

POEM
OF
ECSTASY
&
PROMETHEUS[✦]_✦

POEM
OF
FIRE

BY

ALEXANDER
SCRIABIN

SAMSON TSOY
PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA
GERGELY MADARAS

SATURDAY 4 JUNE at 7.30PM

Poem of Ecstasy, Op. 54 (1905-1908)

For large orchestra

Prometheus: Poem of Fire, Op. 60 (1908-1910)

For large orchestra and piano
with organ and colour

by Alexander Scriabin

Samson Tsoy — Piano

Gergely Madaras — Conductor

Philharmonia Orchestra

*The world changed. I walked out of the fire
into a different world—*

—Louise Glück

He was hot and cold. He was all things.

—Bruce Chatwin

I AM!

—Alexander Scriabin

BOLD TENDENCIES

In 2022 Bold Tendencies speculates on the future of love, care and intimacy and asks what love looks and feels like now. Try as we might, love remains an elusive and contradictory muse. Home of the naïve, the desperate, and the hopelessly romantic, it is both a source of limitless pleasure and the heavy burden of its tragedy. Love can arrest us, precipitate disaster and solicit untold ecstasy. It can ignite revolutions, overcome grief and melancholy, and allow us to express our most intimate desires. With love all is to play for.

The 2022 Live Programme begins this evening with two one-movement symphonies by visionary composer, innovator and free thinker Alexander Scriabin (1872-1915).

‘Poem of Ecstasy’ took Scriabin nearly three years to perfect. In rhythm and mood it is at times languorous - twisting and turning - at other times dramatically fearful, building and increasing, slowing so as to speed ahead, softening in order to harden, all overseen by evocative, unconventional expression markings in the score — ‘perfumed’, ‘with a feeling of growing intoxication’, ‘with a sensual pleasure becoming more and more ecstatic’, ‘almost in delirium’. Henry Miller wrote of the music having “that faroff cosmic itch” and we share in its extended waves of unresolved yearning and tensions until the final conclusion, when the full power of the orchestra overwhelms and releases spirit and flesh, followed by a brief moment of weariness.

‘Poem of Fire’ is dedicated to Prometheus, the rebel god of fire, creator of the mortal world and champion of humankind — technology, knowledge, civilization... Scriabin saw in the fire of Prometheus the symbol of human consciousness and creative energy. The mystical rhythms of ‘Poem of Fire’ suggest the presence of the human emerging from primordial formlessness, dancing to the rhythms of the cosmos — an unfolding drama of enlightenment.

Scriabin had daring, ahead-of-his-time ideas about the visual presentation of ‘Poem of Fire’ and imagined the performance space bathed in a vast interplay of coloured lights together with the strikingly original, supercharged sound world of his music. He also invented a *tastiera per luce* (keyboard for light) specifically for the

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piece: every note pressed on the keyboard emitted a different colour of light. We have followed Scribain's own notes describing the colours that he associated with different key signatures to create his mystical vision of colour-hearing. In accordance with Scribain's scheme, the long, wide concrete spaces of the car park are illuminated intense red, yellow, green, sky blue, pearly blue, flesh (glint of steel) and rose, analogous - in the composer's eyes, mind and ears - to human will, joy, matter, dreams, contemplation, creativity, humanity and passion.

The award-winning [Bold Tendencies Live Programme](#) takes place in the site's unique covered spaces, deliberately preserving 42,000 sq ft of raw concrete floors and ceilings with open, panoramic London views. The programme facilitates new work and performance opportunities for world-class artists, as well as identifying and supporting new generations of talent.

We need your help! Every year we fundraise to keep our programme thriving and to keep tickets affordable. This means ticket sales only cover about 5% of our costs. Every donation, however big or small, has a major impact and helps us to do more and better. [Consider a donation](#) or [Purchase our Limited Edition Merch](#).

[2022 Visual Arts Commissions](#)

Martin Creed, Rhea Dillon, Nan Goldin, Paloma Proudfoot, Dominique White, Gray Wielebinski.

Permanent Works

Adel Abdessemed, Sophie Collins & Sam Riviere, Derek Jarman Garden, Rene Matic. Siân Lyn Hutchings, Richard Wentworth, Simon Whybray.

Architecture

Frank's Cafe and Straw Auditorium by Practice Architecture.
Peckham Observatory and Concert Wall by Cooke Fawcett Architects.

Remastering of the Covered Spaces by Feilden Fowles.

