo Wolf (1860-1903)

#### Der Knabe und das Immlein from Mörike

Lieder (1888)

Eduard Mörike

Im Weinberg auf der Höhe Ein Häuslein steht so windebang; Hat weder Tür noch

Fenster. Die Weile wird ihm

lang.

Und ist der Tag so schwüle. Sind all' verstummt die Vögelein, Summt an der Sonnenblume

Ein Immlein ganz allein.

Mein Lieb hat einen Garten. Da steht ein hübsches

Immenhaus: Kommst du daher geflogen?

Schickt sie dich nach mir aus?

The boy and the bee

On the hill-top vineyard there stands a hut so wind-afraid. it has neither door nor window

and feels time dragging

And when the day's so sultry and every little bird is

silent, a solitary bee buzzes round the sunflower.

My sweetheart has a garden

with a pretty beehive in it:

is that where you've flown

from? Did she send you to me?

Song continues overleaf. Please turn the page as quietly as possible.

"O nein, du feiner Knabe, Es hiess mich niemand Boten gehn; Dies Kind weiss nichts von Lieben, Hat dich noch kaum

gesehn.

Was wüssten auch die Mädchen, Wenn sie kaum aus der Schule sind! Dein herzallerliebstes Schätzchen Ist noch ein Mutterkind.

Ich bring' ihm Wachs und Honig; Ade! – ich hab' ein ganzes Pfund; Wie wird das Schätzchen Iachen, Ihm wässert schon der Mund."

Ach, wolltest du ihr sagen, Ich wüsste, was viel süsser ist: Nichts Lieblichers auf Erden Als wenn man herzt und küsst! 'Oh no, you handsome boy, no one bade me bear messages; this child knows nothing of love, has scarcely even noticed you.

And what can girls know when hardly out of school! Your beloved sweetheart is still her mother's child.

I bring her wax and honey; farewell! I've gathered a whole pound. How your beloved will laugh, her mouth's already watering.'

Ah, if you'd be so kind to tell her,
I know of something much sweeter:
there's nothing lovelier on earth
than when one hugs and kisses!

### Arnold Schoenberg (1874-1951)

### Galathea from Brettl-Lieder (1901)

Frank Wedekind

Ach, wie brenn' ich vor Verlangen, Galathea, schönes Kind, Dir zu küssen deine Wangen, Weil sie so entzückend sind.

Wonne die mir widerfahre, Galathea, schönes Kind, Dir zu küssen deine Haare, Weil sie so verlockend sind.

Nimmer wehr' mir bis ich ende, Galathea, schönes Kind, Dir zu küssen deine Hände, Ah, how I'm burning with desire,
Galathea, lovely child,
just to kiss your cheeks,
because they're so
enchanting.

The rapture that I feel, Galathea, lovely child, just to kiss your tresses, because they're so enticing.

Never resist me, till I've finished, Galathea, lovely child, kissing your hands, Weil sie so verlockend sind.

Ach, du ahnst nicht, wie ich glühe,
Galathea, schönes Kind,
Dir zu küssen deine Knie,
Weil sie so verlockend sind.

Und was tät ich nicht, du Süsse, Galathea, schönes Kind, Dir zu küssen deine Füsse, Weil sie so verlockend sind.

Aber deinen Mund enthülle, Mädchen, meinen Küssen nie, Denn in seiner Reize Fülle, Küsst ihn nur die Phantasie. because they're so enticing.

Ah, you do not sense how I burn, Galathea, lovely child, to kiss your knees, because they're so enticing.

And what wouldn't I do, my sweet, Galathea, lovely child, to kiss your feet, because they're so enticing.

But never expose your lips, sweet girl, to my kisses, for the fullness of their charms can only be kissed in fantasy.

#### Wilhelm Stenhammar (1871-1927)

# Flickan kom ifrån sin älsklings möte Op. 4b

**No. 1** (1893)

Johan Ludvig Runeberg

# The girl came from her lover's tryst

Flickan kom ifrån sin älsklings möte, Kom med röda händer. Modern sade: Varav rodna dina händer, flicka? Flickan sade: Jag har plockat

Och på törnen stungit mina händer.

Åter kom hon från sin ålsklings möte, Kom med röda läppar.

Modern sade: Varav rodna dina läppar, flicka?

Flickan sade: Jag har ätit hallon,

Och med saften målat mina läppar.

Åter kom hon från sin älsklings möte, The girl came from her lover's tryst.

She came with red hands. Her mother said:

Why are your hands red, O daughter?

The girl said: I have been picking roses, and I pricked my hands

Again she returned from her lover's tryst.
She came with red lips.
Her mother said:
Why are your lips red, O daughter?
The girl said: I have been eating raspberries,

on the thorns.

and coloured my lips with their juice.

Again she returned from her lover's tryst.

