

**Howard
Assembly
Room**



Distilled: Love Songs Around *Dichterliebe* – a Poet's Love

Aimée Fisk soprano
Andrew Randall baritone
David Cowan piano

Sun 22 Feb 2026
3.00pm

Programme

Robert Schumann
(1810-56)

Im wunderschönen Monat Mai

Gustav Mahler
(1860-1911)

Frühlingsmorgen

Robert Schumann

Aus meinen Tränen spriessen

Gustav Mahler

Liebst du um Schönheit

Robert Schumann

Die Rose, die Lilie, die Taube, die Sonne
Wenn ich in deine Augen seh'

Hugo Wolf
(1860-1903)

Er ist's

Robert Schumann

Ich will meine Seele tauchen

Paolo Tosti
(1846-1916)

Pour un baiser

Robert Schumann

Im Rhein, im heiligen Strome

Clara Schumann
(1819-96)

Sie liebten sich beide

Robert Schumann

Ich grolle nicht
Das ist ein Flöten und Geigen

Edvard Grieg
(1843-1907)

Solveig's song

Programme (continued)

Robert Schumann

Hör' ich das Liedchen klingen
Ein Jüngling liebt ein Mädchen
Am leuchtenden Sommermorgen
Berg und Burgen
Ich hab' im Traum geweinet

Edvard Grieg

Ein Traum

Robert Schumann

Die alten, bösen Lieder
Mit Myrten und Rosen

Aimée Fisk soprano

Andrew Randall baritone

David Cowan piano

Around *Dichterliebe* – a Poet's Love

David Cowan

Robert Schumann's best known and best loved song-cycle tells the story of a poet's relationship with an unnamed woman. We are interlacing the Schumann songs for male voice with a female perspective on the same story, with further songs by Grieg, Wolf, Mahler, Tosti and Clara Schumann. The singers alternate to give an ever-shifting colour world and exchange between two equal people. Throughout, she continues to love him as he does her, but they can't express it to each other, can't make it work, and she leaves him for someone else whom she ultimately loves less. Sometimes the soprano is the real, other person in the relationship, sometimes she reflects his feelings and elaborates on them from a different, female, perspective. There is not a single consistent story as there is in Schubert's *Winterreise*, but there is a clear emotional thread which tells the story of a relationship that, for whatever reason, cannot work out.

Im wunderschönen Monat Mai

In the beautiful month of May, I confessed
my love to her...

Frühlingsmorgen

The sun is in the sky, the bees are humming
– Get up!

Aus meinen Tränen

If you love me, I will give you my tears,
my sighs, my flowers...

Liebst du um Schönheit

Don't love me for my beauty, my youth,
my wealth – love me for the sake of love

Die Rose, die Lilie

I used to love nature, sunshine...
I now only love her

Wenn ich in deine Augen seh'

When you tell me that you love me,
I break down in tears of joy

Er ist's

Spring is awakening

Ich will meine Seele tauchen

My songs shall tremble like the kiss that
she once gave me

Around *Dichterliebe* – a Poet's Love (continued)

Pour un baiser

Let me languish and die in a slow, deep kiss
from your lips

Im Rhein

In Cologne's mighty cathedral, there
is a picture of Our Lady; she resembles my
love in every detail

Sie liebten sich beide

They loved each other but couldn't
admit it; they drifted apart and only met
occasionally in dreams

Ich grolle nicht

I don't complain – I know what you are
– I saw the snake that eats your heart
– I don't complain

Das ist ein Flöten und Geigen

Listen to the blaring dance music – it's
from the wedding party of my beloved

Solveig's Song

Whether in this life or the next, I will wait
for you till we meet again

Hör' ich das Liedchen klingen

I hear the song my beloved used to sing,
my heart will break

Ein Jüngling liebt ein Mädchen

Boy loves girl – she loves another, but
is not loved in return, so goes off with
someone else. An old story, which stays
ever new, and he to whom it happens has his
heart crushed

Am leuchtenden Sommermorgen

The garden flowers whisper to me
– don't be bitter, you pale, lonely man

Berg und Burgen

My boat sails gaily on the river – the
surface all sunshine, the depths trickery and
darkness – a mirror image of my beloved