Philharmonia Orchestra

1st Violin

Eugene Lee
Millie Ashton
Soong Choo
Eunsley Park
Julia Liang
Peter Fisher
Andrea Montalbano
Diana Galvydyte
Alberto Vidal
Maria-Fiore Mazzarini
Coco Inman
Jeff Moore

2nd Violin

Emily Davis
Gideon Robinson
Nuno Carapina
Julian Milone
Susan Hedger
James Chen
Susan Bowran
Alex Afia
Emily Holland
Sophie Phillips

Viola

Sylvain Séailles
Cheremie Hamilton-Miller
Joseph Fisher
Linda Kidwell
Sara Sheppard
Daichi Yoshimura
Claire Newton
Michael Turner
Mariya Sotirova
Christine Anderson

Cello

Richard Birchall
Eric Villeminey
Yaroslava Trofymchuk
Tessa Seymour
Raphael Lang
Alba Merchant

Bass

Tim Gibbs
Owen Nicolaou
Michael Fuller
Gareth Sheppard

Flute

Jagoda Krzeminska-Chalupka
Anna Kondrashina
Luke Strevens

Piccolo

Sofia Castillo Zambrano

Oboe

Tom Blomfield
Imogen Davies
Michael O'Donnell

Cor Anglais

Jennifer Brittlebank

Clarinet

John Bradbury
Jennifer McLaren
Charlie Dale-Harris

Bass Clarinet

Katie Lockhart

Bassoon

Robin O'Neill
Shelly Organ
Matthew Kitteringham

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Contrabassoon

Luke Whitehead

Horn

Diego Incertis Sánchez

Annemarie Federle

Kira Doherty

Zoë Tweed

Carsten Williams

Alexander Willett

Kathryn Saunders

Philippa Koushk-Jalali

Flora Bain

Trumpet

Gustav Melander

Robin Totterdell

Ruth Shaddock

Rebecca Crawshaw

Rob Johnston

Katie Bannister

Samuel Lewis

Trombone

Byron Fulcher

Philip White

Bass Trombone

James Buckle

Tuba

Peter Smith

Timpani

Antoine Sigure

Percussion

Emily Feeney

Jonathan Phillips

Rachel Gledhill

James Bower

Harry Lovell-Jones

Kiyomi Kikuchi

Harp

Heidi Krutzen

Tomos Xerri

Celeste

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Organ

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Applauded for the originality and intense drama of his interpretations, award-winning pianist **Samson Tsoy** has performed internationally. Active both as a soloist and a collaborative musician he plays in a duo with Pavel Kolesnikov, praised as “inspiration for our dark times” (The Times), and with whom he launched the ‘Ragged Music Festival’ in London, nominated for a South Bank Sky Award in 2021. Upcoming concerts include Wigmore Hall (12 June) and Grange Park Opera (17 July).

Gergely Madaras is Music Director of the Orchestre Philharmonique Royal de Liège. He began studying folk music with the last generation of authentic Hungarian Gipsy and peasant musicians at the age of five. He went on to study flute, violin and composition, graduating from the Liszt Academy in Budapest, and the University of Music and Performing Arts in Vienna. This is his debut performance with the Philharmonia Orchestra.

The **Philharmonia Orchestra** is a world-class orchestra for the 21st century. The Philharmonia is a team of 80 musicians of 16 different nationalities led by Principal Conductor Santtu-Matias Rouvali. With award-winning concert series, a vital community programme across the UK, and pioneering work in virtual reality, the Philharmonia brings orchestral music to a worldwide audience. The orchestra has a rare spirit, energy and optimism and we are delighted to welcome them back to Bold Tendencies for the first of three live events this summer.

Scriabin Production Team

Tom Kelly - Producer
Andy Watson - Lighting Engineer
Dave Parsons - Sound Design
Mike Steer - Sound Design
Carl Williams - Audio Engineer
Ruth Shwer - Show Caller

Bold Tendencies Team

Hannah Barry - Chief Executive & Artistic Director
Diana Córdoba Barrios - Managing Director
Tom Kelly - Site & Production Manager
Charlie Mills - Artist Liaison
Toby Taylor - Visitor Services & Live Events Front of House
Katrina Nzegwu - Visitor Services & Live Events Front of House
Misty Ingham - Creative Learning Coordinator
Akhera Williams - Creative Learning Workshop Assistant
Supermodel – Graphic Design
Riccardo Pillon - Special Projects
Boaz Friedman - Front of House
Mitzi Clarke - Back of House Assistant
Fran Barker - Front of House Assistant and Invigilator
Deyka Waris - Front of House Assistant and Invigilator
Kaya Varma - Front of House Assistant and Invigilator

Huge Thanks to Everyone who has Supported the 2022 Programme

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