

# ERDA ENSEMBLE



## *About*

The Erda Ensemble was created in response to a performance of Mahler's *Das Lied Von Der Erde* at the Roman River Festival. Like many great ideas, the possibility of forming an ensemble was first discussed in a beautiful country pub after the concert. Inspired by the wonderful combination of mezzo soprano, flute and harp in Mahler's *Der Abschied*, Marta Fontanals-Simmons, Chloë Vincent and Olivia Jageurs subsequently discovered a shared passion for storytelling and rediscovering neglected works for this unusual combinations of instruments. The Erda Ensemble was born!

The Ensemble were invited to perform their first concert at the Roman River Festival the following year, an evening championing music by female composers. The programme included works for trio by Rosy Wertheim, Cecile Chaminade, Grace Williams and Ina Boyle. The Erda Ensemble is now working on several new concert programmes using these composers as a starting point, exploring further repertoire including *Déchirante*, Debussy, Flothius, Hue, Dodgson, George Crumb and Anna Meredith as well as commissioning new works for the ensemble.

The Erda Ensemble is a collaborative and flexible ensemble with three founding members: Marta Fontanals-Simmons, Chloë Vincent and Olivia Jageurs.

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## *Programmes*

### *Celebrating Women*

90 minutes

Ina Boyle | 3 Ancient Irish Poems  
Harriet Adie | Songs of Childhood  
Anne Boyd | Bali Moods  
Rhonda Larson | Metamorphosis  
Grace Williams | Hiraeth  
Grace Williams | 3 Songs of Sleep

Rosy Wertheim | Trois Chansons  
Clara Schumann | Trois Romances  
Amy Beach | 4 Songs  
Amy Beach | By the Still Waters  
Cecile Chaminade | Portrait

### *Beautiful British Isles*

50 minutes

Grace Williams | 3 Songs of Sleep  
Harriet Adie | Songs of Childhood  
Dodgson | Sonata for Flute&Harp  
Ina Boyle | 3 Ancient Irish Poems  
Anna Meredith | Fin like a Flower

### *Rosy Wertheim's French Salon*

70 minutes

Wertheim | Trois Chansons  
Debussy | La flute de Pan  
Debussy | Syrinx  
Flothuis | Pour le tombeau d'Orphée  
Wertheim | Le Tsigane dans la lune  
Hue | Chansons Lointaines

Ravel | La Flute Enchantée  
Saint-Saens | Une Flute Invisible  
Ibert | Deux Stèles orientées  
Caplet | Ecoute on coeur  
Wertheim | La Chanson Déchirante  
Eugene | Image  
Ibert | Ent'acte  
Gaubert | Soir Païen  
Chaminade | Portrait

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## Biographies

### *Marta Fontanals*

#### *Mezzo Soprano*

Marta has collaborated with some of the most celebrated pianists, conductors and orchestras in the world such as Graham Johnson (Wigmore Hall), Bengt Forsberg (Den Norske Opera), Roger Vignoles (Fundación Juan March), Simon Lepper (Lille Opera), Joanna McGregor (Aldeburgh Festival) and concerts with BBCSO, BBCNOW, RPO, CBSO, Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester, James Gaffigan (Het Concertgebouw) Stephane Denève (Stuttgart Liederhalle) and Sakari Oramo (Last Night of BBC Proms).

Marta's operatic repertoire ranges from Gounod (The Royal Opera House), Mozart (Théâtre Champs Elysées), Strauss (Grand Théâtre de Genève) to Weinberg (Teatro Real Madrid), Weill (Opéra de Monte Carlo), Birtwistle (English National Opera), Ethel Smyth (Glyndebourne Festival), Ligeti (Het Concertgebouw) and Britten (Banff Centre, Canada.) Marta was awarded the Prix de Lied at Le Concours International in Paris.

### *Olivia Jageurs*

#### *Harp*

Olivia is in demand as a collaborator with the UK's top musicians and composers. She freelances with orchestras such as the London Philharmonic Orchestra, The Glyndebourne Sinfonia, BBC Symphony Orchestra, BBC Concert Orchestra, Britten Sinfonia, Royal Northern Sinfonia, Sinfonia Cymru, Ballet Rambert, the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment and The Hallé. Olivia has recorded for Universal, Hyperion and Decca Classics. She has performed in recital with a number of well-known singers including Allan Clayton, Mark Padmore and Roderick Williams. She regularly performs at high-profile events such as the Wimbledon Tennis Championships and for Dior in front of the Pyramids of Giza. Olivia has recorded over 500 original compositions for her project 15 Second Harp. In 2021 Olivia became a Royal Philharmonic Society Enterprise Fund trailblazer for her online concert series Harpy Hour.

### *Chloë Vincent*

#### *Flute*

Chloë is a graduate of the Guildhall School and has built a busy freelance career performing with orchestras including the BBC Symphony Orchestra, English National Opera, Scottish Chamber Orchestra, English Chamber Orchestra and Royal Northern Sinfonia. Chloë regularly records at the leading London studios, working for artists such as Kanye West, Madonna and Michael Kiwanuka as well as numerous film and TV sessions. Chloë appears on the Mercury Prize and Ivor Novello award winning Grey Area by Little Simz and Hannah Peel's The Unfolding which topped the classical music charts in 2022. Her professional concerto debut was in 2019, performing Mozart's flute concerto with the Malmö Symphony Orchestra. Chamber music recitals include performances at the Barbican, St James Piccadilly, Henley Festival, Banff Centre for the Arts and Dartington. Chloë is proud to be a Miyazawa Artist.