

## Concert

### Frankland Quartet

Sarah Roberts, violin

Sophie Appleton, violin

James Slater, viola

Daniel Hammersley, cello

Berwick Music Series welcomes back the Frankland Quartet, remembered for their stunning performance of the Ravel quartet here in 2019. Formed in 2017, the Frankland Quartet's musical identity is embedded in the North East of England. Long-time colleagues in Royal Northern Sinfonia, the region's professional chamber orchestra, all four of its members share a deep commitment to the cultural life of the area, inspired by its landscape, its history and communities. The Frankland Quartet's music-making is dedicated to an equal marriage of past and present, and a desire to look beyond the standard repertoire, championing composers from outside the traditional canon, including female composers and underrepresented groups. They are also committed to the voices of the North East, and work regularly with the region's leading composers. In 2019, the Frankland Quartet became Quartet-in-Residence at Durham University, leading workshops and coaching for the university's student ensembles, performing student compositions, and giving recitals, most recently of Ravel, Tippett and Medekšaitė in April 2021.

### Programme

#### **William Marsey      Be nice to see you**

William Marsey writes of his piece: "In summer 2019 I recorded my phone calls with my parents and wrote music around their voices. The result was a seven-minute piece for string quartet, recorded voices, and field recordings made around my London and Hartlepool homes. The piece is a bit homesick and a bit a tribute to my parents: a bit sad and a bit happy. The string quartet who first performed it was the Ligeti Quartet, and the piece was written for New Creatives North."

#### **Michael Worboys      Coming to Rest**

Michael writes of his work: "The title of the piece refers to physical oscillations such as the movement of a pendulum, or the vibration of a violin string. In each case, the motion decays as time passes because of friction. Altogether there are six full musical 'swings' before the pendulum finally 'comes to rest'. Many musical works end on a high or with a flourish; I wanted to write something that gradually fades away."

## Programme (cont.)

### Felix Mendelssohn String Quartet in A minor, op. 13

Adagio – Allegro vivace

Adagio non lento

Intermezzo: Allegretto con moto – Allegro di molto

Presto – Adagio non lento (A major)

The String Quartet No. 2 in A minor, Op. 13, was composed by Felix Mendelssohn in 1827 when he was 18 years old. Despite his young age, Mendelssohn was already an experienced composer of chamber music, having written his well-known String Octet two years previously.

Mendelssohn had earlier written a poem 'Frage' to a female friend of his sister, opening with the phrase 'Ist es wahr?' (Is it true?), which he then set as a song. The theme of the song became the heart of the quartet. Mendelssohn's infatuation with Betty persisted for a short while, although she regarded him simply as an admirable and talented friend.

Mendelssohn wrote the quartet a few months after the death of Ludwig van Beethoven, and the influence of Beethoven's late string quartets is evident in this work. As one music commentator writes: "...This quartet, relying heavily on compositional techniques of late Beethoven, links classical form to romantic expression."

You can find the full programme for the Berwick Music Series 2021 at [berwickmusic.org](http://berwickmusic.org)