Kom med bleka kinder. Modern sade:

Varav blekna dina kinder, flicka?

Flickan sade: Red en grav, o moder!

Göm mig där, och ställ ett kors däröver,

Och på korset rista, som jag säger:

En gäng kom hon hem med röda händer,

Ty de rodnat mellan älskarns händer.

En gång kom hon hem med röda läppar;

Ty de rodnat under älskarns läppar.

Senast kom hon hem med bleka kinder,

Tv de bleknat genom älskarns She came with pale cheeks. Her mother said:

Why are your cheeks pale, O daughter?

The girl said: Prepare a grave, O mother!

Hide me there, and place a cross above it,

and, on the cross, carve what I tell you:

Once she came home with red hands,

for they had reddened between her lover's hands:

once she came home with red lips,

for they had reddened from her lover's lips.

Finally she came home with pale cheeks;

for they had paled through her lover's infidelity.

#### Rebecca Clarke (1886-1979)

#### The Seal Man (1922)

John Masefield

And he came by her cabin to the west of the road, calling.

There was a strong love came up in her at that, And she put down her sewing on the table, and 'Mother,' she says,

'There's no lock, and no key, and no bolt, and no

There's no iron, nor no stone, nor anything at all Will keep me this night from the man I love.' And she went out into the moonlight to him,

There by the bush where the flow'rs is pretty, beyond the river.

And he says to her: 'You are all of the beauty of the world.

Will you come where I go, over the waves of the sea?' And she says to him: 'My treasure and my strength,' she savs.

'I would follow you on the frozen hills, my feet bleeding.'

Then they went down into the sea together, And the moon made a track on the sea, and they walked down it:

It was like a flame before them. There was no fear at all on her;

Only a great love like the love of the Old Ones, That was stronger than the touch of the fool. She had a little white throat, and little cheeks like flowers.

And she went down into the sea with her man,

Who wasn't a man at all.

She was drowned, of course.

It's like he never thought that she wouldn't bear the sea like himself.

She was drowned, drowned.

#### **Hugo Wolf**

#### Nimmersatte Liebe from Mörike Lieder

(1888)

Eduard Mörike

#### Insatiable love

So ist die Lieb! So ist die Lieb!

Mit Küssen nicht zu

stillen:

Wer ist der Tor und will ein

Sieh

Mit eitel Wasser

füllen?

Und schöpfst du an die tausend Jahr,

Und küssest ewig, ewig

gar,

Du tust ihr nie zu

Willen.

Such is love! Such is

lovel

Not to be quieted with

kisses:

what fool would fill a sieve

with nothing else but

water?

And if you drew water for some thousand years, and if you kissed for ever

and ever -

you could never satisfy

love.

Die Lieb, die Lieb hat alle

Stund

Neu wunderlich Gelüsten: Wir bissen uns die Lippen

wund,

Da wir uns heute küssten. Das Mädchen hielt in guter

Wie's Lämmlein unterm

Messer:

Ihr Auge bat: "Nur immer

Je weher, desto

besser!"

Love, love, has every hour

new and strange desires;

we bit our lips

sore,

when we kissed today.

The girl kept quiet and

like a lamb beneath the

knife:

her eyes kept pleading:

Go on, go on!

The more it hurts the better!

So ist die Lieb! und war auch so.

Wie lang es Liebe gibt, Und anders war Herr

Salomo.

Der Weise, nicht verliebt.

Such is love, and has

been so

as long as love's existed, and wise old Solomon

himself

was no differently in love.

Please do not turn the page until the song and its accompaniment have ended

#### Hugh Wood (b.1932)

#### Horizon from Wild Cyclamen (2006)

**Robert Graves** 

On a clear day how thin the horizon Drawn between sea and sky,

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#### Kurt Weill (1900-1950)

# Complainte de la Seine Lament of the Seine (1934)

Maurice Magre

Au fond de la Seine
il y a de l'or
Des bateaux rouillés, des
bijoux, des armes
Au fond de la Seine
il y a des
morts
Au fond de la Seine il y a de

Au fond de la Seine il y a des larmes Au fond de la Seine il y a des fleurs

De vase et de boue elles sont nourries

Au fond de la Seine il y a des cœurs

Qui souffri' de trop pour vivre la vie

Et puis des cailloux et des bêtes grises

L'âme des égouts soufflant des poisons

Les anneaux jetés par des incomprises

Des pieds qu'une hélice a coupés du tronc'

Et les fruits maudits des ventres stériles

Les blancs avortés que nul n'aima

Les vomissemens de la grand' ville

Au fond de la Seine il y a cela

O Seine clémente où vont les cadavres

cadavres
O lit dont les draps sont faits

Fleuv' des déchets, sans fanal, sans hâvre

de limon,

chanteuse berçant la morgue et les ponts At the bottom of the Seine there is gold,

rusty boats, jewels, weapons.

