

# FENELLA HUMPHREYS

## violin

**“Humphreys’ ‘utter absorption and delight... shines forth at every turn.” *Gramophone***

Fenella Humphreys, winner of the 2018 BBC Music Magazine Instrumental Award, has won critical admiration and audience acclaim with the lyrical 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, DeutschlandRadio Berlin, West-Deutsche-Rundfunk, ABC Classic FM (Australia) and Korean radio.

Fenella performs widely as a soloist. Her first concerto recording, of Christopher Wright’s Violin Concerto with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra and Martin Yates (Dutton Epoch) was released in 2012 to great critical acclaim (“Fenella Humphreys’ performance is a wonder” – International Record Review), and was selected as Orchestral CD of the Month in a 5 star review in BBC Music Magazine.

Over the past decade Fenella has captured international attention by applying spellbinding virtuosity to a strikingly broad range of compositions. Her Bach 2 the Future albums, the second of which won the coveted BBC Music Magazine Instrumental Award, combined newly commissioned works with two of Bach’s solo sonatas and partitas and other repertoire landmarks. She has given the first performances of scores by, among others, Sir Peter Maxwell Davies, Sally Beamish, Gordon Crosse, Cheryl Frances-Hoad, Adrian Sutton and Piers Hellawell, and made the world premiere recording of Christopher Wright’s elegiac Violin Concerto.

Fenella’s new disc, *So Many Stars*, with acclaimed pianist Nicola Eimer was released on Stone Records in February 2019. It was described as “hugely rewarding” by The Observer and BBC Radio 3’s Record Review as “an absolutely exquisite album”.

June 2019 saw the release of another new disc, *Four Seasons Recomposed* with Covent Garden Sinfonia and Ben Palmer (Rubicon). The album unites Max Richter’s iconic *Recomposed: The Four Seasons* with Pēteris Vasks’ *Lonely Angel* and Arvo Pärt’s *Fratres* to produce a compelling meditation on the profound power of melody. The disc was launched with a performance of *Recomposed* at St Jude’s, Hampstead Garden Suburb, and reached No. 6 in the Classical Charts. It was chosen as one of BBC Radio 3’s pick of new releases on Essential Classics; chosen for Apple Music’s Classical A-List; and was been described by Radio 3’s Record Review as “...a delight.”

Fenella is a passionate chamber musician, enjoying performances with Ensemble Perpetuo, Counterpoise and I Musicanti as well as collaborations with artists including Alexander Baillie, Adrian Brendel, Pekka Kuusisto and Alec Frank-Gemmill, and is regularly invited by Steven Isserlis to take part in the prestigious Open Chamber Music at the International Musicians’ Seminar, Prussia Cove. Concertmaster of the Deutsche Kammerakademie, Fenella also enjoys guest leading and directing various ensembles in Europe.

Fenella’s teachers have included Sidney Griller CBE, Itzhak Rashkovsky, Ida Bieler and David Takeno at the Purcell School, Guildhall School of Music and Drama, and the Robert-Schumann-Hochschule in Düsseldorf where she was awarded the highest attainable marks both for the ‘Diplom’ exam and the ‘Konzertexamen’ soloists’ diploma. Fenella plays a beautiful violin from the circle of Peter Guarneri of Venice, kindly on loan from Jonathan Sparey.

# RECENT RECORDINGS



**Four Seasons Recomposed** | June 2019 | Rubicon  
Fenella Humphreys, Covent Garden Sinfonia, Ben Palmer

"...a delight. The whole thing is gently expressive, meditative, touching and very effective." BBC RADIO 3 RECORD REVIEW

**So Many Stars** | January 2019 | Stone Records  
Fenella Humphreys, Nicola Eimer (piano)

"...a whole universe of emotion, brilliantly captured by the violinist Fenella Humphreys and pianist Nicola Eimer [...] a hugely rewarding new recording." THE OBSERVER



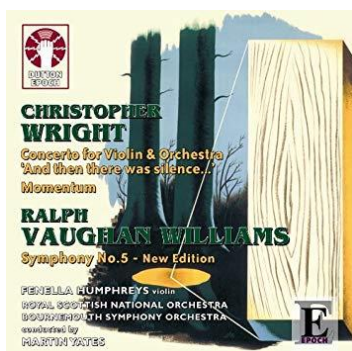
**Bach 2 The Future Vol. 2** | 2015 | Champs Hill  
Fenella Humphreys

Winner of the BBC Music Magazine Instrumental Award 2018

"Humphreys' utter absorption and delight in all three shines forth at every turn." GRAMOPHONE, Editor's Choice

