

Bloomsday performance of Chamber Music

Dear friends,

I hope you are very well and enjoying the spring. I'm very excited to announce that my setting of James Joyce's poem cycle 'Chamber Music' will be performed this Bloomsday, Monday 16th June, 8pm at the beautiful Old Red Lion Theatre in Angel, Islington.

Tickets are £10 available at the theatre's box office: **0844 412 4307**
and website: <http://www.oldredliontheatre.co.uk/bloomsday-chamber-music.htm>

'Lean out of the window
Goldenhair,
I heard you singing
A merry air

My book was closed;
I read no more,
Watching the fire dance
On the floor.'

A new setting of the poem cycle 'Chamber Music' by James Joyce for tenor, soprano and broken consort of lute, renaissance flute and bass viol. In part love poems, in part an exorcism of the fear he felt at his impending exile from Ireland and a culmination of his early influences from the romantic poets, Irish folk song and Elizabethan lyric. The music is as varied in style as Joyce's writing exploring the players' technical and ultimately emotional limits.

Yeats described the 36 poems as of 'a young man who is practising his instrument, taking pleasure in the mere handling of the stops.' Joyce, an excellent tenor who adored Elizabethan music, asked that these poems be set by 'someone who knows old English music such as I like' – a hope now fulfilled. Chamber Music reveals the sentimental side he strove so hard to control nearly cancelling the publication saying 'All that kind of thing is false;' however he later sent a parchment copy to his future wife Nora Barnacle with their initials intertwined on the cover.

Begun in Dublin on May Day 2012 and completed on the composer's boat on Good Friday 2013 'Chamber Music' premiered at the Brighton Fringe Festival in May 2013 one of the successes of which being this Bloomsday performance.

Please forward this e-mail to anyone you think might be interested - there is no better way to celebrate Bloomsday and you can still go to the pub!

All the very best,

Anna

Anna Tam

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