

# HALDON AT HOME with Lawrence Sail

*Saturday 27th February 2021 7.30pm*

## *Duets for violin and viola Op 60 Nos 4,10,12*

**Robert Fuchs 1847-1927**

The name of Robert Fuchs appears often in the biographies of his distinguished pupils at the Vienna Conservatory, including Mahler, Sibelius, Hugo Wolf and Zemlinsky. He won his first success as a composer in Vienna in the 1870s and was held in high esteem by Brahms, who gave him practical encouragement.

## **Poem: The Artist at 81**

## *Sarabande from 2nd Suite for cello in D minor*

**J.S. Bach 1685-1750**

We know little about the genesis of the Cello Suites, composed c. 1720 when Bach was in the employment of Prince Leopold of Anhalt-Cothen. The autograph manuscript is lost, with little chance it will ever be found. However, Anna Magdalena Bach, his second wife, copied a large amount of her husband's works and a copy in her hand of both the Violin and the Cello Solos survives. The set of suites was hardly noticed or played until Pablo Casals re-discovered their unique and distinctive qualities in the early part of the twentieth century.

## **Poem: Sarabande**

## *Salut d'Amour*

**Edward Elgar 1857-1934**

That Elgar started his musical career as a humble violin teacher is both heartening and daunting for those of us music teachers who spend our lives tuning pupils' violins and choking on rosin dust. He clearly had a bigger vision in mind. His love of the violin was central to his musical imagination and reached its apotheosis in his sublime violin concerto. The shorter pieces for violin, absolute gems in their genre, are no less well crafted, containing inimitable melodic and harmonic Elgarian trademarks.

## *Prayer*

**Ernest Bloch 1880-1959 arr. for cello & double bass**

Ernest Bloch (1880–1959) is a difficult composer to categorize. His Jewish background had a profound and lasting influence on him, while his composition studies between 1894 and 1902 opened his ears to more cosmopolitan influences. Swiss born, in 1916 he crossed the Atlantic, initially to work as a conductor for the English dancer Maud Allan.

Bloch composed *From Jewish Life* around 1924, originally composed for cello and piano; it has since been arranged using various instrumentation by different arrangers. The work is made up of three pieces or movements: *Prayer*, *Supplication*, and *Jewish Song*. Bloch wrote that his intent was not to reconstruct authentic Jewish music or melodies, but to capture the complex, ardent Jewish spirit and soul.

## **Poem: Kaddish**

### *Madrigal No 1 for violin and viola*

**Bohuslav Martinů 1890-1950**

Martinů was a prodigy on the violin, at least by the standards of Polička, his Bohemian hometown, and he played in the Czech Philharmonic in the early 1920s.

Despite having been expelled from the Prague Conservatory for “incorrigible negligence,” after the war Martinů was offered a post as professor of composition at the reorganised Conservatory. However, while teaching at Tanglewood in the summer of 1946, he suffered a near-fatal fall from a balcony. He remained in the U.S. and spent most of 1947 recuperating and composing chamber music, beginning with the *Three Madrigals*. They were inspired by a performance of the *Mozart Duos* by his friends Joseph and Lilian Fuchs, the brother-sister duo to whom Martinů dedicated the *Madrigals*.

## **Poem: Pas de Trois**

### *Three Reels*

*Trad*

Tuttles Reel (trad), The Morning Dew (trad), Peter Man (Katherine Tickell)

**Lawrence Sail** has written thirteen books of poems: *Waking Dreams: New & Selected Poems* (Bloodaxe Books, 2010) was a Poetry Book Society Special Commendation. His most recent collection, *Guises*, came out from Bloodaxe in February 2020. He is also the editor of *The Heart's Granary*, a selection of poetry and prose from fifty years of Enitharmon Press (2017). His publications include the anthology *First and Always: Poems for Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital* (Faber, 1988), and two books of essays, *Cross-Currents* (Enitharmon, 2005) and *The Key to Clover* (Shoestring Press, 2013). He has written two memoirs, both published by Impress Books: *Sift* (2010) and *Accidentals*, the latter illustrated by his daughter, Erica Sail, and published in December 2020. He was chairman of the Arvon Foundation from 1991 to 1994, has directed the Cheltenham Festival of Literature and was on the management committee of the Society of Authors from 2007 to 2011. He was awarded a Hawthornden Fellowship in 1992, and an Arts Council Writer's Bursary the following year. In 2004 he received a Cholmondeley Award for his poetry. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature.

### **Haldon Quartet**

**Lindsay Braga - violin.** Lindsay studied at the Royal Northern College of Music and has worked since with many orchestras including the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra, the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, the Welsh National Opera, the English National Ballet, the Goldberg Ensemble and Manchester Camerata. Following her move to Devon, Lindsay has immersed herself in chamber music.

**Steve Banks - violin.** Steve started his professional life as a freelance violinist based in London playing with many top orchestras and ensembles, including the London Symphony Orchestra, the Chamber Orchestra of Europe and the Kreisler String Orchestra. He has been for many years a member of the **Carnival Band**, best known for their Christmas tours with folk legend Maddy Prior. Steve plays with the Peninsular Arts Symphonia and teaches violin and piano. Between 2010 – 2013 Steve formed a local folk-acoustic band, Blue Jewel, who released two albums, *Dart Songs*, and *John Smart's Bottle*. He plays in a folk duo with Mike Cosgrave ([www.cosgraveandbanks.com](http://www.cosgraveandbanks.com)), whose debut album, *Warp & Weft*, was released in 2016 to critical acclaim.

**Andrew Gillett - viola.** Born in West Devon, Andrew's early studies were with Colin Sauer (violin) and Keith Lovell (viola), members of the Dartington String Quartet. He went on to study at the Royal College of Music and the Hochschule für Musik in Frankfurt, Germany. He plays in Ten Tors Orchestra, Rosewood String Quartet, Divertimento Quartet, Exeter Contemporary Sounds, Lavolta Ensemble, Devon Baroque and he teaches at Exeter School. Andrew has worked in film and television, as well as in touring bands for Russell Watson and Katherine Jenkins. He is also an occasional fiddler at ceilidhs

**Rebecca Allnatt - cello.** Rebecca won a county music scholarship in Hertfordshire where she was brought up. She went on to study at the Royal College of Music. After completing a Post Graduate she began an orchestral career in London before moving to Devon where she has continued to play with many orchestras including the Ten Tors Orchestra, English Mozart Players, and Welsh National Opera. Rebecca is also in demand as a teacher, and chamber musician. She is married to a professional double bass player.

**Michael Allnatt - double bass.** Since graduating in 1988, from the National Centre for Orchestral Studies, Goldsmith's College, London, Michael has made his home in Devon. He has forged a successful career both as a player and teacher, playing with groups such as Peninsula Arts Sinfonietta, Bournemouth Sinfonietta, Sarum Orchestra and Dorset Opera, and teaching Double Bass at both Exeter University and University of Plymouth. Sometimes also found 'fixing' orchestras and gardening professionally! Michael is married to a professional cellist with whom he juggles the demanding lives of three children.

