

## Clare Hammond – ‘She’

Saturday May 24<sup>th</sup>

2.30 pm

Palmers Hall, Ludlow College

<b>Hélène de Montgeroult</b>	Etudes Nos. 37, 41, 104, 107, and 111
<b>Clara Schumann</b>	3 Romances, Op. 21
<b>Germaine Tailleferre</b>	Partita
<b>Cécile Chaminade</b>	Impromptu' Étude de concert, Op. 35 No. 5 Étude romantique, Op. 132
<b>Mél Bonis -</b>	'Desdémona', 'Phoebe', and Mélisande' from Femmes de légende
<b>Doreen Carwithen</b>	Sonatina

*Programme shown may be changed without notice*



Acclaimed as a “pianist of extraordinary gifts” (Gramophone) and “immense power” (The Times), **Clare Hammond** is recognised for the virtuosity and authority of her performances and won the Royal Philharmonic Society’s Young Artist Award in 2016. 2024 saw her debuts at the BBC Proms, Konzerthaus Berlin, and Salle Bourgie in Montréal, alongside return visits to the Wigmore Hall, London’s National Gallery, and Raritäten der Klaviermusik in Husum. She recorded a disc of concertos

by Britten, Tippett and Walton with the BBC Symphony Orchestra and George Vass, performed Rachmaninov with the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra and Tom Fetherstonhaugh, and Hesketh with the Ulster Orchestra and Anna Rakitina. Clare recently gave the World Premieres of the newly discovered Fantasia by Andrzej Panufnik with the Filharmonia Poznańska and Łukasz Borowicz, and a new concerto by Ninfea Cruttwell-Reade with the BBC National Orchestra of Wales and Emilia Hoving.

Clare has recorded six discs for BIS, most recently releasing an album of Etudes by visionary French composer Hélène de Montgeroult in November 2022, launched in a special concert at London’s National Gallery and featured extensively on BBC Radio 3’s Composer of the Week and Essential Classics. The disc was selected as Editor’s Choice in Gramophone.

Clare completed a BA at Cambridge University, where she obtained a double first in music, and undertook postgraduate study with Ronan O’Hora at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama.

## Programme notes

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### Études Nos. 37, 41, 104, 107, and 111 - Hélène de Montgeroult (1764-1836)

Hélène de Montgeroult showed a precocious musical ability as a child in pre-revolutionary France, she became fêted as one of the finest pianists of her time. Imprisoned during an attempt to reach Naples at the time of the Revolution, she was able to return to France. She worked for the Institut National de Musique, only to be imprisoned again during the Reign of Terror. Finally freed, she was made professor of piano at the Conservatoire de Musique in Paris, the first woman to occupy such a position. This set of *Études*, is taken from her *Cours complet* for pianists (including 114 études), a major contribution to the French piano repertoire between the Classical and Romantic periods.

### 3 Romances Op.21 - Clara Schumann (1819-1896)

Clara Wieck, born in Leipzig, Germany, was a child prodigy, touring Europe as a concert pianist at the age of eleven. In 1840, Clara married the composer Robert Schumann and had eight children. Despite the challenges of balancing family life and career, Clara continued to perform, compose, and teach. After Robert's death in 1856, Clara continued her concert career for several decades. Her music, though often overshadowed by her husband's, is now receiving the recognition it deserves. The *Three Romances for Violin and Piano, Op. 21* (1853) are filled with lyrical melodies and intricate harmonies showing a deep understanding of the instruments.

### Partita - Germaine Tailleferre (1892-1983)

Germaine Tailleferre was a member of the group of young French composers, guided by Erik Satie, known as "Les Six". She was known for her melodic and accessible style. *Partita for Piano* (1957) comprises several movements each with its own character and charm. Elegant melodies, rhythmic vitality, and playful harmonies demonstrate Tailleferre's skill in combining the classical Baroque form with her more modern sensibilities.

### Impromptu Étude de concert Op.35, Étude romantique, Op. 132 -Cécile Chaminade (1858-1944)

Chaminade was one of the most successful female musicians of the 19th century and was one of the first female composers to receive the Légion d'Honneur.

The *Impromptu* is from Chaminade's "Six Études de Concert, Op. 35," (1886) - a lovely and expressive work, characterized by its flowing melodies and graceful phrasing. *Étude Romantique, Op. 132* (1909) features a lyrical and heartfelt melody with a rich harmonic language which reflects Chaminade's romanticism.

### 'Desdémona', 'Phoebe', and Mélisande' - Mél Bonis (1858-1937)

*Femmes de légende* (Legendary Women) is a collection of seven piano pieces, each inspired by legendary female figures from mythology and fiction. Each piece is a beautiful exploration of the character it represents

### Doreen Carwithen (1922-1985)

Doreen Carwithen was a formidable composer but largely put her own career aside for that of William Alwyn with whom she had a secret, 20-year relationship and subsequently married. She was the first woman to join the J. Arthur Rank Apprenticeship scheme in 1947 and wrote scores for over 30 films including the official film of the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.

Her *Sonatina in C Major* was written for her lifelong friend, the pianist Violet Cole, in 1946.