

KNIGHT'S DREAM

Helen Charlston & Sholto Kynoch

Album released on BIS Records Spring 2026

PROGRAMME

Hensel *Fichtenbaum und Palme*

Mendelssohn *Auf Flügeln
des Gesanges*

Lang *Seit ich die*

liebste mir entfernt

Schumann *Die Lotosblume*

Loewe *Die Lotosblume*

Hensel *Schwanenlied*

Lang *Wenn zwei von*

einander scheiden

Mendelssohn *Reiselied*

Héloïse Werner *Knight's Dream*

Schumann *Dichterliebe*

*"Charlston's voice is little short of
miraculous" (The Evening Standard)*

*"She has potential to carry Lieder to
new heights"*

*(The Times **** Oct 2023)*

*"With supremely sensitive playing
from Kynoch, Charlston made us
struggle with her over all these
emotional hurdles in a superb
performance, both exhausting and
elating."*

*(The Guardian ***** Oct 2023)*



INTRODUCTION

The magical land of *Dichterliebe* has beguiled me for many years, but 2023 was the first year I stepped on to stage with it as a performer. It wasn't always my intention to pair these songs with a new commission, but when the opportunity arose, it seemed like a very exciting world to explore. Early conversations with Héloïse Werner reminded me how deep the love and awe for this cycle runs, and I was sure we could create something special.

Heine's poetry is the constant in this programme, taking us from 19th century into the 21st and back again. We hear from Josephine Lang, Carl Loewe, Felix & Fanny Mendelssohn, who fill in some of blanks from Heine's *Lyrisches Intermezzo* on the way, each composer spotlighting the poet's direct imagery in their own voice. Héloïse cherishes Heine's exquisite words in the way that only she can, playing with the words (and us!) at every opportunity. Her postlude is both a wonderful homage to Schumann, and the perfect prelude to the whole cycle that I never knew I was missing.

It's a real privilege to have someone write a piece for you, there is no process more joyful than bringing a piece to life for the first time! To do so as a way to frame and celebrate a cycle like *Dichterliebe* has proved to be a hugely rewarding process and has clearly new light on music that many people will consider to be an old friend.

Helen Charlston



[Click to watch Helen and Sholto perform live at Wigmore Hall](#)

HELEN CHARLSTON

Described as “one of the most exciting voices in the new generation of British singers” (Alexandra Coghlan, Gramophone 2022) BBC Radio 3 New Generation Artist, **Helen Charlston**, was a ‘Rising Star’ of the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment 2017-2019, and was selected for Le Jardin des Voix academy with Les Arts Florissants in 2021. In 2023, she won both a Gramophone Award for Best Concept Album, and the Vocal award at the BBC Music Magazine Awards for her debut solo album ‘Battle Cry’. In coming seasons she will make stage debut at Dutch National Opera and give recitals at Wigmore Hall, LIFE Victoria Barcelona, Holywell Music Room and the Brucknerhaus, Linz.

This season Helen makes her debut at Gran Teatre del Liceu in Barcelona singing Sesto in Calixto Bieito’s production of Handel *Giulio Cesare*. In 2023 Helen made her debut at Versailles Royal Opera singing Dido in Purcell *Dido & Aeneas*, at Grange Festival singing Sorceress/Spirit in the same opera, and covered the title role in Charpentier *Médée* at Opéra national de Paris in 2024. On the concert platform she has performed Mahler and Elgar with BBC Symphony Orchestra, Mendelssohn *Elijah* with Scottish Chamber Orchestra at BBC Proms, Handel's *Messiah* with the Warsaw Philharmonic, Czech Philharmonic, and Britten Sinfonia, Britten *Phaedra* with BBC Philharmonic and Mozart *Requiem* with London Philharmonic Orchestra.

SHOLTO KYNOCH

Sholto Kynoch is a sought-after pianist who specialises in song and chamber music. He is the founder and Artistic Director of the Oxford International Song Festival, which won a prestigious Royal Philharmonic Society Award in 2015, cited for its ‘breadth, depth and audacity’ of programming. In July 2018, Sholto was elected a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Music in the RAM Honours. Working with many of today’s leading singers, recent recitals have taken him to Wigmore Hall, Heidelberger Frühling, Beethovenfest Bonn, the Zeist International Lied Festival in the Netherlands, the LIFE Victoria festival and Palau de la Música in Barcelona, the Fundación Juan March in Madrid, the Opéra de Lille, Opernhaus Zürich, Maison Symphonique de Montréal, and many other leading venues and festivals nationally and internationally. His extensive discography includes the first complete edition of the songs of Hugo Wolf, the final volume of which was released in January 2023.

HÉLOÏSE WERNER

French-born soprano and composer **Héloïse Werner** is currently an Associate Artist at Wigmore Hall and is ‘quickly becoming a latter-day Cathy Berberian or Meredith Monk’ (Richard Morrison, *The Times*). As a composer, Werner has written for the CBSO, Aurora Orchestra, Maitrise de Radio France, London Handel Festival, Lawrence Power, Mishka Rushdie-Momen and Helen Charlston and has commissions in the pipeline for Manchester Collective, St Paul’s Cathedral, BBC Singers, and Royal Northern Sinfonia, amongst others. As a soprano, Héloïse has performed with the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra, Grange Festival, CBSO and Nash Ensemble, and created the role of Madame DuVal in Sarah Angliss’ opera *Giant* opening the Aldeburgh Festival 2023. Of her solo opera *The Other Side of the Sea*, *The Times* said “you can’t help but be dazzled by it...” Héloïse is a fluent improviser and musical leader, working with the contemporary quartet The Hermes Experiment, the winners of the Young Artist Award at the RPS awards in 2021.