At the bottom of the Seine there are corpses.

At the bottom of the Seine there are tears.

At the bottom of the Seine there are flowers

nourished on slime and mud.

At the bottom of the Seine there are hearts that suffered too much to

And then there are pebbles and grey creatures.

live

The soul of sewers spewing poison.

Rings tossed in by the misunderstood.

feet that a propeller has sliced from a body.

And the cursed fruits of a sterile womb,

the aborted foetuses that no one loved.

The city's vomit.

All this rests at the bottom of the Seine.

O merciful Seine, where cadavers end.

O beds with linen made of slime,

river of garbage without beacon or harbour – singer who lulls the

morgue and the bridges,

Accueill' le pauvre, accueill' la femme,

Accueill' l'ivrogne, accueill' le fou,

Mêle leurs sanglots au bruit de tes lames

Et porte leurs cœurs parmi les cailloux.

welcome the poor,
welcome the women,
welcome the drunks,
welcome the insane.
Mingle their sobs with the
sound of your waves
and carry their hearts
along with the pebbles.

### **Arnold Schoenberg**

# Schenk mir deinen goldenen Kamm Op. 2

**No. 2** (c.1899-1900) *Richard Dehmel* 

Give me your golden comb

Schenk mir deinen goldenen Kamm;

Jeder Morgen soll dich mahnen,

Dass du mir die Haare küsstest.

Schenk mir deinen seidenen Schwamm;

Jeden Abend will ich ahnen.

Wem du dich im Bade

rüstest, O Maria! Give me your golden comb;

every morning shall remind you

that you kissed my hair.

Give me your silken sponge,

every evening I want to sense

for whom you prepare yourself in the bath -

oh, Maria!

Schenk mir Alles, was du hast;

Meine Seele ist nicht eitel, Stolz empfang ich deinen Segen.

Schenk mir deine schwerste Last:

Willst du nicht auf meinen Scheitel

Auch dein Herz, dein Herz noch legen – Magdalena? Give me everything you have;

my soul is not in vain, proudly I receive your blessing.

Give me your heavy burden:

will you not lay on my head

your heart too, your heart – Magdalena?

## Benjamin Britten (1913-1976)

#### Fish in the unruffled lakes (1938)

WH Auden

Fish in the unruffled lakes
The swarming colours wear, ...

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# Canticle I: My beloved is mine Op. 40 (1947)

Francis Quarles

Ev'n like two little bank-divided brooks
That wash the pebbles with their wanton streams.
And having ranged and searched a thousand nooks
Meet both at length at silver breasted Thames
Where in a greater current they conjoin.
So I my best beloved's am.
So he is mine!

Ev'n so we met and after long pursuit Ev'n so we joined. We both became entire. No need for either to renew a suit For I was flax, and he was flames of fire. Our firm united souls did more than twine. So I my best beloved's am. So he is mine!

If all those glittering monarchs, that command The servile quarters of this earthly ball Should tender in exchange their shares of land I would not change my fortunes for them all; Their wealth is but a counter to my coin; The world's but theirs; But my beloved's mine.

Nor time, nor place, nor chance, nor death
Can bow my least desires unto the least remove.
He's firmly mine by oath, I his by vow.
He's mine by faith and I am his by love.
He's mine by water, I am his by wine;
Thus I my best beloved's am.
Thus he is mine.

He is my altar, I his holy place, I am his guest and he my living food. I'm his by penitence, he mine by grace. I'm his by purchase, he is mine by blood. He's my supporting elm and I his vine; Thus I my best beloved's am. Thus he is mine.

He gives me wealth: I give him all my vows;
I give him songs, he gives me length of days.
With wreaths of grace he crowns my longing brows
And I his temples with a crown of praise
Which he accepts: an everlasting sign
That I my best beloved's am.
That he is mine.

#### Rebecca Clarke

The Tiger (1929-33, rev. 1972) William Blake

Tyger Tyger, burning bright, In the forests of the night; What immortal hand or eye, Could frame thy fearful symmetry?

In what distant deeps or skies Burnt the fire of thine eyes? On what wings dare he aspire? What the hand, dare sieze the fire?

And what shoulder, & what art, Could twist the sinews of thy heart? And when thy heart began to beat, What dread hand? & what dread feet?

What the hammer? what the chain, In what furnace was thy brain? What the anvil? what dread grasp, Dare its deadly terrors clasp!

When the stars threw down their spears And water'd heaven with their tears: Did he smile his work to see? Did he who made the Lamb make thee?

Tyger Tyger burning bright, In the forests of the night: What immortal hand or eye, Dare frame thy fearful symmetry?

#### Jake Heggie (b.1961)

#### Animal Passion from Natural Selection (1997) Gini Savage

Fierce as a bobcat's spring
With start-up speeds of sixty miles per hour

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