

*A Tribute
to
Kathleen
Ferrier*

**Bridget Budge
(contralto)
&
Jonathan Ellis
(pianoforte)**



The year 2012 marks the centenary of the birth of Kathleen Ferrier, arguably one of the finest and most popular singers this country has ever produced. Bridget Budge and Jonathan Ellis will be offering a number of concert programmes in celebration of this great contralto.

Their repertoire – all of which was either performed or recorded by Ferrier – will range from well-known oratorios such as *Elijah* and *Messiah* to art songs in English and German. Ferrier touched the hearts of audiences with her warm interpretations of folk songs such as *Blow the Wind Southerly* and *The Keel*

Row, and these too will be recreated.

The concerts will be accompanied by visual displays, kindly lent by the Kathleen Ferrier Society. By arrangement, pre-concert talks are also available.

Concert performances can be tailored to the venue, since there is a wide repertoire from which to choose. Programmes may be weighted towards the serious or the light – but will always be of the highest artistic quality, and will include the occasional piano solo.

A full list of repertoire &/or suggested concert programmes is available on request. Repertoire includes song cycles such as Mahler *Kindertotenlieder*, Brahms *Four Serious Songs*, Schumann *Frauenliebe und Leben*, art songs by Schubert, Wolf and Quilter (amongst others) and arias by Bach, Handel and Mendelssohn.



Bridget Budge



After graduating from Cambridge, Bridget studied singing at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama and the Royal College of Music. Her voice has the dark and rich timbre of a true contralto, hence she has specialized in oratorio and recital work, both here and abroad. Her comprehensive repertoire includes all of the mainstream oratorios, many of which she sings regularly with choral societies up and down the country. Bridget has been a favourite vocalist in Summer Prom concerts at St Albans (Herts) and Gawsworth Hall (Cheshire), appearing with the Black Dyke Band on numerous occasions. An arrangement of the Elgar *Sea Pictures*, especially written for her and the Band by Philip Wilby, was recorded in Manchester for Radio 3. She has appeared with Scottish Opera, and recently sang the role of Erda (*Das Rheingold*) in a concert performance in Oxford Town Hall. Bridget is an experienced recitalist, and is keen to promote the contralto voice in an age in which contraltos have largely been forgotten.

Jonathan Ellis

Jonathan was introduced to the piano at the age of three. He later studied at Wells Cathedral School, Manchester University and the RNCM, where he gained double first-class honours as well as solo and accompaniment diplomas. His teacher was John Wilson.

A multi prize winner at a young age, Jonathan has gone on to work not only as a soloist, but also as a chamber musician and accompanist. He performs regularly with his trio – the Ryebank Trio (prize winners at the 2011 Buxton Festival) – and is repetiteur for the City of Manchester Opera. Jonathan also took part in the highly-acclaimed world premiere tour of ‘Mansfield Park’, a contemporary opera by Jonathan Dove. Solo appearances have included the Mendelssohn *Piano Concerto*, Beethoven *Triple Concerto*, Schumann *Introduction and Allegro* and Beethoven *Choral Fantasia*, as well as numerous recitals.



What the critics say

“The soloist was Bridget Budge, who performed wonderfully, communicating extremely well with the audience.”

“... the highlight was Gustav Mahler’s *Urlicht* delivered as the composer intended by a true contralto, rather than a mezzo soprano as is so often the case, and which on this occasion received a serene and excellently judged interpretation.”

“Jonathan Ellis provided sensitive and responsive accompaniment throughout ... and gave stunning performances of works by Schumann and Chopin.”

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