

Symphony Orchestra; Oare String Orchestra; Barnet Symphony Orchestra; and St Johns Chamber Players for the Norden Farm Concert Series, Maidenhead.

In December 2012, she performed centre stage at Glyndebourne the premier of Russell Hepplewhite's song cycle *It Was Born of The Stars* for harp and children's choir with the youth opera and in November 2013, *Into The Harbour: Carry Me Home*, an arrangement of Britten's operas by Lee Reynolds for the Britten centenary. She has performed recitals as part of the 2011 New London Orchestra Young concert artists' platform and also at St Martin in the Fields with Ronald Corp and Apsara, performing works for harp and voices, and harp solo.

Elizabeth loves performing in chamber ensembles and in past performances has worked with a variety groups: she has worked with a flute, harp and cello trio with Opera North as part of their Yorkshire Sculpture Park chamber music series and has also performed several chamber music concerts as part of the London Philharmonic Orchestra apprentice scheme in venues such as The Royal Festival Hall and 100 Club, including music for harp, marimba, trombone and viola.

She has performed for royalty on several occasions, most recently in the presence of His Royal Highness ,The Prince of Wales at Westminster and Chelsea Hospital in representation of The Concordia Foundation.

Recordings include Rick Wakeman, 'The Six Wives of Henry VIII; Live at Hampton Court' (2009), Othon 'Impermanence' (2011) and 'Japanese Folk Songs' with Joji Hirota and the London Metropolitan Orchestra (2013).

Elizabeth enjoys teaching and outreach work: she is the harp teacher at Hill House International Prep School and Queens College, Harley Street and participates in many educational projects in schools and children's concerts with The LPO Education department. She also plays in residential homes and hospitals, such as Great Ormond Street Hospital.

Elizabeth studied for her Masters in Performance at Trinity College of Music, where she was awarded a Leverhulme Scholarship, having previously graduated in music from Royal Holloway, University of London. At Trinity, she studied with Gabriella Dall'Olio and former teachers include Janice Beven and Karen Vaughan. She has also received tuition from Letizia Belmondo, Sylvain Blassel, Fabrice Pierre and Rachel Masters.

**We hope that you have enjoyed today's concert. Our next recital will be at 1.00 pm on the opening day of our Christmas Tree Festival, Friday 12th December, and will be given by the Maidenhead Concert Band Brass Quintet.**

**If you would like to be kept informed of future concerts and musical events at St. Luke's, please complete the list by the door before you leave.**

[www.stlukeschurchmaidenhead.org.uk](http://www.stlukeschurchmaidenhead.org.uk)

# St. Luke's Church Maidenhead



## *Elizabeth Mc Nulty*

Music for the harp by Handel,  
Fauré, Dussek & Spohr

**Friday 31st October  
at 1.00 pm**

## Programme



## Introduction

It is a great pleasure to welcome the harpist Elizabeth McNulty, who has generously agreed to give this concert in another of our occasional lunchtime recitals. She is an outstanding performer so I am sure you will enjoy this opportunity to hear her play in our fine church.

There is no charge for the concert, but there will be a retiring collection to further the work of St. Luke's Church. Gift Aid envelopes are available if you are able to Gift Aid your donation, which increases its value by 25% at no cost to you.

*John Cotterill, Director of Music*

## Programme

### Concerto for Harp

G.F. Handel (1685-1759)

*Andante Allegro*

*Larghetto*

*Allegro Moderato*

One of the most famous and earliest significant works for the harp, Handel wrote this concerto originally for the Welsh Royal harpist of the time, William Powell. In 1736 it was premiered in Covent Garden, London, as a celebration of St Cecilia, and is one of three concerti included as part of his larger work Alexander's Feast. He also wrote six Organ concerti and later transcribed this work for the organ too.

### Sonata for Harp in C Minor

J.L. Dussek (1760-1812)

*Allegro*

*Andantino*

*Rondo Allegro*

Czech composer and pianist, Jan Ladislav Dussek, was born into a family with a long history of professional musicians. His mother, Veronika, played the harp, and in 1792 in London, he married Sofia Corri - a well-known harpist. His familiarity with the harp through these women inspired him to write many works for the instrument, including several sonatas, duets and six concerti (three of which are lost). Dussek lived in London from 1789 – 1799, having moved there from Paris just before the onset of the French Revolution, where Marie Antoinette had been one of his patrons.

## Fantasia for Harp in C Minor

Louis Spohr (1784-1859)

German composer, violinist and conductor Louis Spohr composed this work for harp in 1807 and dedicated it to his first wife, the harpist, Dorette Schleider. He also wrote a violin and harp sonata, which they performed together as a duo on tour in England, Paris and Italy, before Dorette discontinued her harp career to concentrate on raising their children. Spohr also wrote ten symphonies, ten operas and many concerti and works for other miscellaneous instruments. He was also an active freemason and invented the orchestra rehearsal mark and the violin chinrest.

## Impromptu for Harp

Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924)

The Impromptu is one of two pieces that Fauré composed for the harp – the other being 'Une Châtelaine en sa Tour'. However there is much controversy over the author of the Impromptu. In 1904 Fauré was commissioned by the Paris Conservatoire to write a piece for the annual harp class competition. There is rumour that the second half of the piece was written by his colleague, Professor of harp and composition at the conservatoire, Alphonse Hasselmans. It is true that this piece, especially the second half, is not necessarily typical of Fauré's work but these accusations are based on hearsay, so it has not been possible to make any conclusions as of yet.

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## Elizabeth McNulty

Elizabeth is Principal Harpist with The Kantanti Ensemble. She also freelances with many orchestras: she has worked with The Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, The English National Ballet, The RTE Concert Orchestra, New London Orchestra, London Concert Orchestra, London Gala Orchestra, London Telefilmnic Orchestra, London Metropolitan Orchestra, Symphonia Academica, Glyndebourne Youth Opera and Southbank Sinfonia. In 2010-11, she was selected for the Foyle Future Firsts programme with the London Philharmonic Orchestra.

Solo work includes numerous performances of major harp concerti, including Ginastera Harp Concerto, Mozart Flute and Harp Concerto, Mozetich El Dorado, Debussy Danses sacree et Profane and Ravel Introduction and Allegro with groups such as Kantanti Ensemble; Symphonia Academica; Berkeley Ensemble; Dulwich

