

THE SOLDIER'S TALE

Nicola Benedetti Violin
Nicholas Bayley Double bass
Maximiliano Martín Clarinet
Ursula Leveaux Bassoon
Philip Cobb Cornet
Peter Moore Trombone
Louise Goodwin Percussion

Sir Thomas Allen Narrator
Anthony Flaum Soldier
Siobhan Redmond Devil

Music by
Igor Stravinsky

Words by
CF Ramuz

Concert presentation devised by
Sir Thomas Allen

Performed in an English version by
**Michael Flanders
and Kitty Black**

21 Aug 12pm & 2.30pm

EDINBURGH ACADEMY JUNIOR SCHOOL

The performance lasts approx. 1hr 10mins with no interval.

Performed in English with supertitles

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Geoff and Mary Ball

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PART 1

Introduction

The Soldier's March

Scene 1

Airs by a Stream

The Soldier's March

Scene 2

Pastorale

Airs by a Stream

Scene 3

Airs by a Stream

PART 2

The Soldier's March

The Royal March

The Little Concert

Three Dances:

Tango – Waltz – Ragtime

The Devil's Dance

Little Chorale

The Devil's Song

Great Chorale

Triumphal March of the Devil

PROGRAMME NOTES

Created immediately after the First World War, in a period of global turmoil and devastation, Stravinsky's *The Soldier's Tale* clearly has a particular relevance to our current pandemic times. Furthermore, plans to tour the piece were curtailed by the pandemic of so-called 'Spanish' flu that ripped across the world in the years following the conflict.

Stravinsky had moved from Russia to the Swiss Alps to ease his wife's tuberculosis, but following the 1917 Revolution was unable to return to his homeland. It proved something of a turning point. After the staggering successes of his pre-war scores for the Ballets Russes — *The Firebird*, *Petrushka* and *The Rite of Spring* — Stravinsky was still hooked on the theatre, but reimagined it here on a far more intimate scale. He hatched a plan with two friends he'd met in Switzerland — writer Charles Ferdinand Ramuz and conductor Ernest Ansermet — for a small-scale work for a travelling troupe of musicians and actors. And in it, he'd tell one of the oldest tales of them all: of a man who unwittingly sells his soul to the Devil.

For *The Soldier's Tale*, Stravinsky shrank the enormous orchestra he'd grown used to into an ensemble of just seven musicians, joined in his original conception by three actors and a dancer. The piece's economy, rhythmic inventiveness and sardonic humour would come to dominate Stravinsky's music in subsequent decades. Its somewhat bleak moral – don't pine for the pleasures of the past, but be content with what you have now – might even offer some stoical advice for our own times.

David Kettle

David Kettle is a music and arts writer based in Edinburgh, who contributes regularly to the *Scotsman* and the *Daily Telegraph*. He has also written for publications including *BBC Music Magazine*, *The Times*, *The Strad* and *Classical Music*, and for organisations including the BBC Proms, Glyndebourne and Scottish Opera.

NICOLA BENEDETTI

Nicola Benedetti is one of the most sought-after violinists of her generation. Her ability to captivate audiences and her wide appeal as an advocate for classical music has made her one of the most influential artists of today.

In 2021/22, Benedetti opens the Barbican Centre's season and collaborates with ensembles including the London Symphony Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Netherlands Radio Philharmonic Orchestra and Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra. In April 2021 she gave the world premiere of Mark Simpson's Violin Concerto with the London Symphony Orchestra and Gianandrea Noseda, receiving critical acclaim. Other season highlights include a European tour with cellist Leonard Elschenbroich and pianist Alexei Grynyuk, artists with whom she has been performing in a trio since 2008, and tours to Spain with the Philharmonia Orchestra and Asia with the London Philharmonic Orchestra.

Winner of the Grammy award for best classical instrumental solo in 2020, as well as best female artist at both 2012 and 2013 Classical BRIT Awards,

Benedetti records exclusively for Decca (Universal Music). Her latest recording of Elgar's Violin Concerto entered at No 1 in the UK's Official Classical Album Chart. Other recent recordings include her Grammy award-winning album of music written especially for her by jazz musician Wynton Marsalis: Violin Concerto in D and *Fiddle Dance Suite for Solo Violin*.

Benedetti was appointed a CBE in 2019 and awarded the Queen's Medal for Music in 2017 and an MBE in 2013. In addition, she holds the positions of Vice President (National Children's Orchestras), Big Sister (Sistema Scotland) and Patron (National Youth Orchestras of Scotland's Junior Orchestra, Music in Secondary Schools Trust and Junior Conservatoire at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland).

