

Resonance Ensemble – *Homelands*

Homelands – the importance of the traditions, character and colour of where we come from – is the focus of Resonance Ensemble's next concert at The Piano, on Sunday 25 September at 3.00pm, with music by Smetana, Grieg, Rossini and Britten.

Bedřich Smetana led the charge of the Czech Nationalist movement in music. His opera *The Bartered Bride* is full of lively Czech rhythms and colours, especially in the *Overture* and *Dances* which Resonance Ensemble will perform in this programme. This composer is considered to have been the leader in establishing a musical style with a genuinely Czech flavour in the face of the European dominance of German, Austrian and French musical traditions, basing his music on the folk dances and songs of Bohemia.

Edvard Grieg developed a distinctively Norwegian flavour by also using the characteristics of his homeland's folk music. The suite taken from the music he wrote for Ibsen's play *Peer Gynt* contains some of the most well-known pieces of the nineteenth century, from the atmospheric *Morning Mood* to the exciting and dramatic *In the Hall of the Mountain King*.

Benjamin Britten's *Courtly Dances* from his opera *Gloriana* feature the composer's highly original take on English dance forms of the Elizabethan age, using the modern orchestra to imitate instruments of the sixteenth century. The result is colourful, quirky, and very entertaining.

Even more entertaining are Britten's two suites based on the music of **Rossini**. If Rossini's comic operas are not already humorous enough, in the *Matinées Musicales* and *Soirées Musicales* Britten adds a degree of sparkling wit that is pure delight, especially in the imaginatively-devised performance that Resonance Ensemble will present.

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Conductor: Tony Ryan

At The Piano, 156 Armagh Street, Christchurch

Sunday 25 September, 3.00pm