

LSO St Luke's

# CHAMBER MUSIC

BBC  
RADIO 3

**SPANISH CONNECTIONS  
NASH ENSEMBLE**

Thursday 8 February 2024 1-2.05pm  
Jerwood Hall, LSO St Luke's

Joaquín Turina Scène andalouse  
Maurice Ravel Violin Sonata No 1, 'Posthume'  
Enrique Granados The Maiden and the Nightingale  
Joaquín Turina Piano Trio No 1

**Nash Ensemble**

Recorded for future broadcast on BBC Radio 3

LSO

# STILL TO COME

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## SPANISH CONNECTIONS February

Music with personality, inspired by the sounds, colours and history of Spain.

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## BERTRAND CHAMAYOU & FRIENDS

February to April

Dynamic performances from pianist Bertrand Chamayou, and close friends.

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## HAYDN & MOZART April to May

Indulge in the string quartets of these two genius composers.

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We always hope you have a great experience. Visit [Iso.co.uk/survey](https://www.iso.co.uk/survey) to complete a short survey about today's concert.

## THE CRYPT CAFÉ & BAR

The Crypt café and bar is open from one hour before concerts and during the interval (where applicable). Please note, card payments only. Only cold drinks are permitted inside the Jerwood Hall.

## PROGRAMME NOTE WRITER

Kate Hopkins is English-language editor (concerts) for Salzburg Festival. She has written articles for organisations including the London Symphony Orchestra, the Philharmonia, the Salzburg Festival and the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, and book reviews for *NB Magazine* and *The Wagner Journal*.

*In accordance with the requirements of Islington Council persons shall not be permitted to stand or sit in any gangway.*

*The taking of photographs and the use of recording equipment are strictly forbidden without formal consent from LSO St Luke's.*

*Please make sure that digital watch alarms and mobile phones are switched off during the performance.*

# Scène andalouse

Joaquín Turina



1912



12 minutes

- 1 **Crépuscule du soir** (Twilight)
- 2 **À la fenêtre** (At the Window)

Joaquín Turina grew up in Seville, Spain. In 1905 he moved to Paris to study at the Schola Cantorum with Vincent d'Indy. His early compositions were in the French Romantic tradition, but a meeting with his compatriots and fellow-composers Manuel de Falla and Isaac Albéniz encouraged him to turn for inspiration to the music of his homeland. He wrote *Scène andalouse* in 1912, the year before his return to Spain.

It is a homage to his native Andalusia, scored for the unusual combination of piano, solo viola and string quartet. In 'Crépuscule du soir', the viola player imitates the serenade of a street musician, with guitar-like pizzicato (plucked) accompaniment from the quartet's lower strings. 'À la fenêtre' depicts a conversation between two lovers. It is notable for its textural variety and is alternately tender and passionate.

# Violin Sonata No 1 in A minor, 'Posthume'

Maurice Ravel



1897



11 minutes

While Maurice Ravel spent much of his life in and around Paris, his mother came from Spain's Basque region and had grown up in Madrid. Her memories of Spain's music and culture proved an important influence on many of her son's compositions.

However, there is little that is obviously Hispanic about his First Violin Sonata.

Ravel began the piece in April 1897, while he was studying with Gabriel Fauré at the Paris Conservatoire. He only completed the first movement – it was published in 1975, 38 years after his death. A 1929 note from the composer to the violinist Paul Oberdoerffer suggests that the two of them may have performed the movement in Fauré's composition class.

The Sonata is characterised by intense lyricism, shifts between duple and triple metre and rich chromatic harmonies. Ravel also makes striking use of modes (antique scales), giving the piece a mysterious and otherworldly ambience.

# The Maiden and the Nightingale

Enrique Granados



1911



7 minutes

'The Maiden and the Nightingale' is the fourth piece in Enrique Granados's 1911 piano suite *Goyescas*. This work was inspired by Francisco Goya's paintings, aquatints and etchings of majos and majas: 19th-century lower-class Spanish men and women known for their flamboyant dress and behaviour.

