

Friday 17 June 2022
1pm Milton Court Concert Hall



Nicky Spence Vocal Masterclass



- 1pm** Sergei Rachmaninoff '*Ves tábor spit*' (Aleko's aria) from 'Aleko'
Jack Holton baritone
Tom Jesty piano
- 1.30pm** Charles Gounod *Ballade de la reine Mab* from 'Roméo et Juliette'
Joël Terrin baritone
Tom Jesty piano
- 2pm** Mark Adamo '*Joy beyond measure, Mother!*' from 'Little Women'
Bridget Esler soprano
Yau Cheng piano
- 2.30pm** Giacomo Puccini '*Questo amor, vergogna mia*' from 'Edgar'
Felix Gygli baritone
Yau Cheng piano
- 3pm** **Break**
- 3.15pm** Edward Elgar *Sea Slumber Song* from 'Sea Pictures'
Lydia Shariff mezzo-soprano
Yau Cheng piano
- 3.45pm** Ivor Gurney *Sally Gardens*
Josh Saunders tenor
Yau Cheng piano

This Vocal Masterclass series is generously supported by an anonymous donation.

Winner of the BBC Musician Magazine Personality of the Year 2022, opera singer

Nicky Spence is one of Scotland's proudest sons. Nicky's unique skills as a singing actor and the rare honesty of his musicianship and communication have earned him a place at the top of the classical music profession.

Nicky was schooled locally in Dumfries and Galloway before receiving a scholarship to Guildhall School of Music & Drama as its youngest singer at 17 years old. During his training, he won a record contract with Decca Records before taking a place at the National Opera Studio and latterly a position at the English National Opera as one of their inaugural Harewood Artists.

Safely inhabiting the repertoire of Strauss, Janáček and Wagner, Nicky is fulfilling his exciting potential as a Heldentenor having recently made his role debut as Parsifal with the Hallé orchestra under Sir Mark Elder. Described in *The Times* as 'a tenor who combines heroic tone and a poetic sensibility that takes the breath away', Nicky has recorded prolifically and is a regular featured recitalist at Wigmore Hall, London, though he can mostly be found on the international stages of Opéra national de Paris, the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden and the Metropolitan Opera, New York.

The 2022/23 season sees Nicky making his role debut as Siegmund in a new production of *Die Walküre* for the English National Opera directed by Richard Jones and conducted by Martyn Brabbins. Nicky also returned to the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden as Laca in Claus Guth's new production of *Jenůfa* conducted by Henrik Nánási. Later this summer, he will make his debut as Erik, alongside Sir Bryn Terfel, in *Der Fliegende Holländer* for Grange Park Opera. He will make his debut at the Deutsche Staatsoper in the 2022/23 season as Gregor in *Věc Makropulos*, in another production by Claus Guth, conducted by Sir Simon Rattle, following his debut in the same role for Welsh National Opera this autumn.

Nicky is also a keen charity worker, which encompasses his position as patron for both Blackheath Halls in London and Scottish Opera's Young Company, as an ambassador for Help Musicians UK, and proud president of Dumfries's own Musical Theatre Company. In 2019, Nicky joined the board of the Incorporated Society of Musicians.

Nicky is a Samling Artist, recently joining their team as a leader of young singers, and enjoys giving masterclasses internationally. Spence was nominated by the International Opera Awards for Young Singer of the Year in 2015 and was also one of ten artists included in the Times Breakthrough Award at the South Bank Sky Arts Awards celebrating the best up and coming young British talent from across the Arts industry. In 2020, he won the *BBC Music Magazine* Vocal Award and the *Gramophone* Solo Vocal Award for his critically acclaimed recording of Janáček's *The Diary of One Who Disappeared* with Julius Drake and was nominated as Singer of the Year by the Royal Philharmonic Society.

During the pandemic, Nicky was a volunteer vaccinator and he has just taken up the role of judge and mentor on Sky Arts' TV show *Anyone Can Sing*. Another recent role is as one of ten Sky Arts Access Icons across the arts which sees Nicky figure heading their new campaign offering free resources to primary schools to unpack the art of opera and inspire young singers of the future.