



# Orchestral Music for a Winter's Evening

*Conducted by Ed Wadon and Scott Phillips*

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2018, 7:30pm

## Programme

Zapfenstreich no.2 in C

*Performed by the wind section of the Sinfonia  
Conducted by Ed Wadon*

Beethoven  
(1770-1827)

Hypnosis

*Performed by Sophie Ward*

Clarke  
(b.1964)

Entr'acte from Carmen

*Performed by Amber Coxhill*

Bizet  
(1838-1875)

Coriolan Overture

*Conducted by Scott Phillips*

Beethoven  
(1770-1827)

### *Interval*

Flower Duet

*Performed by the Ellesmere College String Ensemble*

Delibes  
(1836-1891)

Arrival of the Queen of Sheba

*Performed by the Ellesmere College String Ensemble*

Handel  
(1685-1759)

Symphony No. 8 in B minor (unfinished)

*Conducted by Ed Wadon*

Schubert  
(1797-1828)

## Programme Notes – Main Works

### Coriolan Overture

Beethoven's Overture for Heinrich Joachim von Collin's drama *Coriolan*, composed early in 1807, was given its first performance in March of that year at Prince Lobkowitz's residence in Vienna. It is not known if Beethoven wrote the overture for an actual performance of the play or simply because he was inspired by it.

The five-act tragedy *Coriolan*, for which Beethoven wrote only an overture, has been forgotten for so long that many erroneously assume it is Shakespeare's play rather than one by Heinrich Joseph von Collin. The powerful chords that begin the work are followed by an agitated theme in C minor and a lyrical melody in E-flat major. The tension is maintained near the end by bringing back the opening theme in F minor instead of C minor and then following it with a dramatic coda that gets continuously softer and more fragmented. Many of Beethoven's contemporaries held to the belief that the work was a depiction of Coriolan complete with his last gasps before death. Others suggested that the work was a portrait of the composer.

### Symphony No.8 in B minor (unfinished)

The manuscript of Schubert's B minor symphony is dated October 30, 1822 and the first performance was given on December 17, 1865, in Vienna.

We don't know why Schubert never finished his B minor symphony. This has been one of music's great unanswered questions for more than a hundred years, and despite some speculation, it is still unknown today.

The beauty of this entire stretch of music is extraordinary, but even more remarkable is the way Schubert sustains the spell throughout the first movement and on into the second. Schubert's sketches show that he originally wanted to end his first movement in B major—which would have broken the mood—but he thought better of it, leaving us instead in the dark recesses of B minor.

The slow movement (second movement) – and it is only relatively slow – is in the unexpected key of E major, where he uncovers the great riches in the Adagio of the C major string quintet. In this lovely movement, a few especially eloquent details stand out: the high-flying clarinet solo that gently sails over shifting chords, and a wonderful moment of total stillness, disturbed only by the octave call of the horn, just before Schubert leads us back to the opening.

# Ellesmere Sinfonia

Ellesmere Sinfonia was formed in November 2017 by Anthony Coupe and Ed Wadon who shared a desire to create a community orchestra capable of providing students and instrumentalists across the region with a full orchestral experience. Their debut performance came in March 2018 when they accompanied the College Choral Society in a performance of the Mozart Requiem. Ellesmere Sinfonia is made up of players who can perform at a standard of Grade 5 or above.

We would be delighted if you would like to join Ellesmere Sinfonia. We rehearse on Monday evenings 7.15-9.15pm in the Arts Centre at Ellesmere College.

For more information please contact: [tony.coupe@ellesmere.com](mailto:tony.coupe@ellesmere.com)

## Acknowledgements

*Ellesmere Sinfonia would like to thank the following people for their help, without whom this concert would not be possible...*

- Brendan Wignall and the staff of Ellesmere College
- Tony Coupe – Director of Music
- Scott Formstone – Stage Management
- Rachel Redshaw and Olivia Beckett – Posters and Programmes
- Ed Wadon and Scott Phillips – Conductors of Ellesmere Sinfonia

