

Songs of Longing, Passion and Rhythm

Julia Merino
mezzo-soprano

Daniel Hart
piano

SUNDAY 1 JUNE
4 P M

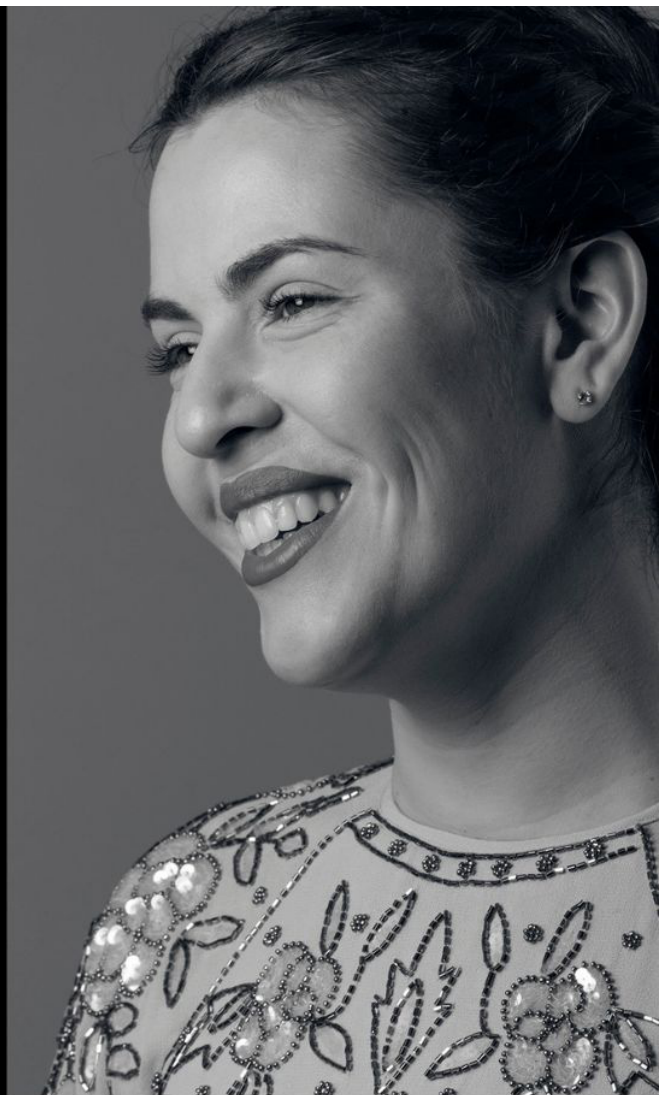
ST MARGARET'S, PUTNEY

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**Music by Mahler,
Schumann, Purcell
and Montsalvatge**

FREE ENTRY

DRINKS FROM 3:30PM



Julia Merino – Mezzo-soprano

Originally from Málaga (Spain) and currently based in London, Julia Merino is completing the Opera Course at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama, where she studies under the guidance of Janice Chapman and Marcus van den Akker, supported by the Elizabeth Sweeting Scholarship. Julia made her operatic debut with Northern Opera Group in the 2023 production of *Frida*, and has recently performed the roles of Prince Orlofsky in Strauss's *Die Fledermaus* and Fanny Price in Jonathan Dove's *Mansfield Park*. In Spain, she has appeared with the Málaga Philharmonic Orchestra and the Málaga Symphony Orchestra in works such as Falla's *El Amor Brujo*, and participated in the 2024 *Encuentro de Música y Academia de Santander*. She was awarded First Prize and Best Interpretation of Spanish Music at the XXVII Pedro Bote Competition. Upcoming engagements include the roles of Dido and the Sorceress in Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas*, along with recital performances in the UK and Spain.