**Bach 2 The Future** | 2015 | Champs Hill  
Fenella Humphreys

"She shapes the music with skill... her double stops are impeccable. [...] An enjoyable and accomplished CD." BBC MUSIC MAGAZINE, Instrumental CD choice, 5 stars



**Christopher Wright: Violin Concerto** | 2012 | Dutton  
Fenella Humphreys, Royal Scottish National Orchestra, Martin Yates

"Fenella Humphreys responds to its elegiac reflection and technical display at top flight level, offering emotional depth and weight of tone." BBC MUSIC MAGAZINE, Orchestral CD choir, 5 stars

# SOLO PROGRAMMES

## Bach 2 The Future

Fenella presents a selection of works from her award-winning Bach 2 The Future discs:

### Programme 1:

Fritz Kreisler: Recitativo & Scherzo Caprice  
J.S. Bach: Ciaconna from Partita No. 2 in D minor BWV 1004  
Peter Maxwell Davies: Sonatina for Violin Alone  
Paganini: Caprice No. 24

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Cheryl Frances-Hoad: Suite No. 1  
J.S. Bach: Partita No. 3 in E major BWV 1006  
Eugene Ysaye: Solo Sonata No. 2 Op. 27

### Programme 2:

Cyril Scott: Bumble-Bees (1928)  
Heinrich Biber: Passacaglia (1676)  
Sally Beamish: Intrada e Fuga  
Eugene Ysaye: Solo Sonata No. 3 Op. 27

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J. S. Bach: Partita No. 1 in B minor BWV 1002  
Adrian Sutton: Arpeggiare Variations  
Heinrich Wilhelm Ernst: Grand Caprice Op. 26 on Schubert's Erlkönig

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## Caprices

Virtuoso Fenella Humphreys explores some of the most fiendish and technically demanding solo violin works ever written. The programme will take you on a whirlwind journey from works by celebrated violinist-composer Nicolo Paganini through to new music written especially for Fenella, taking in Piazzolla, Kreisler, Mark O'Connor, Schubert and some of Britain's most exciting composers along the way.

Paganini: from 24 Caprices  
Wieniawski: from Caprices op. 18  
Ernst: Grand Caprice on Schubert's Erlkönig  
Kreisler: Recitative and Scherzo Caprice  
Bacewicz: from 4 Caprices  
Piazzolla: from Tango-Etudes  
Rebecca Saunders: Hauch  
Tom Coult: 4 Etudes  
Roxanna Panufnik: Hora Bassarabia  
Oliver Leith: Caprice\*  
Seonaid Aitken: Glasgow Reel Set: Folk Caprice\*  
Freya Waley-Cohen: Caffeine Caprice\*  
Laurence Osborn: Love Songs Caprice\*  
Variations on Paganini 24th Caprice: Composers include Sally Beamish, Tom Coult, Toby Young, Cheryl Frances-Hoad, Adrian Sutton, Roxanna Panufnik, James Joslin, Alasdair Nicolson, Seonaid Aitken, Laurence Osborn, Andra Patterson, David Knotts, Piers Hellowell, Oliver Leith\*  
\*new work



"Fenella Humphreys' performance is a wonder." International Record Review

# RECITAL PROGRAMMES: with piano

Daniel Grimwood | Nicola Eimer | Sam Armstrong

## Programme 1:

Jean Francaix: Sonatina  
Schubert: Sonatina in G minor D408  
Frances-Hoad/Knotts/Powers/Taylor/Nicolson: 5  
Pieces after Sibelius Op. 81  
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Gershwin/Heifetz: 3 Preludes  
Sibelius: 5 Pieces Op. 81  
Ravel: Violin Sonata

## Programme 3: The American Violin

A programme exploring American greats, from the last chamber work Dvorak composed during his time in New York, through to the world of European emigres and refugees to a new world of American cool.

Dvorak: Sonatina Op.100  
Muhly: Drones and Violin  
Korngold: Much ado about nothing  
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Korngold: Caprice Fantastique  
Copland: Violin Sonata  
Bloch: Baal Schem

## Programme 2:

Mozart: Sonata in B flat KV 454  
Suk: 4 Pieces op. 17  
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Messiaen: Theme and Variations  
Faure: Violin Sonata No. 1 in A Op. 13

## Programme 4: Brahms and Schumann

In 1853, just a year before his suicide attempt, Robert Schumann and his wife Clara were introduced to the 20-year-old Brahms. The friendships that followed between these three astounding musicians continue to intrigue to this day.

