

## **Three Preludes (1926)**

**George Gershwin**

This work was originally written for piano solo, but is often performed in an arrangement for different instruments. Not surprisingly, Gershwin's music - a crossover between jazz and classical music - is very suitable for a saxophone-marimba duet. The piece consists of a groovy first movement, a slow movement which the composer describes as "a sort of blues lullaby" and the energetic flourish of the third movement.

## **Divertimento (1968)**

**Akira Yuyama**

This is one of the most famous works for saxophone and marimba. Throughout the piece, two contrasting sections alternate, a slow choral section with complex yet alluring and sensuous harmonies and a vibrant rhythmic section. It is demanding for both players - it even uses six-note chords in the marimba part.

## **12 Duets for basset horns**

**KV 487 (1786)**

**Wolfgang A. Mozart**

These 12 short duets were primarily written for a pair of natural 'German' horns, explaining why they are all in the same key. We will perform them today on Mozart's favourite instrument, the basset horn. This instrument can be seen as a forerunner of the alto-clarinet, and lies somewhere between a normal and a bass clarinet. We are very grateful to the FAME Trust for loaning us the instruments for today's performance.

## **INTERVAL**

## **Sonata for 2 clarinets**

**FP 7 (1918)**

**Francis Poulenc**

(3 movements)

This early work by the French composer is unusual in that it is a duet for Bb and A clarinet. We challenge you to establish which one is which. You will hear both the boisterous wit and spiritual melancholy that permeates much of Poulenc's music.

## **Hommage (2019)**

**Andrzej Nowicki**

(3 movements)

Andrzej drew his inspiration for this short three-part work from the Poulenc Sonata for two clarinets that is also performed today. The piece emulates Poulenc's quirkiness and fun in playing it, with the clarinets at times almost fusing into a single, strange instrument.

## **Histoire du Tango (1986)**

**Ástor Piazzolla**

(movements I-III)

The Argentinian tango composer, Piazzolla wrote this work for flute and guitar, showcasing the evolution of tango music.

Bordello-1900: This lively music paints a picture of women in bordellos teasing and seducing customers.

Cafe-1930: Tango music becomes more romantic, as people prefer to listen rather than dance to it.

Night Club-1960: Tango music evolved further under the influence of other Latin music, and is performed in night-clubs, where it is appreciated by a classy audience.

## **In C interlude (2005)**

**Michael Nyman**

This piece can be seen as an homage to Terry Riley's "in C", an influential work from 1964 that is considered as the birth of minimalism. The *Interlude* is also an 'open score', meaning it can be performed with any group of players (very convenient for today's unusual line-up!). The duration is also flexible, as the work consists of one section that can be repeated indefinitely. We promise to stop at some point.