



Friday 29th September - 1:10pm

Rachel Fenlon (Soprano & Piano)

Suggested donation £5

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)	An die Ferne Geliebte, Op.98
Alban Berg (1885-1935)	Sieben Frühe Lieder
George Crumb (1929-2022)	Dream Images from Makrokosmos, Book 1 (piano solo)
Hugo Wolf (1860-1903)	Wir Haben Beiden Lange Zeit Geschwiegen Nachtzauber Kennst du das Land
Richard Strauss (1864-1949)	Ständchen

Presented by The Beethoven Piano Society of Europe



St James's Church would welcome a donation of £5, or any amount that you feel able to give. Donations can be made in cash in the basket on your way out, or by tap donation at the machines at our exits.

Rachel Fenlon is a soprano and pianist who is finding a unique voice on the classical music stages of the world. Drawing from a singer-songwriter approach, Rachel performs song recitals as both singer and pianist accompanying herself. Praised for her “unusually shaped recitals in keeping with her extraordinary talent” (Places des Arts/Festival de Lanaudière), Rachel Fenlon performs internationally as a recitalist, as solo pianist and singer, and on the opera stage. Rachel was born in the UK, raised on the west coast of Canada, and is now based in Berlin.

Rachel has performed self-accompanied recitals at prestigious festivals such as the Oxford Lieder Festival, Festival de Lanaudière, Ottawa Chamberfest, National Arts Centre Canada, Settimane Musicali di Ascona, Vancouver Opera Festival, Martha Argerich Festival Hamburg, Toronto Summer Music Festival, Oper Leipzig, PODIUM Festival Matadepera, the Toronto Summer Music Festival, Kammermusik Festival Ahrenshoop, Bristol Song Recitals, the Canadian Broadcasting Company Studios, GEDOK Festival Berlin, and at venues such as the National SAW Gallery, Kuhlhaus Berlin, the Fox Cabaret Vancouver, Late Night Liederabend Vienna, Orpheum Annex Vancouver, Against the Grain Toronto, Oper Leipzig, Gallery 345 Toronto, Neue Schloss Tettang, Vancouver Opera, the Baumann Centre at Pacific Opera Victoria, and the Theater am Delphi Berlin.

This 2022/23 season, Rachel performs self-accompanied recitals of Schubert’s *Die Winterreise* across Canada and Europe - beginning at the Ottawa Chamberfest, Big Lake Festival Ontario, LOBE Block Berlin, Kühlhaus Berlin, Neue Schloss Tettang, Klangwerk Lied Freiburg, and Virtuosi Festival Brazil. Rachel makes her self-accompanied recital debuts at the prestigious Settimane Musicali di Ascona in Switzerland, and Oxford Lieder Festival in varying programmes including Alban Berg’s *Sieben Frühe Lieder*, Hugo Wolf songs, Debussy, Mahler, and George Crumb’s *Apparition*. Collaborations for Rachel this season include guest singing on a new album by Sarah Sleane, a recital with mezzo-soprano Mireille Lebel at Schloss Goerne, and performances of Messiaen’s *Poemes Pour Mi* with pianist Leslie Dala at the Orpheum Annex Vancouver. An exciting new collaboration with dance, Rachel performs self-accompanied recitals in collaboration with the dance company Tanzfabrik Berlin at Teatro del Giglio and Scompiglio in Lucca, Italy. Future dance collaborations include a *Pierrot Lunaire* with Ne.Sans Dance Company. This past summer, Rachel jumped in for Martha Argerich at the Martha Argerich Festival in Hamburg.

Performing and commissioning new music is a core part of Rachel’s artistic practice. Rachel has collaborated with composers such as Samy Moussa, Sarah Sleane, Nicole Lizée, Chaya Czernowin, Matthias McIntire, Susanne Stelzenbach, Helmut Zapf, and Danika Loren. Her most recent new creation is a song cycle, titled *Sing Nature Alive From My Insides*, which world-premiered at Ottawa Chamberfest in 2022. It is a 40 minute song cycle for self-accompanied soprano, piano and live electronics for Rachel as performer, composed and co-created by Matthias McIntire, and it is set to poetry by Rachel, on the subject of nature and fear of climate change. After its world premiere in August 2022 at Ottawa Chamberfest, the team went on to a collaboration with director Jamie McMillan to record a full-length art music film for *Sing Nature Alive From My Insides*, which will debut and tour next season.

