

Joanna MacGregor 'Pictures at an Exhibition...and more'

Saturday May 24th

6.00 pm

St Laurence's Church, Ludlow

Philip Glass

Opening

Knee Play no.4 (from Einstein on the Beach)

Etude no.6

Rameau Couperin Rameau

Le Rappel des Oiseaux

Les Fauvètes Plaintives

La Poule

Liszt

St Francis and the Birds

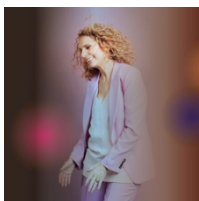
Funérailles

Interval

Mussorgsky

Pictures at an Exhibition

Programme shown may be changed without notice



Described as 'a brilliant light in the music world,' **Joanna MacGregor CBE** is one of the world's most innovative musicians, appearing as a concert pianist, curator and conductor.

As a solo pianist she has appeared with leading orchestras, performing in over eighty countries; in 2025 she will tour Europe, Scandinavia, US, Canada and China. Joanna is Dame Myra Hess Chair of Piano at the Royal Academy of Music and runs two annual piano festivals for young musicians, as well as a year-round series at the Wigmore Hall; she has been Artistic Director of Dartington International Summer School, Bath International Festival, and Deloitte Ignite at the Royal Opera House, as well as a curator for festivals around the world.

In 2020 Joanna performed Beethoven's thirty-piano sonatas as part of Beethoven's 250th celebrations and gave an immersive series of Schubert's piano music in 2023. She has released over forty solo recordings and commissioned and premiered many landmark works.

A regular broadcaster on TV and radio, Joanna's collaborative and composition projects encompass jazz, film, visual art, contemporary dance and electronica, and she is overseeing music for forty-seven silent Sherlock Holmes films with the BFI. From 2015-2021 she chaired the Paul Hamlyn Composers Awards and has been a Booker Prize Judge. A regular conductor, she is Music Director of Brighton Philharmonic presenting bold, vibrant concerts in their centenary year.

Programme notes

Philip Glass (b.1937)

Widely regarded as one of the most influential figures in music, Glass is known for his minimalist approach where repetition of musical phrases creates a hypnotic and meditative quality.

"**Opening**", one of his best known and most poignant compositions, is the first movement of Glass's *Glassworks* consisting of six short but varied compositions.

"*Glassworks was intended to introduce my music to a more general audience than had been familiar with it up to then*". "

Einstein on the Beach is Glass's renowned opera. It lacks a conventional plot and explores the themes of time and space, drawing inspiration from Albert Einstein. There are four acts, with "**Knee Plays**" connecting the different sections. (The opera runs for about five hours without an interval!)

"**Etude No. 6**" (one of his 20 *Études* for piano) blends repetition with technical challenges. These pieces are designed to be performed but also to serve as practice studies for pianists but still having considerable emotional depth.

Le Rappel des Oiseaux Jean-Philippe Rameau (1683–1764)

The title translates to "The Call of the Birds," and the piece captures the essence of birdsong through its lively and intricate melodies.

Les Fauvètes Plaintives François Couperin (1668–1733)

"The Plaintive Sparrows," is, again, inspired by the sounds of birds.

La Poule Jean-Philippe Rameau

"The Hen," vividly imitates the clucking and scratching sounds of a hen through its rapid, repeating motifs and playful rhythms.

Franz Liszt (1811–1886)

St. Francis and the Birds is inspired by the story of St. Francis of Assisi preaching to a flock of birds. The music captures the serene and mystical atmosphere of the scene.

Funérailles (from *Harmonies poétiques et religieuses*) is thought to be a tribute to the victims of the Hungarian Revolution of 1848.

Pictures at an Exhibition Modest Mussorgsky (1839–1881)

Inspired by an exhibition of art works by Mussorgsky's friend, Viktor Hartmann, the suite depicts an imaginary tour of an art collection, with each piece representing a different work and the "Promenade" theme representing the viewer's walk through the gallery of pictures which are:

Gnomus: Depicting a gnome with a grotesque, uneven gait.

Il vecchio castello: Depicting a melancholy castle with a troubadour singing.

Tuileries (Children's Quarrel after Games): Depicting children playing in the famous Parisian gardens.

Bydło: Depicting an oxcart.

Ballet of Unhatched Chicks: Depicting chicks dancing in their shells.

Samuel Goldenberg and Schmuyle: Depicting two contrasting characters, a wealthy man and a poor man.

The Market at Limoges: Depicting a lively market scene.

Catacombs (Sepulcrum Romanum): A haunting representation of the Roman catacombs.

The Hut on Fowl's Legs (Baba Yaga): A depiction of the hut of Baba Yaga, the witch.

The Great Gate of Kiev: A grand and majestic finale.