

CALEFAX

Oliver Boekhoorn, oboe
Ivar Berix, clarinet
Raaf Hekkema, saxophone
Jelte Althuis, bass clarinet
Alban Wesly, bassoon

8pm St Mary and All Saints' Church, Fotheringhay

A concert in two halves, dedicated to two countries: Spain and, with an American twist, Russia

Propiñan de melyor Anon (arr. Boekhoorn)
This song comes from a collection dating from 1534 called '*Cancionero de Columbina*', comprising ninety-five compositions for two to four voices and intended for use at the Spanish court.

Suite from Llibre Vermell Anon (arr. Boekhoorn)
A Catalan collection of ten songs originating from the austere monastery of Montserrat, in the mountains not far from Barcelona. This was a famous place of pilgrimage in its own right for its black-skinned statue of the Virgin Mary, '*La Moreneta*', as well as a resting place for pilgrims on their way to Compostella. This collection of songs and dances in honour of Mary is thought to have been collected at the end of the 14th century for use by pilgrims, but some of the pieces are probably much older and may be traced back to folk music. The 14th century manuscript was provided with a red leather binding in the 19th century – hence the name '*llibre vermell*', meaning 'red book'.

Libro de Glosas José Maria Sánchez-Verdú (b.1968)
This work, written in 2007 for Calefax and dedicated to the group, is based on '*Tratado de Glossas*', a treatise on instrumental variation technique by the 16th century Spanish composer Diego Ortiz. Glosses are the variations, diminutives, miniatures and ornamental motifs that were common in 16th century instrumental music, all conceived by the performers themselves. The Latin word '*glossa*', meaning tongue, gives us the term glossary, meaning an explanation of a text. A further pervasive feature of 16th century music was the use of 'parody' or the imitation of other works. The composer Sánchez-Verdú has used these concepts to explore ideas of intertextuality, the correspondences existing between two texts where one is based on the other.

Quintetto Fandango Luigi Boccherini (1743-1805) (arr. Berix)
Luigi Boccherini, born in Lucca, was famous for his unrivalled virtuosity on the cello as well as for his compositions with their sweet cantabile melodies. He spent many years in Madrid under royal patronage and was a prolific composer of chamber music, producing over 150 string quintets. Boccherini's style is characterised by its charm, lightness, and optimism, and exhibits much melodic and rhythmic invention, coupled with frequent influences from the guitar tradition of his adopted country. This quintet uses the rhythm of the fandango, a traditional Spanish dance in triple time accompanied by a guitar and castanets. Boccherini introduced an idealized, slow fandango in the classical European tradition to the Spanish court.

Alborada del Gracioso Maurice Ravel (1875-1937)
This is one of the pieces that make up Ravel's solo piano work '*Miroirs*', written from 1904 to 1905, and one that he later orchestrated. The work is heavily influenced by Spanish themes, with the introductory chords reminiscent of guitars. It is marked by sharp dynamic and textural contrasts and contains both stunning melodies and passages of considerable virtuosity. Ravel's mother was Basque and despite a Parisian upbringing, Ravel always felt close to his Basque heritage and, by extension, to Spain. His love of Spain can also be seen in other early works such as his opera '*L'Heure Espagnole*' and his work for orchestra, '*Rhapsodie Espagnole*'.

Interval

Overture to The Nutcracker

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840-1893)
(arr. Hekkema)
'For dancers there is rather little in it, for art absolutely nothing, and for the artistic fate of our ballet, one more step downward.' This was the unpromising review that greeted the first performance of 'The Nutcracker' which, fortunately for us, survived to become perhaps the most popular, and certainly the most often performed, ballet of all time. It was the last of Tchaikovsky's three ballet masterpieces and was composed in 1892, the year before his death.

Etudes Alexander Scriabin (1872-1915)
(arr. Althuis)
Russian composer and pianist Alexander Scriabin's reputation stems from his sensitive, exquisitely polished piano music. His works are noted for their experimental and unusual tonalities through which the composer sought to explore musical symbolism.



Photo by Boersma

His Etudes are renowned among pianists and epitomise his unique individual style, characterised by melodic leaps, irregular rhythmic groupings, much use of trills and lush harmonies.

Nutcracker Jazz Suite

Adapted from the Tchaikovsky ballet by Duke Ellington
(1899-1974) (arr. Boekhoorn)

Duke Ellington, jazz pianist, composer and bandleader, and the king of Big Band arrangements, was a great admirer of Tchaikovsky. In 1960 he reworked and re-orchestrated some of the major themes from Tchaikovsky's ballet into a work in its own right.

The Dutch reed quintet **Calefax** is known for its virtuoso performances, innovative programming and engaging concerts. The five musicians themselves arrange, recompose and interpret music from eight centuries to suit their unique line-up: from early music, renaissance and baroque, to impressionism, jazz and world premieres.

Calefax tours widely throughout Europe, appearing both in new music forums and in early music festivals. In addition to concerts,

the group offers masterclasses and workshops for young musicians, composers and conservatoire students. In June 2007 Calefax undertook a successful debut tour of China, and have been invited to return in 2009. Later in the year they visited Oslo's Ultima Festival, Estonia and Sweden, and gave concerts at the Warehouse, London, and at the Spitalfields Festival. Summer 2008 sees tours to UK summer festivals, including Buxton and Cheltenham, and also further afield to Sicily, Venice and Russia. They will make their debut tour of Japan in December 2008, in addition to their busy concert schedule at home in the Netherlands, and their Wigmore Hall debut in a BBC lunchtime recital in June 2009. The German recording label MDG issues Calefax's ever-growing discography, including 'Nouvelles Suites' by Rameau; 'Bach: the art of Fugue' and 'Calefax: 600 years'.

Refreshments available before the concert and during the interval.

The concert ends at approximately 9.45pm.

Sponsor: John Lewis