

THE DOOR

23.II.25

Dear Guests,

*“A book must be the axe for the frozen
sea within us.”*

Kafka’s words remind us that great art, whether in literature, movement or music, is meant to crack something open in us and to disturb the familiar.

Tonight, we step through *The Door* into Kafka’s strange and shimmering world, a place where transformation is both terrifying and tender and where the line between dream and reality quietly frays. *The Metamorphosis* asks what it means to be human, to feel trapped or unseen yet still be capable of extraordinary emotion.

The music we have chosen to surround Kafka’s words comes directly from the very world he inhabited. Bartók’s raw energy, Schulhoff’s defiant brilliance and Dvořák’s lyrical mastery each create a portal into Central Europe at the turn of the century, a region restless and alive with new ideas. Fragments of Webern, Janáček and Stravinsky also felt essential in the telling of this story.

Here, words, music and movement intertwine to invite you to cross the threshold, to let certainty fall away, and to listen not only with your ears but with your imagination.



Programme

– THE AWAKENING –

Ligeti
Métamorphoses Nocturne No.11

Bartók
Solo Violin Sonata
IV. Presto (fragment)

Bartók
String Quartet no 2
II. Allegro molto capriccioso

– THE REVEAL –

Schulhoff
String Quartet No. 1
IV. Andante molto sostenuto

Stravinsky
Three pieces for String Quartet
(fragments)

Schulhoff
String Quartet No. 1
I. Presto con fuoco

Webern
String Quartet
(fragment)

– ACCEPTANCE –

Zemlinsky
String Quartet No. 3
II. Romanze

– HIS SISTER –

Dvořák
Cypresses
IX. Oh, my dearest love

Schulhoff
String Quartet No. 1
III. Allegro giocoso alla slovacca

– HIS MOTHER –

Janáček
On an Overgrown Path
(fragment)

Dvořák
String Quartet No. 12
II. Lento

– FINAL DAWN –

Dvořák
Song to the Moon from Rusalka

Ligeti
Métamorphoses Nocturne No.12

– EPILOGUE –

Mahler
Urlicht

Echor Music

Eva Þórarinsdóttir violin

Sara Wolstenholme violin

Nicholas Bootiman viola

Nathaniel Boyd cello

Echor Music is a Chilterns-based ensemble of leading UK musicians dedicated to reimagining how classical music is experienced.

Formed by Eva Þórarinsdóttir and Nicholas Bootiman, Echor creates immersive concerts that blend exceptional performance with storytelling.

Their recent productions have ranged from the twisted dinner-party fantasia *Parasite*, to *Voyage* - a glimpse into Ravel's transatlantic journey and *Albion*, shining a torch on English string music.

Whether performing in barns, mills, chapels, candlelit churches or historic manor houses, Echor invites audiences into vivid, imaginative worlds where music becomes part of a larger story.

At the heart of the ensemble is a belief in connection with the stories behind the music, its composers and the emotional power of live performance.

Guy Siner

Guy Siner is an English-American actor best known for his beloved role as Lieutenant Gruber in the classic BBC sitcom 'Allo 'Allo!.

A versatile performer on stage and screen, he has appeared in many major productions in both the UK and Hollywood. His current work includes the TV series of Jilly Cooper's 'Rivals' for Disney and Agatha Christie's 'The Seven Dials Mystery' for Netflix.

With a career spanning decades and genres, Siner remains a distinctive and much-loved presence in British entertainment.

Luigi Nardone

Luigi began his career with Scottish Dance Theatre after graduating from Rambert School, where he performed work by Sharon Eyal, Anton Lachky, Emanuel Gat, Botis Seva and Roser López Espinosa, among others. After four years with the company, he moved to London to freelance, working with BalletBoyz, Punchdrunk, Lost Dog, Thick & Tight and Holly Blakey.

Alongside performing, Luigi teaches regularly at multiple UK companies, including Rambert. Most recently, he has been serving as Associate Choreographer for BalletBoyz's upcoming film.

Be part of our story!

Our deepest thanks to the Echor Friends and Sponsors who make our projects possible. Ticket sales only cover 40% of each project on average. Your support and encouragement bring the rest to life.

To learn more about our four sponsorship tiers and how to get involved, please visit our website:

echormusic.com/support

Echor Friend £30 Solo / £50 Duo

Our Friends are a growing family of supporters, many of whom have become personal friends of ours along the way.

Dreamers £100-£299

The 'Dreamers' are our visionaries, who help bring our ideas to life. Without them, there is less scope for storytelling.

Movers & Shakers £300-£999

Our Movers and Shakers help cover the vital cost of our performances, helping us plan with bolder and braver ideas.

The Music Makers £1000 +

Donations from our Music Makers ensure Echor's future in the Chilterns, and for that, we could not be more grateful.

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Hugh Guilford
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