



Friday 11th October 2024, 1.15pm

## Emily Rooke (Soprano) & Apolline Khou (Piano)

**Emily Rooke** is a British soprano originally from Hereford and Worcester. She received a distinction in her Master of Performance degree at the Royal College of Music where she was an Ian Evans Lombe Scholar supported by the Pauline Hartley Award. She studied under the tutelage of Dinah Harris and Bryan Evans MBE.

She was a British Youth Opera Serena Fenwick Young Artist 2020-2021. Emily has performed the role of Lucy (Cherry Town, Moscow) with Welsh National Youth Opera and previously sang the role of Léonore (Campra's *Les Fêtes Vénitiennes*) at the Liszt Academy, Budapest. Royal College of Music opera scenes include *Griselda* (Alma Deutscher's *Cinderella*), *Damigella* (*L'incoronazione di Poppea*), *Lucia* (*The Rape of Lucretia*), *Miles* (*The Turn of the Screw*) and *Cobweb* (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*). Other scenes include *Anima* (*Rappresentazione di Anima et di Corpo*) at the Museo Galileo, Florence and the titular role of Donizetti's *Betty* with British Youth Opera.



Previously a scholar with the BBC National Chorus of Wales, Emily regularly performed at the Royal Albert Hall for the BBC Proms. She was a step-out soloist for Sir James MacMillan's *Seven Angels* broadcast on BBC Radio 3 and TV series *Wonders of the Celtic Deep*. Solo concert performances include *Oster-Oratorium* (Bach) at RCM, *Requiem* (Mozart) and *Magnificat* (Pergolesi) with Worcestershire Symphony Orchestra, as well as *Gloria* (Vivaldi), *Messiah* (Handel), *Christmas Oratorio* (Bach) and an Angel in *Elijah* (Mendelssohn). Emily regularly performed in RCM museum concerts as well as

lute song concerts, most recently at St. John's, Smith Square for their Crypt Classics series.

Theatrically, Emily performed *A Minor Excursion* (J. A. Bates) at the Three Choirs Festival and has performed alongside artists from Central School of Ballet, Royal Academy of Dramatic Art and Royal College of Art for an interdisciplinary performance of *Wonder*, curated by Diana Krasovska. Emily was one of the first Vocal Animateur Interns appointed with Welsh National Opera from 2019-2020, where she trained to perform and lead workshops in a variety of settings including: mainstream and SEND schools; community chorus; and hospitals. She has worked with ABC of Opera to create Makaton signing videos and has previously curated concerts for the National Museum of Wales and BBC Earth Hour. Emily also curated a digital exhibition on Dame Ethel Smyth's life and legacy in conjunction with the Royal College of Music.

Emily previously studied at the Conservatorio di Musica 'Luigi Cherubini' in Florence, Italy, the Haute Ecole de Musique de Genève, Switzerland and the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. She has participated in masterclasses with Sir Mark Elder, Dame Ann Murray, Matteo Dalle Fratte, Marie-Ange Todorovitch and Alison Wells. Opera Chorus work includes Leoncavallo's *Pagliacci* (Opera Holland Park), Respighi's *La Bella Dormiente nel Bosco* and Ravel's *L'enfant et les Sortilèges* (Royal College of Music International Opera School), *La Traviata* and *Carmen* (Concerto Classico) in Florence, and *The Magic Flute* (Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama).

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

Born in France, **Apolline Khou** is a harpsichordist and pianist, currently the Fellow in Historical Keyboards at the Royal College of Music (RCM). She holds both a Master of Performance and an Artist Diploma from RCM, where she was also the Carne Junior Fellow in 2022-2023. Apolline has performed internationally as a soloist and as a chamber or orchestral player. Recent performances include venues such as the Atelier Von Nagel in Paris, the Narodowe Forum Muzyki in Wroclaw, Poland, and the Victoria and Albert Museum in London.

In December 2021, she was selected to perform as a soloist for HRH Charles III, formerly the Prince of Wales, where she presented an English programme on an original 1773 harpsichord at the RCM Museum.

Additionally, in June 2023, she had the honor of performing for the Emperor of Japan at the same venue. In 2023, Apolline won the RCM Historical Performance Competition, receiving both the Century Fund Prize and the Richard III Prize. She also earned the 2nd prize in the Musica Britannica Editions - Lewis Memorial Prize Competition. Her studies were supported by the Safran Foundation, the Soroptimist Club, and patrons Linda Hill and Philip Carne.

