

Fenella Humphreys embarks on 'Lost Voices' tour with *Quartet* author Leah Broad, and releases new disc showcasing lockdown commissions



### ***Lost Voices***

**July 2023 (embargoed)**

Harrogate International Festival

**August 2023 (embargoed)**

Snape Maltings

**Sunday 5 November 2023, 16:00**

Milton Court, Barbican

**BBC Music Magazine** award-nominee **Fenella Humphreys** is to embark on her *Lost Voices* tour in collaboration with **Leah Broad**, author of the pioneering group biography of four trailblazing women composers, *Quartet*. The **Barbican** has confirmed that it will host the performance on 5 November, with further engagements at **Harrogate International Festival** and **Snape Maltings** to be announced later this spring.

*Lost voices*, which explores forgotten and lost repertoire by female composers, has been devised to complement Leah Broad's new book, which was published by Faber & Faber in March this year. The book explores the lives of **Ethel Smyth, Rebecca Clarke, Dorothy Howell** and **Doreen Carwithen** — and has been described as '*magnificent*' by writer Kate Mosse and '*a blast of fresh air*' by Radio 3's Kate Molleson.

In collaboration with pianist **Nicola Eimer** and Broad, Humphreys shines a spotlight on Doreen Carwithen, one of Britain's first woman film composers;



Rebecca Clarke, acclaimed for her musical experimentation; Dorothy Howell, a prodigy who shot to fame at the Proms; and Ethel Smyth, a highly versatile composer of exceptional quality. Their tour programme will feature sonatas by Smyth and Carwithen alongside Clarke's *Midsummer Moon* and Howell's *Andante* and *The Moorings*.

In 1952, Carwithen's violin sonata was rejected by the BBC Music Panel, but 65 years on, a recording of the same sonata by Fenella Humphreys and Nathan Williamson was given a five-star review by **BBC Music Magazine**.

*"It's truly worth hearing for Fenella Humphreys's violin playing in its own right, which offers an exceptional blend of engaging personality, bombproof tuning, and sophisticated tonal loveliness without a trace of narcissism that might detract"*  
 BBC Music Magazine, 2018

Of Clarke's *Midsummer Moon*, Opera Today commented, *"Humphreys' soft G-string lyricism gave way to lush colours and harmonies, richly evocative in a Debussy-like manner."* The Evening Standard also remarked that Fenella's interpretation seemed to rival Vaughan Williams's *The Lark Ascending*.

Howell's *The Moorings* was originally published by Augener in 1925 for cello and piano, although it was soon issued as an arrangement for violin and piano. Much of the composer's music was inspired by nature and landscape, and this piece, considered to be one of Howell's most attractive miniatures, is a prime example.

The *Lost Voices* project follows a solo violin concert at **Kettle's Yard**, featuring a varied programme including baroque works, showpieces from Paganini and newer Celtic folk-inspired works. Fenella will also present the world premiere of **award-winning composer Adrian Sutton's** violin concerto '*Great Gull*' while featuring as a special guest during his celebration concert at the **London Southbank Centre** in June.

Following a health diagnosis in 2022, told through the acclaimed Guardian article 'Don't Waste Time', Sutton has embarked on a bold adventure: a series of concerts celebrating his life and works. His prolific output includes chamber and orchestral works including a **BBC Proms** commission, and the scores for the National Theatre's *War Horse*, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, *Coram Boy*, *Angels in America* and others. Fenella will join other special guests and conductor **Michael Seal** for an evening of music and celebration.

Having won the 2018 **BBC Music Magazine Instrumental Award**, Fenella has been nominated for a second award this year, this time in the 'Premieres' category

for her album *Caprices* which was released in March 2022 on the Rubicon Classics label.

The disc presents a glittering celebration of all things *Caprice*, ranging from Paganini to a wide selection of contemporary composers, some of whom contributed not only individual works, but who joined together for a splendid composite set of variations on Paganini's famous 24th *Caprice*. Other composers include **Roxanna Panufnik, Sally Beamish, Adrian Sutton, Freya Waley-Cohen, Oliver Leith, Fritz Kreisler**, and **Grażyna Bacewicz**, for a selection of works BBC Music Magazine called '*diverse but surprisingly cohesive*'. With notes on their music by the composers, and comments on Paganini, Kreisler, and Bacewicz by Fenella, this is a personal, daring and exciting album of dazzling virtuosity. The winners will be announced at the award ceremony on **19 April 2023**.



In the spirit of commissioning new works, Fenella is due to release her second solo disc, '*Prism*', on **Rubicon classics** in **early 2024**. The repertoire is inspired by the commissions she made during lockdown for solo violin, and the disc will represent the first recording on solo violin of many of the pieces, including **Caroline Shaw's** *In Manus Tuas*, **Cyril Scott's** *Idyll*, two works by **Cheryl Frances Hoad** and **Ailie Robertson's** *Skydance*. As well as championing new commissions, Fenella has also composed her own arrangements of **Satie's** *Gymnopédie no. 1*, **Bach's** *Tocatta and Fugue BWV 565*, **Schumann's** *Träumerei* and **Debussy's** *La Fille aux Cheveux de Lin* which will be premiered on this CD.



