



Friday 27th September 2024, 1.15pm

Hannah Dienes-Williams (Soprano) & Gregory May (Piano)

Hannah Dienes-Williams is in demand as both a soprano and mezzo-soprano, in solo and choral capacities. She started singing as a chorister in Guildford Cathedral Choir, during which time she was a finalist in the BBC Young Chorister of the Year competition, Head Chorister, and soprano soloist with orchestra on critically acclaimed recordings, such as Rebecca Dale's *Materna Requiem* (DECCA, alongside Louise Alder) and Darke's *As The Leaves Fall* (Regents Records *Leaves Fall*, 2019). She went on to feature as a soloist on two CDs with Clare College Choir (*Harmonia Mundi*), and on recordings with St John's College Choir.

Hannah recently graduated from the University of Cambridge with a First in Music. While at Cambridge, Hannah sang in many operas, with roles including Susanna in *Le Nozze Di Figaro* (Trinity College Music Society), Adele in Johann Strauss' *Die Fledermaus* (Cambridge University Opera Society), Pamina in Mozart's *The Magic Flute* (CUOS), Soprano in Venables' *Denis* and



Katya (CUOS), Ino in Handel's Semele (CUOS), Dido in Purcell's Dido and Aeneas (Clare College Music Society) and Mrs P in Nyman's The Man Who Mistook his Wife for a Hat (CCMS).

Hannah was awarded second prize in the Clare College Song Competition and was on the Arthur Bliss Pembroke Lieder Scheme where she received regular coachings with esteemed pianist Joseph Middleton. She has performed in masterclasses with Nicholas Mulroy, John Graham Hall, Nicky Spence, Lucy Crowe and Mark Padmore. She was also the winner of the CCMS Concerto competition, performing Les Illuminations at West Road Concert Hall. Since starting at RAM, Hannah has been Highly Commended in the Flora Nielsen Prize, a finalist in the Delius Prize, and is a member of the prestigious Academy Song Circle. She has benefitted from coaching with Barbara Hannigan and was selected to be part of the Glyndebourne Opera Lab. Hannah particularly enjoys contemporary music, having collaborated with the London Contemporary Soloists, and is looking forward to working on Miss Donnithorne's Maggot (Maxwell-Davies) and Pierrot Lunaire (Schoenberg) for RAM. Future engagements also include reprising the roles of Dido and Mrs P, as well as Vivaldi's Gloria and Bach's Mass in B Minor. In her spare time, she sings at St George's Hanover Square and works as a peripatetic teacher around London.

Gregory May is a pianist and composer, currently studying composition at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, and studying piano privately with Rolf Hind. He previously studied the piano with Fiona Harris at the Junior department of the Royal Academy of Music. He has a keen interest in playing contemporary music, and his piano playing sees him working in a wide range of contexts. He also works in a duo with the soprano Hannah Dienes-Williams, and their focus on the music of Olivier Messiaen brought them to Paris in 2023, performing his song cycle Harawi as part of a project exploring the compositional activity of his second wife, Yvonne Loriod.