

## Alim Beisembayev in concert

Friday May 23<sup>rd</sup>

7.30 pm

St Laurence's Church, Ludlow

<b>D Scarlatti</b>	Sonata in D Minor, Kk.213
<b>Ravel</b>	Valses nobles et sentimentales
<b>Liszt</b>	Après une lecture de Dante -Fantasia quasi sonata from Années de pèlerinage
<b>Ligeti</b>	Etude No.13 (L'Escalier du diable)
<b>Interval</b>	
<b>Eleanor Alberga</b>	Cwicseolfor (Quicksilver)
<b>Debussy</b>	Images book 2
<b>Lizst</b>	Transcendental Etude No. 11 "Harmonies du soir" No. 12" Chasse-neige"

*Programme shown may be changed without notice*



Alim Beisembayev won First Prize at The Leeds International Piano Competition in September 2021, performing Rachmaninov's Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra. He also took home the medici.tv Audience Prize and the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Society Prize for contemporary performance, with The Guardian praising him as a "worthy winner" with a "real musical personality".

Born in Kazakhstan in 1998 Alim's early studies were at the Purcell School, and he completed his Masters' and Artist Diploma in Performance at the Royal College of Music.

Alim is a BBC New Generation Artist 2023-25. In summer 2023 he made his Royal Albert Hall BBC Proms debut performing Rachmaninov's Piano Concerto No. 2 with the Sinfonia of London (conducted by John Wilson) broadcast live on BBC Radio 3 and recorded for BBC Television.

In December 2022, Warner Classics released Alim's debut album: Liszt Transcendental Études (featuring all twelve of the composer's etudes) which was met with critical acclaim.

## Programme notes

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### **Sonata in D Minor, Kk.213** Domenico Scarlatti (1685-1757)

Scarlatti's sonatas (which blend Italian, Portuguese, and Spanish musical traditions) are celebrated for their inventiveness and technical demands. Each one has its unique character, often featuring rapid passages, hand crossings, and an abundance of lively rhythms.

### **Valses nobles et sentimentales** Maurice Ravel (1875-1937)

A delightful suite of waltzes known for its rich harmonies and subtle shifts in mood. Ravel drew inspiration from the musical traditions of the Viennese waltz.

### **Après une lecture de Dante** Franz Liszt (1811-1886)

Part of Liszt's *Années de pèlerinage* (Years of Pilgrimage) collection, this piece, often referred to simply as the "Dante Sonata," was inspired by Dante's *Divine Comedy*, particularly the *Inferno* section. Liszt captures the dramatic journey through the realms of Hell portraying the torment and despair of the damned souls, as well as moments of transcendence and redemption.

### **Etude No.13 "L'Escalier du diable"** György Ligeti (1923-1973)

Ligeti was a Hungarian-Austrian avant-garde composer.

*The Devil's Staircase* is one of the most terrifying works in the piano repertoire – in every sense!

### **Cwicseolfor (Quicksilver)** Eleanor Alberga (b.1949)

The title "Cwicseolfor" (which means "living silver") refers to the Old English term for mercury, and mirrors the fluid and dynamic nature of this short composition by Jamaican-born Eleanor Alberga, who now lives just outside Ludlow.

### **Images Book 2** Claude Debussy (1862-1918)

This collection consists of three pieces, each with its own distinct character:

*Cloches à travers les feuilles* (Bells through the Leaves) - evokes the gentle and distant sound of bells pealing through foliage.

*Et la lune descend sur le temple qui fut* (And the Moon Descends on the Temple that Was) - conjures a serene, mystical landscape, with the moon casting its light over ancient ruins.

*Poissons d'or* (Goldfish) - lively and playful, depicting the darting movements of goldfish.

### **Transcendental Études** Franz Liszt (1811-1886)

Two of a collection of 12 incredibly challenging and musically rich pieces designed to push the boundaries of piano technique and expression.

*No. 11 "Harmonies du soir"* is evocative of a tranquil evening, capturing the serene and introspective atmosphere as day turns into night.

*No. 12 "Chasse-neige"* (Snowstorm) is a tour de force that vividly evokes the imagery of a fierce and relentless snowstorm.