

Programme Notes:

Johannes Brahms

Viola Sonata No. 1 in F minor, Op. 120

Inspired by the playing of Richard Mühlfeld, principal clarinetist of the Meiningen Orchestra, Brahms came out of his self-imposed retirement and returned to compose the opus 120 Sonatas in the last years of his life. His 1st sonata opens with an *Allegro Appassionato* movement which shifts rapidly between moments of intensity and solemnness. The second movement *Andante un poco Adagio* features a tender singing melody, leading directly to the rustic waltz of the third movement *Allegretto Grazioso*. The piece ends with the boisterous finale movement, *Vivace*, featuring a bell-like theme and other motifs from the previous movements, wrapping up this work with a bang!

Rebecca Clarke

Morpheus

Derived from the Greek God of Dreams, *Morpheus*, was composed in 1917 when Clarke was pursuing a career in the United States. This piece was premiered by herself in New York City and gave various performances of the work in Carnegie Hall. Clarke was deeply inspired by Debussy, resulting in her Impressionist compositional output. As suggested by the title, this work features intertwining exchange of dreamy and floating melodies between the viola and the piano, eventually fading away into a silence.