

PROGRAMME + BIOGRAPHIES

Veronica Chacón | *mezzo soprano*

Maya Irgalina | *piano*

Melodies & more...

Gabriel Fauré

Après un rêve | **After a dream**

From *Trois Mélodies*, Op.7 | **Anonymous Italian poem**

French version by Romain Bussine

Delicious dream of a poetic journey with the beloved one, ending with regrets at dawn.

Le papillon et la fleur | **The butterfly and the flower**

from *Deux Mélodies*, Op.1 | **Poem by Victor Hugo**

The flower loves the butterfly. Tragically, they will never be united as one has roots and the other has wings.

Clair de lune | **Moonlight**

from *Deux Mélodies*, Op.46 | **Poem by Paul Verlaine**

Picturesque landscape of the 'in a minor mode' where birds are singing in the 'sad and beautiful' moonlight.

Francis Poulenc

La reine de coeur | **The queen of heart**

from *La courte paille*, FP 178 | **Poem by Maurice Carême**

Invitation from the Queen of Heart to visit her mysterious and secret kingdom: no doors, no rooms, no towers in her castle. Only the love of gentle young spirits. Follow her in her castle of hoar-frost with lovely moon windows.

Fêtes galantes | Celebrations

from *Deux poèmes de Louis Aragon* | Poem by Louis Aragon

Hysteria, rush, pell-mell, absurdity, joyful blur of words & notes.

Hôtel

from *Banalités*, FP 107 | Poem by Guillaume Apollinaire

Alone in a hotel room.

‘I don’t want to work. I just want to smoke.’

Les chemins de l’amour | The paths of love

from the Operetta *Léocadia*, FP 106 | Libretto by Jean Anouilh

The pathways of love, waltz inspired by Yvonne Printemps, quintessentially French, recalling Paris as the symbolic city of romance.

Hector Berlioz

Le spectre de la rose | The ghost of the rose

from *Les nuits d’été*, Op.7 | Poem by Théophile Gautier

The ghost of a rose lovingly hunts a young girl who plucked and wore it at her first ball. The flower reassures her: ‘My destiny was worthy of envy, and for such a beautiful fate, many would have given their lives, for my tomb is on your breast’.

L’île inconnue | The unknown island

from *La courte paille*, FP 178 | Poem by Maurice Carême

A young beauty is invited by a sailor to set out on his ship: ‘Where do you want to go?’ To which the girl answers ‘to a faithful shore where one loves forever!’ – ‘But this place is unknown!’

* * * **INTERVAL** * * *
15 minutes

Enrique Granados

Andaluza

from *12 danzas españolas*, Op.37 | Poem by Luis Muñoz Lorente

Originally written for piano, this is a passionate hymn to this beautiful area of Spain, Andalusia.

José Serrano Marinela, Marinela

from *La canción del olvido* | Libretto by Federico Romero & Guillermo Fernández-Shaw

Melancholic ballad 'The Song of Forgetting' about Marinela, poor farm girl who wanders seeking a love which will never give her the happiness she craves.

Joseph Canteloube

Baïlèro

from *Les chants d'Auvergne* | Lyrics Anonymous

Pastoral musical picture. Two shepherds communicate from one side of a valley to the other.

Fernando Ferran Jaumandreu Obradors

El vito | The dance

from *Canciones clásicas españolas* | Lyrics Anonymous

Bolero. Traditional folk song of Andalusia. 'El vito' refers to Saint Vitus, patron of dancers.

Oscar Straus

Je ne suis pas ce que l'on pense

| I am not who you think I am

from *Drei Waltzer* | Lyrics by Léopold Marchand & Albert Willemetz

In the business you have no choice but to pretend to be what you are not: 'I am not who you think I am. I am not what one says I am.'

Kurt Weill

Je ne t'aime pas | I don't love you

Lyrics by Maurice Magre

Break up song representing the cabaret genre in its most glamorous glory.

Painful impossible love.

"I don't love you" with adoration and despair.

Charles Lecocq

L'air de la baronne | The baroness' song

from *Le jour et la nuit*

Libretto by Eugène Leterrier

'Yes! Of course! I am the Baroness!'

Veronica Chacón | *mezzo soprano*

Verónica is a London based versatile mezzo-soprano, voice-over & illustrator-designer originally from Geneva. There, she studied musical theory, choral singing, piano, improvisation & choreography through the Eurhythmics method at the Institut Jaques-Dalcroze, as well sang at the Conservatoire de Musique de Genève. Verónica carried on her studies at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London (1998).

She developed her musical and communication pedagogy in various projects (School-of-Rock-a-by-Babies, from 2009); improvisation (TIC The Improvisers' Choir - winner of Non-Classical Battle of the Bands 2018 - Dancing with Parkinson's (2019), THAT! Ensemble (since 2016), a mixed-genre group of 4 musicians and physical theater comedians which explores vocal improvisation, acting, and dance; El Parnaso Hispano, early music from South America Ensemble (since 2019) and this year, she was asked to runs a series of opera immersive workshops for children in 6 schools in Barnet, culminating in an adapted performance of Hansel & Gretel (Engelbert Humperdinck) in June.

Verónica is also a session musician and voice-over artist recording for School-of-Rock-a-by-Babies ('rest & play', 2016) and for TIC – The Improvisers' Choir (Landmass, 2018). Currently creating an interactive mandalas & voice album called 'Sounds & Shapes', she is exploring healing sound to 'tune the body' as a teacher (Insight Timer, since 2020).

<https://linktr.ee/Veronica.Chacon>

Maya Irgalina | *piano*

London-based Maya Irgalina is a Belarusian pianist of Tatar origin.

Her musical interests include jazz and contemporary classics, including Nikolai Kapustin and Carl Vine; as well as Spanish and French impressionism alongside her European and Russian repertoire.

Her work has paired her with celebrated tenor Simon O'Neal, cellist Abel Selaocoe, alongside her collaboration with mezzo-soprano Fleur Barron. As a guest pianist, she has played with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Manchester Camerata and Belarusian Opera House Orchestra to name just a few. Maya has been selected as a Britten Pears Young Artist and was featured in Semyon Bychkov's Beloved Friend project about Tchaikovsky with the BBC Symphony Orchestra.

She has won prizes in such competitions as Dudley, Sydney, Maria Yudina, Scriabin etc., and performed internationally with UK highlights including performances at Wigmore Hall, Barbican, Machynlleth Festival, Oscar Wilde Weekend, Rye Arts Festival, and Cheltenham Jazz Festival.

Maya is very grateful to her professors Lilia Ter-Minasian, Graham Scott, Ronan O'Hora and Julius Drake. She holds the International Artist Diploma in Solo Performance and the Gold Medal from the Royal Northern College of Music and the master's degree in Music from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

www.MayaIrgalina.com