

Lunchtime Recital Friday 4th September – Alan Dorn

(piano)



Great to have Alan back with us. His theme, ‘**Carillon up the Keyboard**’ (*pun definitely intended!*), brought us a programme of nine pieces inspired by bells, grouped in threes;

Evening Bells – a solemn almost religious piece from Saint-Saëns, the sophisticated elegance of Godowsky, with Rossini providing what Alan described as “a light-hearted romp”, the Allegretto.

Impressionists – two pieces from Debussy, a master of different sound worlds, offering us the delicate tracery of *Cloches à travers les feuilles*, and the massive sonority of *La cathédrale engloutie* (*the sunken cathedral rising from the waters*). And sandwiched between the sincerity (*and fewer notes*) of Mompou with *La Fuente y la campana*.

The Golden Age of Piano – featuring two of the greatest 19th century composers, Liszt and Chopin. Alan told us that Liszt had two sides to his personality; the thoughtful spiritual side expressed in *Les cloches de Genève*, and the bold virtuosity that had taken Europe by storm (*and us!*) of *La Campanella*. And between the two one of Chopin’s most beautiful melodies, the *Prelude in A flat major*.

And if that was not enough, we were given an ‘encore’, *The Swan* from Saint-Saëns transcribed for the piano by Godowsky.

There was a prize for anyone who could identify the piece and the two composers.



We failed to get the prize, but for us the recital itself was the biggest prize of all!



‘Carillon up the Keyboard’

A programme of piano music inspired by bells

Les cloches du soir (*Evening Bells*) (1889)

Camille Saint-Saëns (1835-1921)

Abendglocken (*Evening Bells*)
from *Walzermasken* (1912))

Leopold Godowsky (1870-1938)

Allegretto
from *Quelques riens pour album* (c. 1860))

Gioachino Rossini (1792-1868)

Cloches à travers les feuilles (*Bells Through the Leaves*) from *Images*, book 2 (1907)

Claude Debussy (1862-1918)

La fuente y la campana (*The Fountain and the Bell*) from *Paisajes* (1942)

Federico Mompou (1893-1987)

La cathédrale engloutie (*The Sunken Cathedral*)
from *Préludes*, book 1 (1910)

Debussy

Les cloches de Genève: Nocturne from
Première année de pèlerinage - Suisse (1855)

Franz Liszt (1811-1887)

Prelude in A flat major op. 28 no 17 (1839)

Fryderyk Chopin (1810-1849)

La campanella from *Grandes études de Paganini*
(1851)

Liszt