

Friday 14 June | 3pm | Britten Studio

## Messiaen Song Cycles II

This series of three recitals features a creative collaboration between singer Gweneth Ann Rand and artist Rachel Jones, whose artworks form a striking visual counterpart to the song cycles of Olivier Messiaen in a concept especially crafted for the Aldeburgh Festival

**Gweneth Ann Rand** soprano

**Simon Lepper** piano

artwork by **Rachel Jones**

**Stephen Whitford** baritone

**Ilan Kurtser** piano

**Cynthia Igbokwe** curator

**Rachel Jones** and **Ben Smalley** animators

**Traditional**, arr. **Benjamin Britten** (1913–1976)

Fileuse (Folksong arrangements Vol.2: France, 1942) 3'

'Lorsque j'étais jeune, je gardais les moutons'

('When I was a young girl I tended the sheep')

**Francis Poulenc** (1899–1963)

Tel jour telle nuit ('Such a day such a night', 1936–7) 15'

texts: Paul Eluard (1895–1952)

1. *Bonne journée* ('A good day')

2. *Une ruine coquille vide* ('A ruin an empty shell')

3. *Le front comme un drapeau perdu*  
(*'The brow like a lost flag'*)

4. *Une roulotte couverte en tuiles*  
(*'A gypsy wagon roofed with tiles'*)

5. *À toutes brides* ('Riding full tilt')

6. *Une herbe pauvre* ('Scanty grass')

7. *Je n'ai envie que de t'aimer*  
(*'I long only to love you'*)

8. *Figure de force brûlante et farouche*  
(*'Image of fiery wild forcefulness'*)

9. *Nous avons fait la nuit* ('We have made night')

**Claude Debussy** (1862–1918)

Trois mélodies de Verlaine (1891) 7'

texts: Paul Verlaine (1844–1896)

1. *La mer est plus belle* ('The sea is lovelier')

2. *Le son du cor* ('The sound of the horn')

3. *L'échelonnement des haies*  
(*'The hedgerows stretch out'*)

**Traditional**, arr. **Benjamin Britten**

La belle est au jardin d'amour (1942)

('Beauty is in the garden of love')

2'

**Olivier Messiaen** (1908–1992)

Trois mélodies (1930)

8'

texts: Nos. 1 & 3 by Olivier Messiaen,

No.2 by Cécile Sauvage (1883–1927)

1. *Pourquoi?* ('Why?')

2. *Le sourire* ('The smile')

3. *La fiancée perdue* ('The lost fiancée')

Poèmes pour Mi (1936–7)

32'

texts: Olivier Messiaen

1. *Action de grâces* ('Thanksgiving')

2. *Paysage* ('Landscape')

3. *La maison* ('The house')

4. *Epouvante* ('Terror')

5. *L'épouse* ('The bride')

6. *Ta voix* ('Your voice')

7. *Les deux guerriers* ('The two warriors')

8. *Le collier* ('The necklace')

9. *Prière exaucée* ('A prayer granted')

**Duration: approx 75'**

**There is no interval**