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Sunday 16th July

strong', and he hears the cricket on the hearth. Night falls, and there shines 'moonlight through the window'; Enescu marks his score *quasi addormento* (as if asleep). Then follows the 'wind in the chimney' and the 'storm in the night' that dies away with the rising of the sun. Of the ending Enescu remarked, 'a shaft of light enters, all through the room. Birdsong of all the themes of day and night come back, this time in the major, pacified and transformed'. Enescu premiered the work himself in Bucharest in 1942.

Sonata for violin and piano in G major **Maurice Ravel**

Allegretto - Moderato (Blues) - Allegro (Perpetuum Mobile)

Written at a time when Ravel's musical style was undergoing a change, this sonata took the composer four years to complete (1923-1927). Ravel said that he had striven to emphasise the incompatibility between the two instruments rather than their unity. The first movement is in traditional classical form; it opens with the piano gently evoking the atmosphere of swaying winds. Elegant, poised and sensual, unadorned by ornamentation, the graceful movement is quiet and calm throughout. The second movement is in strong contrast to the first. As suggested in its title, the movement's melodic figures are inspired by the Blues, incorporating an element of bitonality that adds a melancholy feeling of nostalgia. This is followed by a breathtaking last movement, testing the limits of the violinist's virtuosity. Musical ideas from the first movement drive the work relentlessly to a blazing finish. The work was first performed in May 1927 in Paris, with George Enescu as violinist and Ravel at the piano.

Philippe Graffin was a student of the late Joseph Gingold and Philipp Hirschhorn and has established a particular reputation for his interpretations of his native repertoire, as well as for his interest in rare and contemporary works. He rediscovered original settings of classics such as Chausson's *Poème* and Ravel's *Tzigane* and has also championed the forgotten violin concertos of Gabriel Fauré and the concerto by the English composer Samuel Coleridge-Taylor.

Philippe has shared the stage with some of the greatest musicians of our time, including Yehudi Menuhin, Mstislav Rostropovich and

Martha Argerich. Additionally he regularly partners cellists Gary Hoffman and Truls Mork; pianists Pascal Devoyon, Stephen Kovacevich; and the Chilingirian Quartet; he is founder and artistic director of Consonances, the international chamber music festival of St Nazaire, France. He has also appeared in the BBC Proms Chamber Music series and been invited to be Artistic Director of several chamber music projects at London's Wigmore Hall.

Graffin made a successful BBC Proms debut in August 2005 with the Coleridge-Taylor Violin Concerto. Current season highlights include tours to Japan & Korea and a performance of Shchedrin's Concerto Cantabile with the St Petersburg Philharmonic.

Philippe Graffin plays a Stradivarius violin which used to belong to the French violinist Emile Sauret.

Claire Désert was born in 1967. She entered the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique de Paris at the age of 14 and won first prizes for piano performance and for chamber music. She later studied at the Tchaikovsky Conservatoire in Moscow with Yevgeni Malinin. On returning to Paris, she followed a post-graduate course in chamber music with Roland Pidoux.

After winning prizes at the Senigallia competition in Italy in 1986 and at the Santander Competition in 1987, Claire embarked on a concert career which took her throughout Europe and to North America and Japan. She has taken part in a great many festivals and has appeared with major orchestras including the Orchestre de Paris, The Ensemble Orchestral de Paris, the New Japan Philharmonic Orchestra and the Orchestre Symphonique de Québec.

Claire also devotes a great deal of time to chamber music and is a member of the Kandinsky quartet, an ensemble which has won prizes at international competitions in Florence and Melbourne, and which appears regularly both in France and abroad.

Concert supported by the estate of Eric Sullivan