

Élégie ***Rachmaninoff - A Heart in Exile***

Pianist **Lucy Parham and actor **Henry Goodman** present
the life of Rachmaninoff
at St John's Smith Square on Sunday 15 April at 3pm
launching the fifth CD in her series of **Composer Portraits****

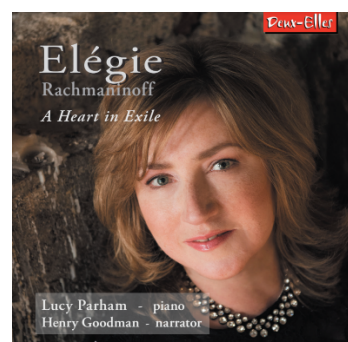
Sunday 15 April – 3pm | St John's Smith Square



***"Music is enough for a lifetime,
but a lifetime is not enough for music"***
Sergei Rachmaninoff

Rachmaninoff: *Élégie* Op.3 No.1, *Polichinelle* Op.3 No.4, Prelude in G Op.32 No.5
Tchaikovsky: *Troika* ("November" from *The Seasons*),
Rachmaninoff: Prelude in C sharp minor Op.3 No.2, Prelude in E flat Op.23 No.6,
Etude Tableau in E flat Op.33 No.7, Moment Musical No.4 in E minor Op.16
Chopin: Waltz in C sharp minor Op.64 No.2
Scriabin: Etude in C sharp minor Op 42 No.5
Rachmaninoff: Moment Musical No.3 in B minor Op.16
John Stafford Smith/arr Rachmaninoff: *The Star-Spangled Banner*
Rachmaninoff: Moment Musical No.5 in D flat Op.16
Kreisler/Rachmaninoff: *Liebesleid* (Love's sorrow)
Rachmaninoff: Moment Musical No.6 in C Op.16

To launch their new CD on the Deux-Elles label, **Lucy Parham** and actor **Henry Goodman** present ***Élégie***, at St John's Smith Square on Sunday 15 April. The fifth in a series of **Composer Portraits**, ***Élégie*** chronicles Rachmaninoff's life through his letters, diary entries and music. Through a series of flashbacks and taking on the persona of the aged composer, Goodman reminisces on Rachmaninoff's flight from the Bolshevik Revolution, his new life as a concert pianist in the US and Europe, humour on the stage and trauma of being uprooted from his homeland.



"Lucy's wonderful concerts allow the composer's voice to come alive again through their music and words. This happens before your eyes and it transforms the musical experience for the audience. The composers speak directly, frankly and intimately about the secrets of the lives shared and, coupled with the superb playing of Lucy Parham, their music is transformed." **Henry Goodman**

Lucy Parham has devised a programme including some of Rachmaninoff's *Preludes, Etudes* and *Moments Musicaux* alongside piano music of Scriabin, Tchaikovsky and Chopin. The vast majority of Rachmaninoff's compositions were created before he left Russia at the age of 44. Rachmaninoff's cultural identity always remained rooted in his homeland and in exile he insisted on employing only Russian staff and observing Russian customs. *Élégie* follows his life and journey to America - where he was gifted a Steinway on arrival - and his travels to France and Switzerland, before coming to rest in California, where he died just a month after acquiring American citizenship.

"I am like a ghost forever wandering the world. This is because one place - and one place only - remains closed to me, and that is my home country. Russia. The land where I was born". Rachmaninoff

Born in 1873 to an aristocratic family, young Rachmaninoff grew up amongst the bells of the Russian Orthodox Church. The sounds of the orthodox chant followed him into his own compositions. Rachmaninoff met Tchaikovsky when he was an eleven-year-old student in Moscow. The young prodigy performed *Troika* "to the great man himself". Scriabin was a close childhood friend and Rachmaninoff was much affected by his premature death. He subsequently devoted many performances to his works. Amongst the writers he met in Russia, Tolstoy was disdainful of his music and Chekhov berated him for his lack of perseverance as a composer when he had a "writer's block" on his 2nd Piano Concerto.

After fleeing through Sweden with nothing but his family and a suitcase of scores on a sleigh, the composer relied on performance opportunities and recordings to establish a new life for his family in the US. He completed only six compositions in the last 25 years of his life, as he was in such great demand as a concert



pianist and also frequently accompanied Fritz Kreisler. His fame as a highly celebrated pianist reached the cartoon studios of Walt Disney. This prompted the composer to comment on Mickey Mouse's rendition of the C Minor Prelude: "I have heard my inescapable piece done marvelously by some of the best pianists in the world, and murdered cruelly by amateurs, but was never more stirred than by the great Maestro Mouse!"