Rachel began her career as an opera singer and continues to perform as an opera singer and concert soloist. On the opera stage, Rachel most recently performed as soloist in the world premiere of Chaya Czernowin's *Heart Chamber* at Deutsche Oper Berlin. In April 2022, Rachel jumped in to cover the role of Zerlina in *Don Giovanni* at Pacific Opera Victoria. Rachel debuted as Mabel in *The Pirates of Penzance* at Vancouver Opera, when she was a member of the Vancouver Opera young artist programme. Rachel has since returned as a guest to sing leading roles with Vancouver Opera, such as Pamina in *The Magic Flute*, Mabel in *The Pirates of Penzance*, Zerlina in *Don Giovanni*, and Susanna in *Le Nozze di Figaro*. Rachel has appeared in leading roles with Pacific Opera Victoria: as Nannetta in *Falstaff*, and Queen Guinevere in *Camelot*; Ensemble Nylandia as Galatea in *Acis and Galatea*; the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra as Lisa in *Das Land des Lächelns*, and with the Bard on the Beach Festival as Mimi in *La Bohème*, and appeared as a young artist at the Rossini Opera Festival, leading to performances as soprano soloist with Alberto Zedda in Rossini's *Petite Messe Solennelle*.

She has performed solo recitals at Vancouver Opera, Pacific Opera Victoria, and Oper Leipzig. Having performed as soprano soloist with orchestras such as the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, the Victoria Symphony, the Northern Czech Philharmonic, Finnish Baroque Ensemble Nylandia, and the Vancouver Bach Choir, Rachel's concert work includes soprano soloist in Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, Brahms' Requiem, Mozart's Requiem, Bach's B Minor Mass, and Magnificat, Handel's Messiah, Arvo Pärt's *Stabat Mater*, Haydn's Nelson Mass. This season, Rachel sings the soprano soloist in Bach Cantatas BWV 106, BWV 151, BWV 61 as soprano soloist at the Sophienkirche Berlin, where she is a regular soprano soloist under conductor Maximilian Schnaus in their Bach ensemble for the past three years.

In addition to her work as a performer, Rachel writes poetry - she has been awarded writing grants from the Canada Council and Ontario Arts Councils for her poetry, and will release her debut collection in the coming year. Rachel is the co-founder of the Berlin artist collective CROWN THE MUSE - a production, and commissioning body for musical projects, which has collaborations with stage director Bruno Ravella, and the dance company Ne.Sans under the direction of choreographer Idan Cohen. Rachel is a founding member of the Canadian Artist Collective New ART New MEDIA. Rachel has attended artist residencies at Avaloch Farms Music Institute in New Hampshire as poet/singer/pianist, has been a 4-time artist resident at the Lunenburg Academy, which she has attended as singer/pianist/composer, and has been invited to the Banff Centre for the Arts for an artist residency.

Curious about the recording world and innovation, Rachel was the founding host of a series titled "Classical (R)evolution" on IDAGIO, which ran for two years beginning in March 2020. It was a weekly series, with over 90 episodes, in which she interviewed weekly guests and discusses what rule breaking and pushing boundaries means for musicians today. She interviewed guests such as Marc-André Hamelin, Barbara Hannigan, Vikingur Olafsson, Nico Muhly, Avi Avital, Magdalena Kožená, James Gaffigan, Timo Andres, Heloise Werner, Anna Lapwood, Sean Shibe, Alexander Neef, Francesco Piemontesi, Gerald Finley, amongst many others.

Rachel's formal training was at the University of British Columbia, where she holds Bachelors and Masters Degrees in Opera Performance, and studied voice with Nancy Hermiston. As a pianist, Rachel completed her ARCT Diploma in Piano Performance from the Royal Conservatory of Music (Canada), and studied piano with May Ling Kwok. Rachel also studied composition at the Victoria Conservatory of Music, with Stephen Brown, Robert Aitken, and did summer composition residencies with Dinuk Wijerhatne and Marco Stroppa.

As a young artist, Rachel was a member of the Vancouver Opera Young Artist Programme, and a young singer/pianist at the Oxford Lieder Mastercourse and at Crear Programme for Song in Scotland with Sir Malcolm Martineau.

Rachel is represented as a singer and pianist worldwide by IMG Artists.