Daniel Hart, piano

Born in Havana, Cuba, Daniel started playing the piano at the *Conservatorio Alejandro Garcia Caturla* (Cuba) at the age of 7. His education then continued at the *Conservatorio Amadeo Roldan* (Cuba) and the *Escola Profissional de Musica de Espinho* (Portugal). He completed his Bachelors and Masters at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland in the class of Aaron Shorr and Petras Geniusas. He has participated in more than 15 international piano competitions. To mention some of them: 1st prize in the 4th edition of the *Concurso Iberoamericano de Piano*, Cuba; 2nd prize in the 1st edition of the *Concurso Internacional de Piano de Maracaibo*, Venezuela; 2nd prize in the 19th edition of the *Ibiza International Piano Competition*, Spain; 1st prize in the "*Maria Clara Cullerell*" International Piano Competition, Costa Rica; Second prize in the "*Santa Cecilia*" International Piano Competition, Portugal; and 1st prize in the "*Jovens Musicos*" Piano Competition, Portugal. Daniel had his orchestra debut at the age of 13, performing Kabalevsky Piano Concerto No. 3 with the Cuban Symphonic Orchestra. Since then he has frequently performed with different orchestras in Cuba and Portugal. Also had the chance to play the most prestigious Concert Hall in Portugal, "*Gulbenkian Foundation*", where he played Beethoven's Concerto No. 5 (Emperor) with the Gulbenkian Orchestra as a reward of the 1st prize he obtained in the "*Jovens Musicos*" Piano Competition. Also, he won the Concerto Competition Prize at the Royal Conservatoire that allowed him to play with the RCS Orchestra. He graduated from the *Escola Profissional de Musica de Espinho* (Portugal) in 2014 with the maximum grade and was invited to perform with the "*Orquestra Classica de Espinho*" as a reward. In 2013, he was also invited by the world-renowned professor Solomon Mikowsky, professor at the Manhattan School of Music, to perform in the Piano Festival he annually organizes in Havana. In 2017, he was invited to be soloist with the Edinburgh Youth Orchestra under the baton of Sian Edwards. In 2018, he was awarded the special prize "*Prix Region Ile de France*" at the Piano Campus International Piano Competition. In 2022, Daniel concluded a 2nd Masters with Solomon Mikowsky at the Manhattan School of Music, where he was granted a full scholarship.

Songs of Longing, Passion and Rhythm

Join us for a captivating afternoon of music that speaks to the heart. This programme brings together songs and pieces full of beauty, emotion, and storytelling—from deep sorrow to joyful rhythm. We begin with Gustav Mahler's *Songs of a Wayfarer*, a touching song cycle about love, nature, and the journey of a soul searching for peace. The music is rich and lyrical, with moments of both tenderness and intensity. Next, pianist Daniel Hart performs the first movement of Schumann's *Fantasie in C major*—a passionate and poetic piece filled with sweeping melodies and heartfelt expression. From there, we move to one of opera's most moving moments: Dido's final aria from *Dido and Aeneas* by Henry Purcell. In "When I am laid in earth," the music gently conveys a queen's farewell, full of grace and emotion. We finish with the vibrant and colourful *Cinco canciones negras* by Spanish composer Xavier Montsalvatge. Inspired by the rhythms and spirit of the Caribbean, these five songs bring humour, tenderness, and celebration to the stage—a perfect way to end our musical journey. Whether you're a music lover or simply curious, this recital offers something for everyone. Come and let the music speak.

Programme

Gustav Mahler

Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen

(Songs of a Wayfarer)

1. *Wenn mein Schatz Hochzeit macht*
2. *Ging heut' morgen über's Feld*
3. *Ich hab' ein glühend Messer*
4. *Die zwei blauen Augen von meinem Schatz*

Robert Schumann

Fantasie in C major, Op. 17

1. *Durchaus phantastisch und leidenschaftlich vorzutragen* (Piano solo)

Henry Purcell

"When I am laid in earth" from *Dido and Aeneas*

Xavier Montsalvatge

Cinco canciones negras

1. *Cuba dentro de un piano*
2. *Punto de habanera*
3. *Chévere*
4. *Canción de cuna para dormir a un negrito*
5. *Canto negro*



SUNDAY
8 JUNE
6PM

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