

A French soirée opens the FSO's season

17th November 7.45pm, Princes Hall, Aldershot

The FSO starts the season with a shimmering all-French programme under the baton of Guest Conductor Scott Wilson. Debussy's evocative *Prélude à l'après midi d'un faune* opens the evening, with its spell-binding flute solo and wonderful colours. We are joined by mezzo-soprano Janet Shell for Ravel's *Shéhérazade*, evoking the sounds and scenes of Arabia, and then transported to two parties – Chausson's *Soir de fête* and Lili Boulanger's *D'un soir triste* - intriguing and enchanting works that are perhaps less well-known. We conclude with Debussy's wonderful symphonic sketches, *La Mer*, the beautiful sounds of the sea in all its moods.



Mezzo-soprano Janet Shell studied at Guildhall School of Music and Drama and in her early career won several singing competitions, including prizes for French song in Paris. She was the first mezzo-soprano to be taken on by YCAT; the first singer ever to sing live on Classic FM and she also gave the first female duet programme on 'Friday Night is Music Night' for the BBC. While Janet has performed widely with UK opera companies, it is for her oratorio and concert work that she is best known. The 2018 season has included Elgar Dream of Gerontius, Jenkins Armed Man, Bach St Matthew Passion, and this performance of *Shéhérazade*. A keen teacher and vocal coach, Janet has also given masterclasses internationally and is in demand as a teacher and adjudicator across the UK.

London-based Australian conductor Scott Wilson held the positions of Fellow in Conducting and Artist in Residence at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. The foundations of his musicianship were formed through his study of the pedagogical traditions of Ilya Musin and Nadia Boulanger (sister to Lili) under the mentorship of his principal teachers Sian Edwards and Norman Beedie. He studied with Maestro Kurt Masur in Sweden, Gianluigi Gelmetti in Italy, and Ed Spanjaard in Hungary. Scott currently holds the position of Conducting Teacher at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama Junior Department. A man of many talents, when not at the conductor's podium he specialises in composing and performing contemporary solo and chamber percussion repertoire.

Tickets are £13.50 for adults; £6.75 for children or students in full-time education and are available from Princes Hall box office (01252 329155) or online at www.farnboroughsymphony.org.uk.

The Farnborough Symphony Orchestra serves the local community in North East Hampshire and West Surrey and is supported by TAG Farnborough Airport, Paris Smith, Vail Williams, Dar Plus, CIS Print & Design Ltd and Making Music. It performs a varied programme of orchestral music to a high standard and provide its members with the opportunity to play a symphonic repertoire under a professional conductor.

For more details, please contact Susie Baker (Publicity Officer, Farnborough Symphony Orchestra).

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