Brahms: Sonatensatz  
Schumann: Violin Sonata No. 2 Op. 121  
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Clara Schumann: 3 Romances Op. 22  
Brahms: Violin Sonata No. 3 in D minor Op. 108

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## with Mahan Esfahani, harpsichord

Internationally celebrated harpsichordist **Mahan Esfahani** performs across the globe, with the mission to rehabilitate the harpsichord in the mainstream of concert instruments. Together, Humphreys and Mahan present a thrilling new recital programme featuring duo repertoire from the 17<sup>th</sup> Century to modern day:

Biber: Sonata No.1  
Cage: 6 Melodies for violin and keyboard  
CPE Bach: Sonata in B minor  
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Bach: Sonata in B minor BWV1014  
Jukka Tiensuu: Sonata  
Biber: Sonata No.5



# TRIO PROGRAMMES

## Roscoe Piano Trio: with Martin Roscoe (piano) and Jessica Burroughs (cello)

Fenella joins international acclaimed pianist Martin Roscoe and cellist Jessica Burroughs (cello section leader, Opera North):

Haydn: Trio in A Hob XV:18

Beethoven: Trio in G op. 1 no. 2

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Brahms: Trio in B major op. 8

*other programme options are available upon request*



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## String Trio: with Ensemble Perpetuo Andrew Berridge or Rosalind Ventris (viola), Cara Berridge (cello)

Ensemble Perpetuo is a dynamic and versatile collective of musicians who perform a wide variety of traditional and contemporary chamber music, often in new and unusual settings. Perpetuo offers traditional chamber music recitals as well as immersive cultural experiences involving cross-arts collaborations. In 2015, the string players at the heart of Perpetuo formed the Ensemble's String Trio.

### Programme 1:

Schubert: String Trio in B flat D471

Adrian Sutton: Spring Masque for violin and viola

Sibelius: String Trio in G minor

Martinu: Duo No. 1 for violin and 'cello

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Mozart: Divertimento in E flat KV 564

### Programme 2

Jean Francaix: String Trio (1933)

Schubert: String Trio in B flat D581

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Gideon Klein: String Trio (1944)

Beethoven: String Trio in D major Op. 9 No. 2

### Programme 3: The Goldberg Projects

In the summer of 2018 Perpetuo's String Trio premiered a newly commissioned work to partner Bach's Goldberg Variations at the St. Magnus International Festival. *Airs Jigs and Reels* is a wonderful set of new works by traditional and classical Scottish composers exploring both the poetically lyrical and dance-like aspects of Goldberg, one of Bach's perennially best loved works. These new works have recently been recorded by the Trio for future release by Champs Hill Records.

J.S. Bach - Goldberg Variations (53')

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*Airs Jigs and Reels* (20'): Alasdair Nicolson, Ailie Robertson, David Fennessy, Donald Grant, Aidan O'Rourke

[www.ensembleperpetuo.com](http://www.ensembleperpetuo.com)

# FESTIVAL PROGRAMMES

## Odette: A Celebration of Swan Lake

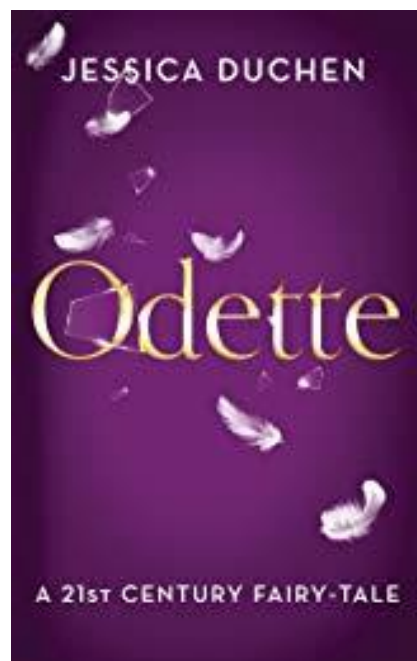
Fenella Humphreys (violin)  
Viv McLean (piano)  
Jessica Duchen (author/narrator)

“Enthralling... an unpredictable and original voice and a dazzling perceptiveness” - Joanna Lumley

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky’s ballet score for Swan Lake casts a powerful spell over generation after generation. It has had innumerable reimaginings and retellings, balletic and otherwise. The latest is author and music critic Jessica Duchen’s magical-realist novel *Odette*, in which the enchanted swan princess meets 21st Century Britain.

