

## Jeneba Kanneh-Mason

**Saturday November 9<sup>th</sup> 2024**

7.30pm – 9.30pm

St Laurence's Church

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<b>Scarlatti</b>	<i>Sonata in A Major K.24</i>
<b>Scarlatti</b>	<i>Sonata in F Minor K.466</i>
<b>Chopin</b>	<i>Sonata no.2 in B-flat minor, Op. 35</i>
<b>Interval</b>	
<b>Chopin</b>	<i>Nocturne 7 op.27 no. 1</i> <i>Nocturne 8 op.27 no.2</i>
<b>Scriabin</b>	<i>Sonata no. 2 in G-sharp minor, Op. 19</i>
<b>Prokofiev</b>	<i>Sonata no. 7 in B-flat major, Op. 83</i>

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*Programme shown may be changed without notice*



Pianist **Jeneba Kanneh-Mason** is already captivating audiences with her “maturity in performance and interpretation” (Fraser). She recently made her BBC Proms debut performing the Florence Price Concerto and was heralded by the press as “demonstrating musical insight, technical acuity, and an engaging performing persona” (Music OMH). The piece was recorded with Chineke! and Leslie Sugaanandarajah

and released on Decca Classics in Summer 2023. The Guardian hailed her performance, stating that ‘Price could have no more persuasive an advocate’.

She also recorded Mozart’s Piano Concerto No. 6 with the Vienna Radio Symphony Orchestra and Howard Griffiths, which was released on Alpha and she has recorded for the album, *Carnival*, with Decca Classics.

Other recent and forthcoming highlights include - an extensive UK tour with the Hungarian Radio Symphony and Riccardo Frizza, debuts with the Detroit Symphony, Philharmonia, and the BBC Philharmonic and a European tour with Chineke!.

Jeneba was a Keyboard Category Finalist in BBC Young Musician 2018, was winner of the Murs du Son Prize at the Lagny-Sur-Marne International Piano Competition, and the Iris Dyer Piano Prize at The Royal Academy of Music, Junior Academy.

Jeneba was named one of Classic FM’s ‘Rising Stars’ in 2021 and has also been featured on several television and radio programmes, including: Radio 3’s *In Tune*, *The BAFTAs*, *The Royal Variety Performance*, *Young, Gifted and Classical* (BBC4), and the Imagine documentary ‘This House is Full of Music’ (BBC1).

Jeneba holds the Victoria Robey Scholarship to The Royal College of Music. She is grateful to Lady Robey, The Nottingham Soroptimist Trust and to The Nottingham Education Trust.

## Programme notes

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### Domenico Scarlatti (1685-1757)

An eagle whose wings are grown,' according to his father Alessandro, the young Scarlatti left his native Naples for Venice, 'escorted only by his own ability.' By his early 20s his playing of the harpsichord was deemed almost supernatural, he competed with the visiting Handel and won!

In 1729 he entered the service of the court of Portugal. When his pupil the Princess Maria Barbara, married into the Spanish royal family, she took her music master with her, and Scarlatti remained in Spain for the rest of his life.

There are 550 surviving sonatas - concise, captivating one-movement works, often adventurous in their use of harmony and modulation, and frequently reflecting the exotic spirit of Iberian folk music. A small number became widely admired when they were published while he was still alive. The bulk of the 550 however were written for his pupil and have only come down to us thanks to Scarlatti's colleague at the Spanish court- the famous castrato Farinelli - who returned to Italy in 1759 carrying the only two manuscript sets of the collected sonatas of the recently-deceased Scarlatti. Not one of the sonatas has ever been found written in the composer's own hand.

### Frédéric Chopin (1810-1849)

Chopin's *Piano Sonata No. 2 in B-flat minor, Op. 35*, commonly known as the "Funeral March." is one of Chopin's most celebrated works, particularly for its third movement, which was played at his own funeral. Despite initial mixed reviews, (with some critics like Robert Schumann questioning its four movement structure), the sonata has withstood the test of time. Completed while Chopin was staying at George Sand's manor in Nohant, away from the bustling city of Paris, it reflects the introspective and often turbulent nature of Chopin's own life.

*Nocturne No. 7 in C-sharp minor* and *Nocturne No. 8 in D-flat major*, are two of the most evocative pieces in the classical piano repertoire. *Nocturne No. 7* begins with a somber and expressive melody that evolves to convey a deep sense of longing. In contrast, *Nocturne No. 8* is known for its lyrical and flowing lines and its reflective and serene character.

### Alexsandr Scriabin (1872-1915)

*The Sonata No. 2 in G-sharp minor, Op. 19*, also known as the "Sonata-Fantasy," Scriabin's own programme notes for the sonata describe the first movement as evoking the tranquility of a southern night by the seashore, and the development as the dark agitation of the deep sea. The piece concludes with a representation of the ocean's vast expanse in stormy agitation, a testament to Scriabin's innovative spirit and his ability to translate nature's narratives into musical form.

### Sergei Prokofiev (1891-1953)

*Piano Sonata No. 7 in B-flat Major, Op. 83* (often referred to as the "Stalingrad") was composed during a turbulent period of World War II, between 1939 and 1942. It is one of the three famed "War Sonatas". There are three movements: the restless 'Allegro inquieto', the lyrical 'Andante caloroso', and the intense 'Precipitato', each reflecting the composer's response to the war. The sonata's premiere constituted a powerful statement during the war and the piece later earned Prokofiev a Stalin Prize, reflecting the complex interplay between art and politics during that era.