

SHAKESPEARE IN MUSIC FESTIVAL
Stratford-upon-Avon
2 May to 5 May 2025



***Venus and Adonis* by William Shakespeare**

with music by Felix Mendelssohn

Edited and adapted by Christopher Kent

Directed by Georgia Brown

Dedication

Mendelssohn - *Songs Without Words*, Op 19b – Book 1 No 1 in E, Andante con moto

Venus woos Adonis

Mendelssohn - *Songs Without Words*, Op 102 – Book 8 No 5 in A, Allegro vivace

Adonis tries to escape

Mendelssohn - *Songs Without Words*, Op 19b – Book 1 No 3 in A, Molto allegro e vivace

An example of true love

Mendelssohn - *Songs Without Words*, Op 102 – Book 8 No 4 In G Minor, Un poco agitato

The wild boar

Mendelssohn - *Songs Without Words*, Op 38 – Book 3 No 5 in A Minor, Agitato

Adonis leaves

Mendelssohn - *Songs Without Words*, Op 53 – Book 4 No 5 in A Minor, Allegro

Venus rails on death

Mendelssohn - *Songs Without Words*, Op 102 – Bk 8 No. 1 in E Minor, Andante un poco agitato

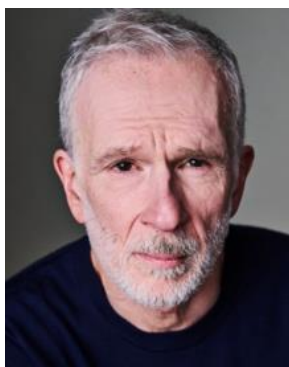
Venus' grief

Mendelssohn - *Songs Without Words*, Op. 67 – Book 6 No 5 in B Minor, Moderato

Venus returns home

Mendelssohn - *Songs Without Words*, Op. 30 – Book 2 No 3 in E Major, Andante sostenuto

The recital partnership between **Christopher Kent** and **Gamal Khamis** began in 2016 with **Never Such Innocence**, their acclaimed narrative recital of words and music from the First World War (described by BBC Radio 3 as “an incredibly moving performance”). It was followed in 2019 by **Odyssey – Words and Music of Finding Home**, with specially commissioned works by six award-winning contemporary poets and composers. In 2020 a livestreamed performance of **Enoch Arden** by Strauss/Tennyson from St Mary's Perivale was viewed globally and led to subsequent performances in London and around the UK, before being recorded as a critically-acclaimed CD/Streaming release by SOMM Recordings. **An Exquisite Harmony** about the lives and music of Robert & Clara Schumann and Johannes Brahms followed in 2022, with performances continuing throughout the 2024/25 season.



Christopher Kent has appeared on stage, screen and radio in a wide range of roles from Shakespeare to contemporary drama. London theatre appearances have included *Cyrano de Bergerac* with Robert Lindsay at the Theatre Royal Haymarket, *The Government Inspector* with Timothy Spall at Greenwich Theatre and most recently Bob Price in *Things I Know To Be True* at OSO Barnes. His live performances of epic story-telling in partnership with leading musicians have been widely acclaimed. Television appearances include *Shoot to Kill*, *Maggie's Baby*, *Stealing the Fire* and *Coronation Street* and his voice is regularly heard on commercials, documentaries and film trailers.



Described by The Times as a pianist with "formidable keyboard skills", **Gamal Khamis** first performed at the Wigmore Hall at the age of ten, and he has since appeared at Carnegie Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall and Sage Gateshead, as well as all over Europe, USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. Recent engagements have included conducting Verdi's *Un Ballo in Maschera* in Sheffield, as well as performing concertos by Rachmaninov, Schumann and Grieg with orchestras across the UK. Gamal is a Samling Artist and a member of the award-winning Lipatti Piano Quartet. In 2024 Gamal was appointed as a professor at the Royal College of Music.