

Pianist Cordelia Williams performs works from her upcoming album, *Night Light*, live online from Nottingham



**Monday 23 November 2020, 19:30**

Online from the Djanogly Theatre,  
University of Nottingham

**Mozart** *Fantasia No. 3 in D minor*  
**Scriabin** *Sonata no. 2 (Sonata-Fantasy)*  
**Liszt** *Two Consolations in E*  
**Tomkins** *A Sad Pavan for these  
Distracted Times*  
**Schubert** *Sonata in C minor D958*

**11-12 December 2020**

Turner Sims, Southampton

**Night Light Recording Sessions**

**Summer 2021 | SOMM Recordings  
Night Light Release**

On **Monday 23 November**, pianist **Cordelia Williams** performs works from her upcoming album, *Night Light*, in concert live online from Nottingham. Williams will chart a journey from the depth of night towards dawn in *Night Light*, to be recorded at Turner Sims in Southampton on 11-12 December 2020. The album will include poetry by Michael Symmons Roberts and Lord Rowan Williams. The recording will be released in Summer 2021 with SOMM Recordings.

Williams' *Night Light* programme journeys from darkness to light, celebrating music's cathartic ability to bring peace and consolation in tumultuous times, acknowledging our moments of despair, yet also giving us a window of hope. The album gathers wide-ranging pieces from Thomas Tomkins's *Sad Pavan for these Distracted Times* – composed just two weeks after the execution of Charles I in 1649 – to Bill Evans' 1958 expansive improvisation, *Peace Piece*, via Liszt's *Two Consolations* and Scriabin's *Sonata no. 2*.

Many of the works chosen by Williams grapple with internal struggles, including Schubert's *Sonata in C minor*, written in the final months of his life and filled with outbursts of madness. The recording opens with Mozart's *Fantasia No. 3 in D minor*, first played by Cordelia Williams as a child. Left unfinished by Mozart at his death, Williams completes the *Fantasia* with her own ending, recalling the sombre opening bars.

The metaphorical journey through the disc culminates in Schumann's *Gesänge der Frühe*, 'Songs of Dawn', the inspiration for the disc. The five movements were among the last works written by the composer before his confinement in a mental institution, yet they leave an uplifting and hopeful outlook in looking towards the dawn after a dark night of the soul.

**Cordelia Williams** said: "*These pieces were my companions while I was sleepless in the dead of night nursing a first child. These quiet lonely moments in the early hours can bring a soulfulness and a detached tranquillity, but they can also be distressing for those in torment. But as with Schumann, there is peace to be found at the break of dawn or in the beauty in the shimmering moonlight on the ocean in Scriabin's Sonata no.2.*"

Williams also performs at the **Wiltshire Music Centre in Bradford on Avon** (and online) on Wednesday 9 December.

Williams relocates to Nairobi in January 2021, where she will mentor students, set up a keyboard department for charity Ghetto Classics and give a number of recitals before returning to the UK.

## Upcoming Performances

### Monday 23 November 2020, 19:30

Djanogly Theatre, University of Nottingham and online

**Mozart** *Fantasia No. 3 in D minor*  
**Scriabin** *Sonata no. 2 (Sonata-Fantasy)*  
**Liszt** *Two Consolations in E*  
**Tomkins** *A Sad Pavan for these Distracted Times*  
**Schubert** *Sonata in C minor D958*

### Wednesday 9 December 2020, 13:00 & 18:00

Wiltshire Music Centre and online

**Mozart** *Fantasia in D minor*  
**Liszt** *Two Consolations in E*  
**Schubert** *Sonata in C minor D958*  
**Tomkins** *A Sad Pavan for these Distracted Times*  
**Bill Evans** *Peace Piece*

### 11-12 December 2020

Turner Sims, Southampton

**Recording Sessions: 'Night Light'**

### Summer 2021

SOMM Recordings

**Night Light release**

**Mozart** *Fantasia No. 3 in D minor*  
**Scriabin** *Sonata no. 2 (Sonata-Fantasy)*  
**Liszt** *Two Consolations in E*  
**Schubert** *Sonata in C minor D958*  
**Thomas Tomkins** *A Sad Pavan for these Distracted Times*  
**Bill Evans** *Peace Piece*  
**Schumann** *Gesänge der Frühe*

## Cordelia Williams



Pianist Cordelia Williams has performed all over the world, including concertos with the English Chamber Orchestra (in Mexico City), City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and Royal Philharmonic Orchestra (at Barbican Hall, London), as well as recitals at Wigmore Hall, Royal Festival Hall and Beijing Concert Hall. In 2018 she was appointed as Piano and Chamber Music Coach, and Lecturer in Vocational Contexts, at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama.

At the core of Cordelia's musicality is a fascination with the artistic expression of human struggle and belief. She is drawn especially to the music of the late Classical and early Romantic periods: her debut CD featured Schubert's complete Impromptus and second recording featured music by Schumann. Her most recent CD featured music by J.S. Bach and Arvo Pärt.

She is especially interested in forming unusual collaborations and creating innovative projects with other musicians and across disciplines. In partnership with award-winning poet Michael Symmons Roberts, former Archbishop of Canterbury Lord Rowan Williams and artist Sophie Hacker, her year-long series of events and performances, *Between Heaven and the Clouds: Messiaen 2015*, explored the music, context and theology of Messiaen's *Vingt Regards sur l'Enfant-Jésus*.

*"impeccable technically, totally uninhibited, and brimming with joy and abandon"*

Piano Journal

*"The spontaneity of the performances, as well as the beauty of the piano tone, ... linger in the mind."*

BBC Music Magazine

*"commanding and sensitive"*

Sunday Times

[cordeliawilliams.net](http://cordeliawilliams.net)

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