However it was Ivanovka, his wife's countryside home, which had the most long-lasting impression on his compositions (including the C# Minor Prelude). Devastated when Ivanovka was burnt down by the Bolsheviks, he spent the rest of his life trying to recreate the perfect creative atmosphere - only ever finding that sense of peace again on Lake Lucerne in Switzerland in 1932.

Rachmaninoff sailing on Lake Lucerne

"If you really want to know me, listen to my music. I am made of 85% musician and 15% man. Music, the creation of music, has always been the chief thing in my life. I couldn't imagine life without it. I have never been much interested in things outside music. I am myself only in music. Music is enough for a lifetime but a lifetime is not enough for music". Rachmaninoff

"Lucy Parham's trailblazing evening concerts in which she fuses music and words with the help of some of our most distinguished thespians, have become one of the must-see events on the musical calendar." *BBC Music Magazine*

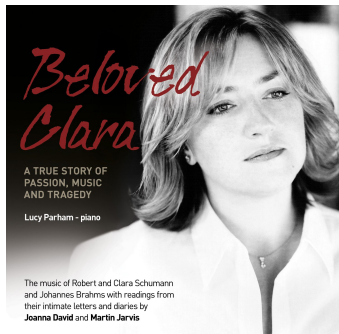
Elsewhere, Parham will be performing a recital titled *Spring Night* at Kings Place on Friday 4 May, with a programme celebrating the music of Chopin, Debussy, and the Schumanns. She will also present a Debussy documentary for BBC Radio 4 on Tuesday 20 March at 11.30 entitled *Pitiable Artist, Perfect Husband* and she will be a commentator for the Piano Final of the 2018 BBC Young Musician of Year Competition.

Élégie Tour

Sunday 15 April – 3pm | St John's Smith Square
Saturday 12 May | Chipping Campden Festival
Friday 29 June | Brunton Theatre, Musselburgh (with narrator Tim McInnerny)
Friday 22 July | Holt Festival (with narrator Alex Jennings)
Friday 12 October | The Savage Club, London
Sunday 14 October | The Stables, Wavendon
Wednesday 24 October | Canterbury Festival
Sunday 18 November | Dorchester Arts Centre

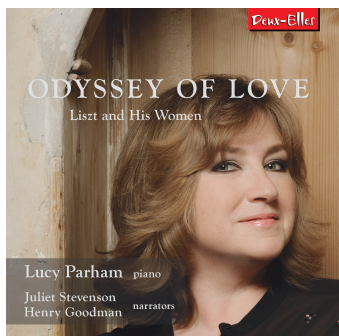
COMPOSER PORTRAIT SERIES

Élégie continues a successful series on the Deux-Elles label with Henry Goodman and other narrators including Juliet Stevenson, Patricia Hodge, Martin Jarvis, Dame Harriet Walter, Niamh Cusack, Joana David, Edward Fox, Alex Jennings, Charles Dance, Robert Glenister, Dominic West and Samuel West



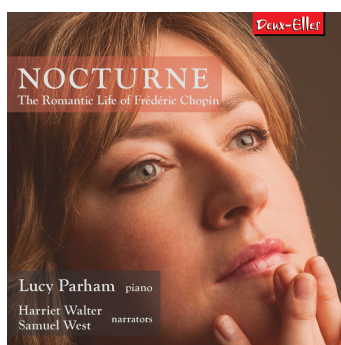
BELOVED CLARA

A true story of passion, music and tragedy. The music of Robert and Clara Schumann and Johannes Brahms with readings from their intimate letters and diaries.



ODYSSEY OF LOVE - LISZT AND HIS WOMEN

The colourful life of the extraordinary Franz Liszt took him from child prodigy to living legend. *Odyssey of Love* focuses on the two greatest romances of this tempestuous genius.



THE ROMANTIC LIFE OF FREDERIC CHOPIN

The compelling story of the tender but volatile relationship between Frederic Chopin and the novelist George Sand is told through extracts from their letters and diaries, counterpointed with some of the composer's best-loved works.

Lucy Parham will be performing *Nocturne* with **Dame Harriet Walker and Guy Paul** at the **Sarratt**

Festival on 29 September.



THE LIFE AND LOVES OF CLAUDE DEBUSSY

Rêverie evokes Claude Debussy's complex emotional life through a personal and revealing journal, illuminated by a sequence of his most famous and atmospheric works for piano.