Benedetti plays the 'Gariel' Stradivari violin of 1717, courtesy of Jonathan Moulds.

NICHOLAS BAYLEY

Nicholas Bayley is Principal Double Bass of the BBC Symphony Orchestra. He began his musical studies aged 14 with the piano, but took up the double bass a year later. Within two years he passed ABRSM Grade 8 with distinction and was consequently awarded a scholarship to study with Duncan McTier alongside his school education in Hull. He then went on to continue his studies with McTier at Manchester's Royal Northern College of Music.

In the year following his graduation, he was appointed Principal Double Bass of the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, a post he held for 12 years before taking up the same position with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra. In 2015, after six years in the BBC SSO, he was appointed to his current position of Principal Double Bass with the BBC Symphony Orchestra.

In addition to his BBC commitments, Nicholas is regularly invited to play as a guest principal with many UK orchestras, and has performed as principal with orchestras including the Philharmonia, London Symphony Orchestra, Royal Philharmonic,

Hallé and Academy of St Martin in the Fields.
He is also regularly invited to coach at London's
Royal College of Music.

He also performs as a soloist and has given
recitals across the UK. Icelandic composer Hafliði
Hallgrímsson wrote his double bass concerto
Sonnambulo for him, which he premiered with
the Scottish Chamber Orchestra in 2009. His solo
album *20th Century Romantics* features music
by Bourgeois, Bloch, Glière, Piazzolla and Montag.

MAXIMILIANO MARTÍN

Spanish clarinetist and international soloist Maximiliano Martín combines his position as Principal Clarinet of the Scottish Chamber Orchestra with solo and chamber music engagements and masterclasses all around the world.

He has performed as a soloist and chamber musician in many of the world's most prestigious venues and events, including the BBC Proms, Cadogan Hall and Wigmore Hall in London, Library of Congress in Washington, DC, Mozart Hall in Seoul, Laeishalle Hamburg, the Slovenian Philharmonic's Hall in Ljubljana, Durban City Hall in South Africa, Palau de la Música Catalana in Barcelona, and Auditorio de Zaragoza.

Highlights of recent years have included concertos with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, European Union Chamber Orchestra, Orquesta Real Filharmonía de Galicia, Orquesta Filarmónica de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria and Orquesta Sinfónica del Principado de Asturias. He performs regularly with ensembles and artists including the London Conchord Ensemble, Doric and Casals quartets, François Leleux, Pekka Kuusisto and Julian Milford.

His extensive discography includes Mozart and Weber clarinet concertos with the SCO, Strauss's Duet Concertino with Peter Whelan and Robin Ticciati, Messiaen's *Quartet for the End of the Time* with the Hebrides Ensemble, Brahms's clarinet sonatas with Julian Milford, and Mozart and Brahms clarinet quintets with the Badke Quartet. His new disc, featuring Nielsen, Copland and MacMillan clarinet concertos with Orquesta Sinfónica de Tenerife and Lucas Macías, was released in January to great critical acclaim.

He is one of the artistic directors of the Chamber Music Festival of La Villa de la Orotava, held every year in his home town.

URSULA LEVEAUX

Bassoonist Ursula Leveaux studied in London, and in Amsterdam with Brian Pollard, Principal Bassoon of the Concertgebouw Orchestra, who remained her great mentor and friend until his death in 2013. She also studied Baroque bassoon in The Hague.

She is a sought-after chamber musician, a member of London's Nash Ensemble and a founder member of the Hebrides Ensemble. She is also in demand as a performer on period instruments, and holds the position of Principal Bassoon with the Academy of Ancient Music.

She is also a prominent orchestral player. She is Principal Bassoon with the City of London Sinfonia, and held the same position with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra from 1987 to 2007. She is frequently invited to appear as guest principal with major orchestras and ensembles in Britain and throughout Europe. She is a regular contributor to BBC Radio, and her numerous recordings include solo concertos by Mozart and Vivaldi, and the Strathclyde Concerto No 8 by Peter Maxwell Davies, which was written for her. She also performed a solo recital as part of

last year's Edinburgh International Festival Chamber Music Soundscapes with pianist Malcolm Martineau.

She has given classes at all the major UK music colleges and as far afield as Toronto, Hong Kong and Melbourne. She has been a member of the senior faculty at Marlboro Music in the USA, and a jury member for the Munich ARD International Music Competition, Eurovision Young Musicians and Royal Overseas League Wind and Brass Prize.

PHILIP COBB

Philip Cobb began playing in the Salvation Army. From a young age, he regularly featured as a cornet soloist, appearing alongside his brother Matthew and father Stephen, accompanied by his mother Elaine.