Ich hab' im Traum geweinet

I dreamt you were dead, I dreamt you were
still good to me – I cried in my sleep and
cried all the more when I awoke

Ein Traum

I dreamt of love and then found true love

Die alten, bösen Lieder

Get me a huge coffin, let me bury my love
and my pain within and cast it into the sea

Mit Myrten und Rosen

Let me bury my love poems in a book.
One day this book will find its way to you,
my dear, lost love

Artists' biographies



Aimée Fisk

Soprano

Leeds-born soprano **Aimée Fisk** is establishing herself as a distinctive and versatile performer across opera and concert repertoire. She is a graduate of the Royal Academy Opera School, where she was awarded the Tom Hammond Opera Prize and Kendal Award. Her international training includes studies at the Franz Liszt Academy of Music in Budapest and the Conservatorio di G. Rossini in Pesaro, alongside a First-Class Honours degree from the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire. She has performed a wide range of operatic roles, including Pamina *Die Zauberflöte*, Musetta *La bohème*, Fiordiligi *Così fan tutte*, Nella *Gianni Schicchi* and Berenice in Rossini's *L'occasione fa il ladro*. She has appeared with companies including Opera North, English National Opera, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic and the Royal Ballet and Opera, and performs regularly with Opera North as both chorister and soloist. On the concert platform, she has appeared as a soloist in works including Verdi's *Requiem*, Handel's *Messiah*, Brahms's *Requiem*, and Vaughan Williams' *Serenade to Music* at venues including St John's Smith Square, French Embassy Budapest and the Petersfield Music Festival. Away from the classical stage, Aimée has a longstanding love of jazz and musical theatre, which continues to inform her musical communication and stagecraft.



Andrew Randall Baritone

Baritone **Andrew Randall** studied for his bachelor's degree at the University of Nottingham, and is a Master's graduate from Royal Birmingham Conservatoire. He was principal lay clerk at Birmingham and Worcester Cathedrals, and has performed with Ex Cathedra (Skidmore) and the Armonico Consort (Monks). Opera includes: *Guglielmo Così fan tutte*, Count Almaviva *Le nozze di Figaro*, title role *Don Giovanni* and Marcello *La bohème*. Ensemble appearances include: *Aida*, *La traviata*, *Orfeo ed Euridice*, *Requiem*, *Falstaff* and *Masque of Might*, all with the Chorus of Opera North; and with Grange Festival, *Macbeth* and *The Yeomen of the Guard*. Competition highlights include: 1st place Andrew Downes' Contemporary Music competition; 1st place John Ireland Music prize; 1st place Edward Brooke's English Song prize; 1st place Ashleyan Opera Prize; runner up in the Mario Lanza Opera Competition; runner up in the Edward Brooke's Lieder Prize; and finalist in the Somerset Song Prize. Andrew lives in Barnsley and teaches at Shrewsbury School. For Opera North: *Guglielmo* (Nevill Holt Festival), Rabonnier *La rondine*, Quartet *Love Life*; cover Harlequin *Ariadne auf Naxos*, cover Sid Albert *Herring*, cover Demetrius *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.



David Cowan Piano

David Cowan has been Head of Music at Opera North since 2015. Previously he was Head of Music and Head of the Opera Studio Operavenir for Theater Basel. He studied at Cambridge University, at the Guildhall in London and in Winterthur. He then worked for nine years as vocal coach at the Mozarteum in Salzburg. He was Head of Music Studies at the State Opera House in Karlsruhe, then Musical Director of the Opera Studio of the Opéra National du Rhin in Strasbourg. He also worked as répétiteur at the Salzburg International Music Festival with singers such as Sir Bryn Terfel, Dimitri Hvorostovsky, Susan Graham and Dame Ann Murray, under conductors such as Holliger, Kuhn and Harnoncourt. He has conducted a large repertoire of opera, operetta and musicals, and as a collaborative pianist he has worked and performed with singers including Sir Simon Keenlyside and Dame Kiri te Kanawa and string players including French cellist Maurice Gendron. He recorded *Winterreise* with the Austrian baritone Andreas Lebeda on the 1836 Conrad Graf fortepiano at the Landesmuseum in Innsbruck.

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