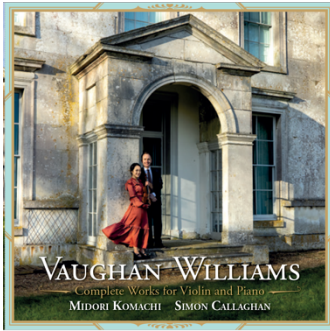


VAUGHAN WILLIAMS: COMPLETE WORKS FOR VIOLIN AND PIANO



The Lark Ascending (1914)
Romance and Pastorale (1912-14)
Six Studies in English Folksong (1926)
Violin Sonata in A minor (1954)

For Release on 1 July 2022

MIDORI KOMACHI, violin

SIMON CALLAGHAN, piano

MusiKaleido MKCD002

Violinist, writer and composer, **Midori Komachi**, who has developed a diverse career in bridging UK and Japanese cultures through music, is on a mission to bring the music of British composer, Ralph Vaughan Williams, to a wider audience during 'RVW150' in 2022; the 150th anniversary of the composer's birth. As part of her 'RVW Project', a new album is to be released in the summer, alongside a Japanese translation of the composer's biography by Simon Heffer, to be published in Japan, and tie-in concerts in both countries.

Actively promoting British music in the UK and Japan, Komachi has been particularly noted for her performances, publications and recordings, and the RVW Project builds on her hugely successful 2017 'Delius Project', which included the publication of her Japanese translation of Eric Fenby's 'Delius as I Knew Him'.

"My RVW Project aims to disseminate the music of Vaughan Williams to a wider audience in the UK and Japan, through an album release, publications, performances, films and talks", explained Komachi.

To be released during summer 2022 on her own label, MusiKaleido, '**Vaughan Williams: Complete Works for Violin and Piano**', features Komachi and her recording partner, Simon Callaghan, in repertoire encompassing the wide-ranging styles of Vaughan Williams's music, from those rooted in folksong to dramatic

symphonic sonorities reflecting the composer's life experiences.

The lyrical beauty of 'The Lark Ascending', recorded here in the original version for violin and piano, the folk-infused 'Romance and Pastorale' and 'Six Studies in English Folksong', are programmed alongside the troubled tensions of the less well-known Violin Sonata.

If the pastoral pieces illustrate a world of innate natural beauty, the Sonata in A minor, written towards the end of the composer's life in 1952, stands at the opposite end of the spectrum. "The deeply emotional turmoil and struggles seem to me to be raw, and the highly virtuosic, unsettling character creates a sense of reality and immediacy", says Komachi.

"While the Sonata is a significant work in its own right, it is rarely performed, possibly for reasons of its technical demands", she considers. "Having recorded it, I can confirm this is one of the most challenging Sonatas in the violin repertoire, but at the same time, it is a work that opens a door to a deeper pathway into the composer's thoughts."

Vaughan Williams dedicated the Violin Sonata to violinist Frederick Grinke, whose performances of 'The Lark Ascending' he admired. From both researching the composer's manuscripts and her own viewpoint as a violinist and composer, Midori Komachi brings a unique perspective and a deeper understanding of the work.

According to Komachi, Vaughan Williams worked closely with Grinke to refine the technical passages. "It seems clear from his manuscripts that he wished to push the boundaries of his previously more lyrical approach to the instrumentation. At times his ideas went beyond what is practically possible", says Komachi, who writes in detail about the process of composition in the recording's dual language liner notes.

"Through this recording, I hope that listeners will be inspired by Vaughan Williams's complete sound world, which not only illustrates the beauty of nature and folksongs, but also reveals the most conflicted human emotions. His music speaks to us directly, and this is why I believe it resonates beyond national boundaries."

Midori Komachi's 'Vaughan Williams Project':

RECORDING

'Vaughan Williams: Complete Works for Violin and Piano':

The Lark Ascending (1914)

Romance and Pastorale (1912-14)

Six Studies in English Folksong (1926)

Violin Sonata in A minor (1954)

Available from **Friday 1 July 2022** as CD and download from Amazon, online platforms and through Midori Komachi's website: www.midorikomachi.com

FILM

Released alongside the album, Vaughan Williams's 'Romance' for violin and piano, with its local connections to Leith Hill Place, has inspired the production of a music video filmed with the artists on location.

LAUNCH EVENT

Saturday 9 July 2022, 6:30pm at Leith Hill Place, Surrey

A launch concert will take place at Vaughan Williams's childhood home, Leith Hill Place (National Trust), where Midori Komachi and Simon Callaghan will perform the complete programme from the album, with an illustrative talk about the composer's works for violin and piano.

JAPANESE PUBLICATION

Simon Heffer's biography of the composer, 'Vaughan Williams', translated into Japanese by Midori Komachi and Professor Nobuya Takahashi (Keio University) – the first Japanese publication of a biography of the composer – is to be published by Artes Publishing, Japan in autumn 2022, where a series of related performances and talks will take place.

-A series of videos and interviews aim to reach a wider audience and develop further engagement.

-A Japanese Crowdfunding campaign will invite audiences to become further involved in the project.

The project is supported by the Vaughan Williams Charitable Trust, the Ralph Vaughan Williams Society, The Nimbus Foundation, Archery Music Promotions, Artes Publishing, and the Sasakawa Foundation.

Midori Komachi - biography

<https://www.midorikomachi.com/home/biography/>

Based between London and Tokyo, recent projects have included collaborations with British Airways, LUSH, OPPO, All Nippon Airways and Backes & Strauss. Since 2021 Midori is a Musician in Residence at the British Council and PRS Foundation, where she has led a digital residency with Diamantina, Brazil.

Midori has performed as a soloist extensively throughout Europe and Japan. She made her debut as a soloist at the age of 12 with the Zurich Chamber Orchestra, conducted by Howard Griffiths. Since then, she has appeared in some of the world's most prestigious venues, including Tonhalle Zurich, Tokyo Opera City Hall, Philharmony Warsaw, Wigmore Hall, and the Rector's Palace (Croatia).

With a particular interest in promoting British music internationally, Midori has appeared frequently on TV and Radio, including BBC Radio 3, NHK TV and TV Tokyo. From 2018 to 2020, Midori presented her radio programme 'Midori Selects' on British Airways in-flight entertainment. In 2017, her first book, a Japanese translation of Eric Fenby's classic recollection 'Delius as I Knew Him' (1936) was published in Japan and has featured widely in the national press.

Midori's discography has gained critical acclaim in both the UK and Japan. Her first album 'Colours of the Heart' received enthusiastic reviews from publications including The Strad, International Record Review, and was chosen as a recommended disc by Record Geijutsu. Currently, Midori is a PhD candidate at Goldsmiths, University of London, fully funded by the Arts & Humanities Research Council (AHRC). She is also an Adjunct Lecturer at Queen's University (Canada).