In 2000 he gained a place in the National Youth Brass Band of Great Britain. As a student at London's Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London, he studied with Paul Beniston and Alison Balsom. In 2006 he took part in the Maurice André International Trumpet Competition and won the most promising performer prize. He was also awarded the Candide Award at the London Symphony Orchestra's Brass Academy, and played with the European Union Youth Orchestra as principal trumpet. While still a student, he was already playing with ensembles including the London Philharmonic Orchestra, London Chamber Orchestra and BBC Symphony Orchestra, and by the time he graduated he had already secured his first post at the London Symphony Orchestra as Principal Trumpet. He has also played as guest principal with the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, is now Principal Trumpet with the BBC Symphony Orchestra.

He also performs as a soloist and in brass bands, and has released three solo CDs: *Life Abundant* with the Cory Band; *Songs from the Heart* with the Salvation Army International Staff Band; and *Fantasy* with the RAF Central Band. He has performed as a soloist at Carnegie Hall and David Geffen Hall in New York, as well as venues including London's Royal Albert Hall, O2 Arena, Barbican, Cadogan Hall and Wigmore Hall.

He is also involved with the Superbrass, Eminence Brass and Barbican Brass ensembles, has played on the soundtracks to numerous films, and was featured in the opening and closing ceremonies of the 2012 London Olympic and Paralympic Games.

PETER MOORE

Trombonist Peter Moore has leapt from rising star to become one of the key exponents of his instrument. He came to national attention in 2008 at the age of 12 when he became the youngest ever winner of BBC Young Musician. He is now Principal Trombone of the London Symphony Orchestra, and alongside his performing career, he is Professor of Trombone at the Royal Academy of Music.

As a soloist, he has appeared with the London Symphony Orchestra, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, BBC Symphony Orchestra, BBC National Orchestra of Wales, BBC Concert Orchestra, Ulster Orchestra, Lucerne Symphony Orchestra and Polish Chamber Orchestra. He is featured frequently on BBC Radio 3 and was a BBC New Generation Artist between 2015 and 2017. He has given recitals at venues including Vienna's Musikverein, Amsterdam Royal Concertgebouw, Elbphilharmonie Hamburg, Cologne Philharmonie and Wigmore Hall, and he has undertaken recital tours across China, Japan, Korea, Australasia and South America. World premieres by Francisco Coll, Roxanna Panufnik and Dani Howard,

and the UK premiere of James MacMillan's Trombone Concerto demonstrate his desire to bring the trombone to the forefront of contemporary music. In 2018 he released his debut album, *Life Force*.

LOUISE GOODWIN

Originally from Liverpool, percussionist Louise Goodwin studied at London's Royal College of Music. During her last year at the RCM she was honoured to be presented the Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother Rosebowl by HRH The Prince of Wales.

Since graduating in 2015, Louise has worked as a busy freelance player on both percussion and timpani with many chamber and symphony orchestras across the UK, including with the BBC Symphony Orchestra, Philharmonia Orchestra, London Sinfonietta, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and Aurora Orchestra. She has toured across Europe and Asia, and has worked with some of the world's leading conductors and soloists. In 2019, she was appointed Principal Timpani with Percussion of the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, and recently curated a chamber programme of percussion works for the SCO's digital season.

Outside of performing, Louise is a keen educator and has tutored in numerous higher education settings and at the National Youth Orchestra

of Great Britain. She has also recently appeared as a presenter on BBC Radio 3's *Inside Music*, discussing her interest in a wide range of music.

SIR THOMAS ALLEN

Sir Thomas Allen is an established star of the great opera houses of the world. At the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, where in 2021 he celebrated the 50th anniversary of his debut with the company, he has sung more than 50 roles. This year he also celebrated the 40th anniversary of his debut at New York's Metropolitan Opera.

He is particularly renowned for roles including Billy Budd, Pelléas, Eugene Onegin, Ulisse and Beckmesser, as well as the great Mozart roles of Count Almaviva, Don Alfonso, Papageno, Guglielmo and Don Giovanni.

Equally renowned on the concert platform, he appears in recital in the United Kingdom, throughout Europe, in Australia and America, and has appeared with the world's great orchestras and conductors.

He made a triumphant directing debut in 2003 with *Albert Herring* at London's Royal College of Music, and went on to direct critically acclaimed productions of *Don Giovanni* and *Così fan tutte* for Samling Opera at The Sage, Gateshead.