This remarkable narrated concert mingles selected readings from the book with the story behind Tchaikovsky’s creation of Swan Lake and its passionate, tragic inspirations. Award-winning, ballet-loving British violinist Fenella Humphreys embraces the great violin solos with which Tchaikovsky embroidered his score, as well as the closely related Violin Concerto; pianist Viv McLean evokes the influence of Chopin and Liszt on Tchaikovsky; and there’s plenty of humour, with works by Saint-Saëns and Gershwin. Share the enchantment with this joyous celebration of a beloved ballet, its composer, its fairytale and what they can mean to us today.

Tchaikovsky: Swan Lake – Introduction  
Saint-Saëns: Danse macabre  
Gershwin: The Man I Love  
Liszt: Liebestraum No.3  
Tchaikovsky: Swan Lake – Odette’s Solo  
interval  
Chopin: Polonaise-Fantaisie  
Tchaikovsky: Swan Lake – White Swan Pas de Deux  
Tchaikovsky: Swan Lake – Adagio from the Black Swan Pas de Deux  
Tchaikovsky: Violin Concerto in D major – finale



# Vivaldi's Four Seasons Reimagined *Available from June 2020*

Fenella Humphreys | Murray Grainger (accordion) | Ben Griffiths (double bass) | George Barton (percussion)

Fenella presents a reworking of Vivaldi's Four Seasons for an incredible chamber ensemble of violin, accordion, double bass and percussion, bringing a whole new world of diverse and brilliant sounds to Vivaldi's masterpiece. The four concertos are together with three new commissions for the ensemble from Cheryl Frances-Hoad, Adrian Sutton and Bethan Morgan-Williams. The whole thing will be a one-hour performance, and perfect for late nights - or also rush hour, lunchtime or morning performances.



Alongside the performance, the ensemble can offer education and outreach options, from interactive school performances through to composition-based multi-session workshops with a trained workshop leader.



*A full-length concert version is also available:*

Tartini: 'Devil's Trill' Sonata OR Piazzolla: Four Seasons of Buenos Aires

Adrian Sutton: Spring -> Summer

Bethan Morgan-Williams: Summer -> Autumn

Cheryl Frances-Hoad: Autumn -> Winter

Piazzolla: Tangos

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Vivaldi: Four Seasons

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## For Families: A Musical Journey Around the World

Fenella Humphreys (violin) and Nicola Eimer (piano)

**An inclusive, relaxed performance, welcoming all audiences without the formality of the concert hall!**

Open to everyone, this performance is particularly well-suited to families with children. Be spirited away by violinist Fenella Humphreys, winner of BBC Music Magazine's Instrumental Award, and acclaimed pianist Nicola Eimer, in a musical journey around the world, with accessible and family-friendly repertoire from Austria, Finland, Spain, Russia, France, Romania and the UK.



# MAX RICHTER: VIVALDI'S FOUR SEASONS RECOMPOSED

Fenella Humphreys, violin | Covent Garden Sinfonia | Ben Palmer, conductor

Virtuoso violinist Fenella Humphreys and the Covent Garden Sinfonia under the baton of Ben Palmer present 'Four Seasons Recomposed' – Max Richter's 2012 chart-topping reimagining of Vivaldi's most beloved piece.

British violinist Fenella Humphreys, winner of the 2018 BBC Music Magazine Instrumental Award, has won critical admiration and audience acclaim with the lyrical grace and intensity of her playing. Humphreys is partnered by the Covent Garden Sinfonia and its artistic director, Ben Palmer, ideal companions in a programme vibrant in tonal contrasts and expressive light and shade.

Example programmes:

Max Richter *Four Seasons Recomposed*  
Pēteris Vasks *Lonely Angel*  
Arvo Pärt *Fratres*

Barber *Adagio for Strings*  
Richter *On the Nature of Daylight*  
Richter *Four Seasons Recomposed*  
Pärt *Fratres*



## NEW DISC

In June 2019, Fenella and CGS released a new eagerly-awaited Richter disc (Rubicon Classics). The album unites Max Richter's iconic *Recomposed: The Four Seasons* with Pēteris Vasks' *Lonely Angel* and Arvo Pärt's *Fratres* to produce a compelling meditation on the profound power of melody.

The disc reached No. 6 in the Classical Charts; was chosen as one of BBC Radio 3's pick of new releases on Essential Classics; chosen for Apple Music's Classical A-List; and was been described by Radio 3's Record Review as "...a delight. The whole thing is gently expressive, meditative, touching and very effective."



View the CD preview video on YouTube [here](#).

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