

Music Group Meeting - 17/10/2018

"Female Composers of the 19th and 20th Centuries"

Presented by: Peter Franklin

- 1 **Mendelssohn, Fanny** Piano Trio in D Minor Op11
Fanny Mendelssohn (1805-47) was the sister of Felix and for most of her life she was very much in his shadow. However towards the end of her life she began to publish her own compositions. She composed this shortly before her death in 1847. This performance is by the Ambache Ensemble.
- 2 **Farrenc, Louise** Clarinet Trio in E Flat Op44
French composer Louise Farrenc (1804-75) is less well-known now than Fanny Mendelssohn, perhaps because she was not a relative of a famous male composer. But she was famous in 19th century France, and praised by Schumann and Berlioz. This performance again is by the Ambache Ensemble.
- 3 **Grandval, Marie** Deux Pieces
Marie Grandval (1830-1907) was also French, and a pupil of Chopin and Saint-Saens. She was mainly known as a composer of church music and opera. The Deux Pieces, scored for oboe, cello and piano, was composed in 1884. This performance is also by the Ambache Ensemble.
- 4 **Smyth, Ethel** The Wreckers, Prelude to Act II
Ethel Smyth (1858-1944) was English but originally was not taken seriously in this country, One critic said her music was "too masculine for a lady composer"! But she became the first DBE in 1922. The opera "The Wreckers" was first produced in Leipzig in 1906. This performance is by the BBC Philharmonic under Odaline de la Martinez.
- 5 **Beamish, Sally** Sonata for Cello and Piano
Sally Beamish (b. 1956) is also English. She has probably been best known as a viola player, but considers herself as primarily a composer. She has a considerable orchestral output, and has won many composition prizes. The Sonata for Cello and Piano was composed in 1999-2000. It is played here by Sally Beamish (piano) and her husband Robert Irvine (cello).

6 **Maconchy, Elizabeth** Quartet No 1

Elizabeth Maconchy (1907-1994) was born in England, and grew up in England and Ireland. She studied in Prague and was influenced by the central European music of Bartok and Kodaly rather than the English pastoral style. She composed many substantial orchestral works, but her thirteen string quartets are regarded as the peak of her musical achievements. The first quartet, composed in 1933, is played hereby The Hanson Quartet.