

Jamal Aliyev  
Cellist  
And Maksim Štšura  
Piano

Playing at Writhlington School on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2020



“Thoughtful, expansive readings of the two great Soviet cello sonatas from a young artist possessed of enviable technique and a rich broad palette.” Classical Music Magazine, April 2017

Jamal and Maksim have brought a programme of lyricism and passion which shows off the cello at it's best.

We start with Ludwig van **Beethoven's Twelve Variations on "Ein Madchen oder Weibchen"** (Op.66), which is a song from Mozart's opera The Magic Flute. Beethoven plays around with the melody of this song, changing the rhythm, the pace, the key, the timing while still just about keeping it

recognisable. Luckily Mozart's lovely little tune sounds good however it is played.

This is followed by one of the most famous pieces played by cellos the world over, yet it started life as a song. **Vocalise** by **Sergei Rachmaninov** has been adapted for almost every solo instrument there is – even a bassoon! While they are all beautiful, the cello is particularly lovely, probably because of its similarity to the voice which was the original instrument for this piece.

As a complete contrast we have the delightful and lively **Elfentanz** (Op.39) or “Dance of the Elves”, by **David Popper**. Popper was a Hungarian cellist who played and taught cello all his life and was also a prolific composer. He wrote four cello concertos as well as short pieces designed to show off the range and voice of the cello such as the Elfentanz. His book of cello studies is still widely used by advanced students even today.

Then we have another piece by **David Popper: Hungarian Rhapsody** (Op.68). Popper wrote much of his music to show off his own considerable talents at the cello, and this is another showpiece that displays the versatility of the cello and calls for much skill from the musician.

**Ernest Bloch** wrote his sketches for cello and piano **From Jewish Life** as an expression of the way he lived as a Jewish man in 1924. The piece is in three parts, called 1. Prayer; 2. Supplication, and 3. Jewish Song. It is music of sadness and introspection rather than virtuosity. As with most music of separate parts, you are not expected to clap until the end of all three so as to maintain the mood of the work

Finally we have another giant of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century music scene, **Pyotr Illich Tchaikovsky**, a Russian composer whose music is still some of the most popular classical

music played today. Jamal and Maksim will play his **Pezzo Capriccioso** (Op.62), which literally means “capricious piece”. Despite containing quite a lot of very fast playing, it is still a rather sombre piece. It does have a fast and furious finish however to send us home with a spring in our step.



“...countless little touches of imaginative colour... whirling and shimmering... Thought provoking.” Gramophone, April 2017

You can learn more about Jamal and listen to his playing here:

<https://www.jamalaliyev.com/>

## Jamal's career so far...

In 2019 Jamal made his debut with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra at the St. Magnus Festival broadcast by Radio 3. Other highlights include appearances as soloist with the City of Birmingham Symphony, Philharmonia, Royal Northern Sinfonia, London Mozart Players, CBSO Youth Orchestra and Symphony Orchestra Simón Bolívar of Venezuela.

He gave recitals across Turkey with renowned pianist Fazil Say including the Ataturk Culture & Congress Center and TIM Maslak Show Center, took part in the Istanbul Music Festival, and appeared as soloist with Presidential Symphony and Istanbul Symphony Orchestras.

This season Jamal makes his debut performing the Elgar Concerto with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and at the Trans-Siberian Festival with the Tomsk Philharmonia. He returns to Wigmore Hall, records with Fazil Say and gives recitals throughout the UK and in Turkey.

In 2017 Jamal made his BBC Proms debut and won the Arts Club – Sir Karl Jenkins Music Award. His debut CD *Russian Masters* was released by Champs Hill Records to critical acclaim. He was selected by Young Classical Artists Trust in 2017 and Concerts Artists Guild in New York in 2019.

Born in Baku, Azerbaijan, Jamal studied at the Yehudi Menuhin School and the Royal College of Music. He is currently undertaking an Artist Diploma at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama.



“The young award-winning Estonian pianist completely captivated the audience with his vivacity and fine style...His phrasing was immaculate and his overall performance was packed with passion.” John Manning, October 2014

Maksim’s career so far....

Pianist Maksim Štšura won First Prizes at the 7th Estonian Piano Competition (2008), the Steinway-Klavierspiel-Wettbewerb in Germany (2004), the International Frederic Chopin Piano Competition in Estonia (2000) and the Intercollegiate Beethoven Piano Competition (2013). He has appeared as soloist with orchestras such as the Amadeus Chamber Orchestra, Estonian National Symphony Orchestra and the Saint Petersburg State Academic Symphony Orchestra.

As a chamber musician, Maksim is in great demand, collaborating with Jakobstad Sinfonietta (Finland), Mediterranean Chamber Brass (Spain), Florin Ensemble (UK) and Wiener Kammer-symphonie (Austria), among many others.

In 2014 he started his Doctoral course at the Royal College of Music, working towards his DMus. Maksim is a RCM Doctoral Bursary Holder supported by a Neville Wathen Award. His research titled 'Piano Transcription of a 21st-century Orchestral Score – Freedoms and Limitations' focuses on works by Mark-Anthony Turnage and James Dillon.

Since 2012 Maksim has been the pianist in the award-winning Foyle-Štšura Duo, having performed extensively in the UK and internationally in venues including the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, Bridgewater Hall in Manchester and the Wigmore Hall. He is a Live Music Now and a City Music Foundation artist and a Yeoman of the Worshipful Company of Musicians.

You can listen to Maksim play in the Foyle-Štšura Duo and learn more about it here:

<http://www.foylestsuraduo.com/>