Lucy Parham will be performing *Rêverie* with **Alex Jennings** on the following dates:

23 Sept, Shanklin Theatre, Isle of Wight | **28 Oct**, Theatre Royal, Bury St Edmunds | **7 Nov**, University

of Galway | **8 Nov**, Dublin Pavilion

Lucy Parham

Acknowledged as one of Britain's finest pianists, Lucy Parham applies her sensitivity and imagination not only to concertos and recitals, but also to portraits in words and music of such composers as Schumann, Chopin, Liszt and Debussy.

Her life-long passion for the music of Schumann inspired the original concept of the words and music evening, *Beloved Clara*. The CD of *Beloved Clara* (ASV) was released to critical acclaim. Two further evenings, *Liszt - An Odyssey of Love* and *Nocturne - The Romantic Life of Frédéric Chopin* also premiered in the London Piano Series at the Wigmore Hall. These musical portraits have toured the UK and abroad, also making their US debuts in Los Angeles and subsequently broadcast on NPR across the USA. Her fourth programme, *Rêverie - the life and loves of Claude Debussy* was premiered at the Wigmore Hall London Piano Series with Henry Goodman. Her most recent concert, *Elégie - Rachmaninoff, A Heart in Exile* will be touring during 2017. The CDs of *Nocturne* and *Odyssey of Love* were released on the Deux-Elles label to



critical acclaim. Her collaboration with Henry Goodman in Strauss' epic melodrama *Enoch Arden*, has resulted in a recent CD, also for Deux-Elles.

Henry Goodman

Leading British actor **Henry Goodman** is a two-time winner of the Olivier Best Actor Award, Sony Award winner, winner of the Critics' Circle and TMA awards, multiple award nominee for Evening Standard, Critics Circle, WhatsonStage and TMA awards. He received a best actor award in 2012 for "*The Rise and Fall of Arturo Ui*" at the Chichester Festival Theatre and in the West End (Duchess Theatre 2013).

He recently starred in Rattigan's *The Winslow Boy* (Arthur Winslow) at the Old Vic Theatre and as Sir Humphrey in *Yes Minister* at both the Chichester Festival Theatre and in the West End. In 2017 his one-man show, *Looking at Lucian*, at the Theatre Royal, Bath, received nationwide critical acclaim.



Other major West End, Broadway, RSC and Royal National Theatre roles include: *Duet for One* (Dr Feldman/Almeida and Vaudeville), *Richard III* (RSC), *Angels in America* (Roy Cohn), *Shylock* (RNT), *Fiddler on Roof* (Tevye/Crucible, Sheffield & Savoy), *City of Angels* (Buddy/ Prince of Wales), *Feelgood* (Garrick), *Theatre of Angels* (Buddy/Prince of Wales), *Assassins* (Guiteau/Donmar), *The Holy Rosenbergs* (David/RNT), *Chicago* (Billy Flynn/West End), *Art* (Marc/Wyndhams), *Broken Glass* (RNT), *Guys and Dolls* (Nathan Detroit/RNT), *Volpone* (RSC) . He has also appeared on Broadway in title roles in *Tartuffe*, *The Producers* and *Art* (Serge).

In film he has starred in *Their Finest* and *Love is Thicker than Water*, *Adam Jones*, *Woman in Gold*, *The Avengers*, *Captain America*, foreign language film *The Surprise*, *Taking Woodstock* (Ang Lee), *The Saint*, *Notting Hill*, *Merchant of Venice* (BBC) and *Last Days of Lehman Brothers*.

Recent TV roles include *Penny Dreadful* (Adrian/ TV Sky Atlantic), *Nixon* (Henry Kissinger), *The Making of Coronation Street* (Sky Arts), *New Tricks & Challenger* (BBC Four), *Alan Turing* (Channel 4 Docudrama), *Midsommer Murders*, *Penny Dreadful* and *New Tricks*.

Henry Goodman frequently appears with Lucy Parham in her Composer Portrait concerts - *Odyssey of Love*, *Nocturne*, *Reverie*, *Beloved Clara* and *Elégie* (Wigmore Hall, Kings Place, St. John's Smith Square and UK tours). He joins Juliet Stevenson on the CD recording of *Odyssey of Love*. He and Lucy Parham have also recorded Strauss' epic melodrama for piano and narrator - *Enoch Arden*.

For more information on any of the above, please contact:

Nicky Thomas Media

101 Bell Street, London NW1 6TL

+44 (0)20 3714 7594 | +44 (0)20 7258 0909

info@nickythomasmedia.com

www.nickythomasmedia.com