He made his US directing debut with *The Marriage of Figaro* for Arizona Opera in 2006, and has since returned to direct *Così fan tutte* for Boston Lyric Opera and *Don Pasquale* for Lyric Opera of Chicago. He is a regular guest at Scottish Opera, where his productions have included *The Barber of Seville*, *The Marriage of Figaro*, *The Magic Flute* and *Don Giovanni*.

He is Chancellor of Durham University.

His many honours include the title of Bayerischer Kammersänger awarded by the Bayerische Staatsoper, an honorary doctorate from the Royal Academy of Music and Royal College of Music, Prince Consort Professor of the Royal College of Music, and the Hambro Visiting Professorship of Opera Studies at Oxford University. He received a CBE in the 1989 New Year Honours, and was knighted in the 1999 Queen's Birthday Honours. Among his proudest achievements is having a Channel Tunnel locomotive named after him; and most recently, being awarded the Queen's Medal for Music 2013.

ANTHONY FLAUM

Anthony Flaum is a graduate of London's Royal Academy of Music and National Opera Studio.

Highlights of recent seasons include his main-stage debut at English National Opera as Borsa (*Rigoletto*); Edgar (*King Lear*) for the Grange Festival; Pinkerton (*Madama Butterfly*) and Rodolfo (*La Bohème*) for Iford Arts; Gonzalve (*L'Heure espagnole*) for Mid Wales Opera; and Pâris (*La Belle Hélène*) for New Sussex Opera.

Operatic roles include Macduff (*Macbeth*) and the Opera Highlights tour for Scottish Opera; Nemorino (*L'Elisir d'amore*) for Nevill Holt Opera and Northern Ireland Opera; Tybalt (*Roméo et Juliette*), Lensky (*Eugene Onegin*), Chekalinsky (*The Queen of Spades*) and Motel Kamzoil (*Fiddler on the Roof*) for Grange Park Opera; Scaramuccio (*Ariadne auf Naxos*) for West Green House Opera; Raoul (*La Vie parisienne*), Headstrong/Hermosa (*The Tales of Offenbach*), Pluto (*Orpheus in the Underworld*) and Frederic (*The Parson's Pirates*) for Opera della Luna; and the title role in Verdi's *Aroldo* for University College Opera. He was the first Rodolfo in OperaUpClose's critically acclaimed production of *La Bohème*,

with subsequent roles for the company including Lensky (*Eugene Onegin*), Don José (*Carmen*) and Don Ottavio (*Don Giovanni*).

Future engagements include Paxton in the world premiere of *Pandora's Box* for The Opera Story; Trémolini in Offenbach's *The Princess of Trebizonde* for New Sussex Opera; Tamino (*The Magic Flute*) for Oxford Opera; and a return to Grange Park Opera as Roderigo (*Otello*).

He has sung with ensembles including the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and the BBC Concert Orchestra at the BBC Proms and gala concerts, most notably in *Fiddler on the Roof* at the BBC Proms.

SIOBHAN REDMOND

Born in Glasgow, Siobhan Redmond is an Associate Artist of the Royal Shakespeare Company, and received an MBE in the 2013 New Year Honours.

Theatre appearances include *Vassa*, *Top Girls*, *Imperium*, *Thon Man Molière*, *Talking Heads*, *Dunsinane*, *Exit the King*, *Doctor Faustus*, *King John*, *Richard III*, *The Secret Garden*, *The House of Bernada Alba*, *Dido*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Comedy of Errors*, *Mary Stuart*, *Twelfth Night*, *The Lunatic Queen*, *U.S. and Them*, *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*, *Les Liaisons dangereuses*, *Perfect Days*, *The Spanish Tragedy*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *An Experienced Woman Gives Advice*, *The Trick is to Keep Breathing*, *Sex Comedies*, *The Dream*, *King Lear*, *Carmen*, *Look Back in Anger*, *As You Like It*, *Shadowing the Conqueror*, *The Big Pictures*, *A Month of Sundays*, *Macbeth* and *Don Juan*.

TV appearances include *Queens of Mystery* (two series), *Beep*, *Grantchester*, *The Nest*, *Midsomer Murders*, *Unforgotten*, *Lovesick*, *Clique*, *The Replacement*, *Nina and the Neurons*, *Code of a Killer*, *Case Histories*, *Doctors*, *Bob Servant*, *Benidorm*, *Taggart*, *The Smoking Room*, *The Catherine*

Tate Show, Sea of Souls, The High Life, Deacon Brodie, Nervous Energy and Between the Lines.

Films include *2:Hrs, First and Only, The Party's Just Beginning, Beautiful People, Captives* and *Latin for a Dark Room.*

Radio includes 12 series of *McLevy* for BBC Radio 4.

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