

# Arts@StLaurence Concerts, 2026

## 'If Music be the Food'

**Katherine Manley, soprano**

**Ann Ward, piano**

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2026 at 3.00pm

A recital to coincide with the famous Ludlow Food Festival

A programme of some of the world's most beautiful songs from baroque to modern. The first part takes us down the paths of love and thoughts of summer, the second evokes our dreams and the night sky. Four delightful songs from the musicals bring the concert to a close.

Free entry, donations welcome.

### Programme

|                             |                                    |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Handel (1685-1759)          | L'ascia chio pianga (from Rinaldo) |
| Henri Duparc (1848-1933)    | Chanson Triste – E-flat            |
| Reynaldo Hahn (1874-1947)   | Si mes vers avaient des ailes      |
| Francis Poulenc (1899-1963) | Les Chemins de l'amour             |
| Debussy (1862-1918)         | Trois Chansons de Bilitis          |
| Puccini (1858-1924)         | Quando men vo (from La Boheme)     |
| Fauré (1845-1924)           | Les Roses d'Ispahan                |
| Gershwin (1898-1937)        | Summertime                         |

### Interval

|                           |                                  |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Reynaldo Hahn (1874-1947) | Rêverie                          |
| Fauré (1845-1924)         | Après un Rêve                    |
| Frank Bridge (1879-1941)  | Come to me in my dreams          |
| Debussy (1862-1918)       | Nuits d'étoiles                  |
|                           | Claire de Lune                   |
| Dvorak (1841-1904)        | Rusalka's Song to the Moon       |
| Kurt Weill (1900-1950)    | Speak Low                        |
|                           | The River is so Blue             |
|                           | It Could have happened to anyone |
|                           | The Saga of Jenny                |

### Katherine Manley - Soprano

**Katherine Manley** studied at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama and the Benjamin Britten International Opera School at the Royal College of Music. Renowned for her artistry in baroque and contemporary repertoire, she has established herself as a sought-after performer on the international stage. Katherine's operatic highlights include the title role in Monteverdi's *Poppea*, Creuse in Charpentier's *Medée* at English National Opera, Oriana in Handel's *Amadigi*, and Pamina in Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte* at Central City Opera, *Atalanta* in Handel's *Serse* (Badisches Staatstheater Karlsruhe), and Pat Nixon in John



Katherine Manley

Adams' Nixon in China with Stuttgart Opera. Contemporary opera world premieres include The Last Hotel by Donnacha Dennehy and Enda Walsh at Edinburgh International Festival and the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, and Blank Out by Michel van der Aa at the Beijing Music Festival. Katherine also excels in contemporary music, premiering works such as Michel van der Aa's Blank Out and Donnacha Dennehy's The Last Hotel. Equally versatile in musical theatre, Katherine has performed iconic roles like Maria in The Sound of Music and Eliza Doolittle in My Fair Lady. Katherine has worked with distinguished conductors and ensembles worldwide. Her extensive concert career includes collaborations with the Orchestra of The Age of Enlightenment, The Sixteen, and the Gabrieli Consort. Her concert highlights include Handel's Messiah, Rameau's Pigmalion, Aci, Galatea e Polifemo with Capriccio Barockorchester, and The Fairy Queen with Paul McCreesh. She has sung Bach's Passions and Cantatas with Wroclaw Baroque Orchestra and Britten Sinfonia, Britten's Bachianas Brasileiras No. 5 with Northern Sinfonia, and Purcell's The Indian Queen with Harry Christophers. Katherine's acclaimed recordings include Handel's Il Pastor Fido and Joshua.

### **Ann Ward - Piano**

**Ann Ward** moved to Ludlow three years ago and now enjoys giving occasional public performances as well as running a small teaching practice and continuing to work for the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music. As a young student, a Countess of Munster Scholarship enabled her to study as a performer with Phyllis Sellick for five years prior to continuing at the Royal College of Music. During this time, she gave many public recitals and appearances, including concertos at Liverpool Philharmonic Hall and Birmingham Town Hall. Following on she studied at Birmingham University, winning the Barber Undergraduate Scholarship for academic and practical excellence, as well as continuing public performances in Birmingham and beyond. Ann has worked as an examiner for the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music for thirty years with her work taking her overseas primarily to the Far East, most especially Hong Kong and Singapore where she has worked for many years.

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