With the launch of the **Apple Music Classical App**, Fenella has been selected to record her own '**Classical Home Session**'. The playlist, designed to have a relaxed, cross-genre feel, includes two previously-unrecorded tracks: **Seonaid Aitken's** *The Mad Piper* and Fenella's arrangement of Debussy's *La Fille aux Cheveux de Lin*. Both tracks are currently available to stream on the app with an Apple Music subscription.

## Upcoming Events

**Thursday 25 May 2023, 20:00**

Kettle's Yard, Cambridge

**Solo Violin**

**Biber** *Passacaglia*  
**Sally Beamish** *The Lone Seafarer*  
**J.S Bach** *Ciaccona* from *Partita No.2 in D minor*  
**Caroline Shaw** *In manus tuas*  
**J.S Bach (arr. Humphreys)** *Toccata and Fugue in D minor BWV565*  
**Wieniawski** *Caprice No.2, Op.18*  
**Cyril Scott** *Idyll*  
**Paganini** *Caprice No.3*  
**Schumman/Debussy/Mancini (arr. Humphreys)** *Medley*  
**Seonaid Aitken** *The Mad Piper*

**Wednesday 28 June 2023, 19:30**

Queen Elizabeth Hall

***Seize the Day: A Celebration of Adrian Sutton***

**Adrian Sutton** *Short Story*  
**Adrian Sutton** *A Fist Full of Fives*  
**Adrian Sutton** *Great Gull* (World premiere)  
**Adrian Sutton** *Polperro Beach* from *Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*  
**Adrian Sutton** Excerpt from *Husbands and Sons*  
**Adrian Sutton** Excerpt from *War Horse*

**Royal Philharmonic Orchestra**

**Michael Seal** conductor

**Fenella Humphreys** violin

**Zeb Soanes** narrator

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***Lost Voices***

**Ethel Smyth** *Sonata*  
**Doreen Carwithen** *Sonata*  
**Rebecca Clarke** *Midsummer Moon*  
**Rebecca Clarke** *Sonata Movement*  
**Dorothy Howell** *Andante*  
**Dorothy Howell** *The Moorings*

**Fenella Humphreys** violin

**Nicola Eimer** piano



## Early 2024

CD release on Rubicon Classics

### Prism

#### TRACKLIST

**Sarah Jenkins** *Tincture of the Skies* (2020) \*\*  
**Sarah Lianne Lewis** *Apart We Are Not Alone & Together Apart* (2020) \*\*  
**Cameron Biles-Liddell** *Contemplations* (2020 rev.2022) \*\*  
**Bethan Morgan-Williams** *One, Two, Bakerloo* (2020) \*\*  
**Michael Small** *Prism* (2020) \*\*  
**Ailie Robertson** *Skydance* (2020) \*  
**Jessie Montgomery** *Rhapsody no. 1*  
**George Walker** *Bleu*  
**Caroline Shaw** *In Manus Tuas* \*  
**Cyril Scott** *Idyll* \*  
**Satie (arr. FH)** *Gymnopédie no. 1* \*\*  
**Bach (arr. FH)** *Toccat and Fugue BWV 565* \*\*  
**Schumann (arr. FH)** *Träumerei* \*\*  
**Debussy (arr. FH)** *La Fille aux Cheveux de Lin* \*\*  
**Cheryl Frances Hoad** *Entrance Music and Exit Music* \*  
**Peter Maxwell Davies** *A Last Postcard from Sanday* \*

\* = no recording currently available of solo violin

\*\* = written for Fenella or premiered in her lockdown livestream series

## Fenella Humphreys

Winner of the 2018 BBC Music Magazine Instrumental Award, Fenella Humphreys has won critical admiration and audience acclaim with the grace and intensity of her playing.

Described in the press as “alluring”, “unforgettable” and “a wonder”, Fenella is one of the UK’s most established and versatile violinists. She enjoys a busy career combining chamber music and solo work, performing in prestigious venues around the world. She is frequently broadcast on the BBC, Classic FM, Scala Radio and international radio stations.

Fenella performs widely as a soloist. Her recent album of Sibelius’ solo works with BBC National Orchestra of Wales and George Vass has been featured in BBC Radio 3’s Building a Library, and was Album of the Week on Scala Radio. BBC Music Magazine has written of the recording: “it takes an unusually fine artist to be able to bridge the two extremes. Fenella Humphreys’s playing is a genuine revelation in the way it brings out the music’s dark and introspective qualities, with no shortage of technical panache meanwhile.”



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