Granados intended *Goyescas* to show 'rhythm, colour and life distinctly Spanish: the note of sentiment as suddenly amorous and passionate as it is dramatic and tragic'. 'The Maiden and the Nightingale' is a set of pensive variations on a Valencian folk melody that Granados had heard a young girl sing. The piece ends in a superb pianistic evocation of the nightingale's song.

# Piano Trio No 1

Joaquín Turina



1926



21 minutes

- 1 **Lento – Fugue (à l'inverse) – Allegro moderato**
- 2 **Thème et Variations**
- 3 **Sonate: Allegro**

Turina wrote his first piano trio in 1926, dedicating it to Her Royal Highness L'Infante Doña Isabel de Borbón. It was first performed in London the following year. The piece combines aspects of the 'learned style' the composer had absorbed at Paris' Schola Cantorum with elements of Spanish folk music.

The first movement is a homage to the Baroque form of Prelude and Fugue, immortalised by Johann Sebastian Bach in his *Well-Tempered Clavier*. The prelude is mournful, with sighing figures in the strings, and the fugue is notable for its elaborate piano writing. The variations in the second movement are all based on dances from different regions of Spain, including the muñeira (miller's dance) from Galicia, and the zortziko from the Basque region, the Aragonese jota and the soleá from Turina's native Andalusia.

The sonata-form finale has two principal themes, the first energetic and jubilant, the second expansive and lyrical. Its final section includes a reminiscence of the opening movement, and brings the work to a majestic conclusion.

# Nash Ensemble



**Amelia Freedman CBE** artistic director

**Alasdair Beatson** piano

**Timothy Ridout** viola

**Benjamin Nabarro** violin

**Jonathan Stone** violin

**Rachel Roberts** viola

**Adrian Brendel** cello

The Nash Ensemble, Resident Chamber Ensemble at Wigmore Hall since 2010, is acclaimed for its adventurous programming and virtuoso performances. It presents works from Haydn to the avant-garde, and is a major contributor towards the recognition and promotion of contemporary composers. The group have premiered over 300 new works by 225 different composers of which 215 have been especially commissioned.

An impressive collection of recordings illustrates the same varied and colourful

combination of classical masterpieces, little-known neglected gems and important contemporary works. Contemporary recordings receiving much acclaim include chamber works by Harrison Birtwistle and Julian Anderson. Notable recordings for Hyperion include a series of works by British composers of the first half of the 20th century, including those by Benjamin Britten, Arnold Bax, Frank Bridge and Vaughan Williams. Other recordings include Mozart and Beethoven string quintets; chamber works by Schumann and Saint-Saëns; works by Czech composers incarcerated in the Theresienstadt concentration camp between 1941 and 1945; and a CD of Bruch's string quintets and octet which was nominated for a *Gramophone* award.

Recent highlights have included concerts in Turkey, France, Belgium, Germany, Switzerland and Italy. The Ensemble broadcasts regularly for the BBC including appearances at the BBC Proms.

# FUTURE CONCERTS

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Thursday 15 February 1pm  
Jerwood Hall, LSO St Luke's

## **SPANISH CONNECTIONS: SOLO PIANO**

Programme includes music by **Maurice Ravel**, **Manuel de Falla**, and **Joaquín Turina**.

**Juan Pérez Floristan** piano

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Friday 16 February 1pm  
Jerwood Hall, LSO St Luke's

## **SPANISH CONNECTIONS: VOCAL RECITAL**

Programme includes songs by **Enrique Granados**, **Joaquín Turina** and **Manuel de Falla**.

**Clara Mouriz** mezzo-soprano  
**Joseph Middleton** piano

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Thursday 22 February 1pm  
Jerwood Hall, LSO St Luke's

## **SPANISH CONNECTIONS: CELLO & PIANO**

Programme includes music by **Claude Debussy**, **Maurice Ravel** and **Manuel de Falla**.

**Alban Gerhardt** cello  
**Steven Osborne** piano

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Thursday 29 February 1pm  
Jerwood Hall, LSO St Luke's

## **BERTRAND CHAMAYOU & FRIENDS**

**Felix Mendelssohn** Variations concertantes  
**Benjamin Britten** Cello Sonata  
**Felix Mendelssohn** Cello Sonata No 2

**Bertrand Chamayou** piano  
**Sol Gabetta** cello

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