

LOON LAKE LIVE

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES



2019

About the composer:

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958) was an English composer of the Modern era who shunned the Romantic era compositional style and instead established himself as a composer of clear textures and English folk music inspired melodies. He was influenced by Maurice Ravel to move in this direction, and was able to compose many works for large and small ensembles, vocal and instrumental, throughout his 60+ year career. He is celebrated internationally but especially in England, and his music is performed and recorded frequently.

About the piece:

Six Studies in English Folk Song was written in 1926. It is a set of folk songs originally scored for cello and piano. Each song follows the same format, a relatively plain representation of the tune followed by a more improvisatory sounding ornamented version. Vaughan Williams wrote that he wished for these songs to be “treated with love”. In this presentation the songs are arranged for harp instead of piano, and we feature a different instrument in duet with the harp for each song. In order, they are: “Lovely on the Water”, cello; “Spurn Point”, violin; “Van Diemen’s Land”, viola; “The Lady and the Dragon”, flute; “She Borrowed Some of Her Mother’s Gold”, clarinet; and “As I Walked Over London Bridge”, saxophone. These recordings were made in CT, VA, CO, TN, and NY in June 2020 and feature Lynette Wardle on harp, Melissa Westgate on cello, Susanna Klein on violin, Catherine Beeson on viola, James Hall on flute, John Winn on clarinet, and Chad Smith on saxophone. Enjoy these songs with images curated by Mel Aman.

About the performers:

Lynette Wardle is principal harpist of the Richmond Symphony and the Albany Symphony, and performs with New Jersey Symphony, Philadelphia Orchestra, and New York City Opera.

Cellist **Melissa Westgate** performs with orchestras and chamber groups throughout the northeastern region including the Albany, New Haven and Springfield Symphonies.

Violinist **Susanna Klein** has performed in orchestra and chamber music settings in Germany, France, Switzerland, Italy, Brazil and Israel as well as throughout the United States.

Catherine Beeson is Assistant Principal Viola with the Colorado Symphony, and performs chamber music regularly in CO, NM, PA, and NY.

Flutist **James Hall** is an international soloist, chamber and orchestral musician, and teacher who has performed throughout North, Central, and South America, Africa, Europe, and Asia.

Clarinetist **John Winn** has appeared on stage with luminaries such as Tony Bennett, Aretha Franklin, and Arturo Sandoval, and has been a guest artist at festivals in Sacramento and Mammoth Lakes, CA; Banff, Canada; Laramie, WY; and Loon Lake, NY.

Saxophonist **Chad Smith** has been a member of the Broadway orchestras of *Wicked* and *Legally Blonde*, and *Follies*, and has performed with Philadelphia Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, and Mostly Mozart Festival Orchestra.



2020