



FRIDAY 18TH FEBRUARY 2022
NEW CHAMBER OPERA RECITAL SERIES

SEBASTIAN HILL (TENOR)
WILLIAM HARMER (PIANO)



Die schöne Müllerin Op. 25 D. 795 Franz Schubert, text by Wilhelm Müller

We are delighted to be performing the first half of Schubert's song cycle *Die Schöne Müllerin* at New College in 5th Week. The recital acts as a dry run for a string of performances of the entire work in the summer, and we hope you will join us then.

Die Schöne Müllerin was my lockdown project; whilst going on a long walk was about as much adventure as Boris allowed, I really enjoyed following Wilhelm Müller's narrative of the young miller's adventure. The first half of the cycle introduces us to the vivacious and persevering protagonist as well as his trusty companion, the brook. His journey leads him to a mill where he not only finds work, but also takes a fancy to the Miller's daughter, generating a tempestuous and enthralling romance elaborated in the twenty songs, of which we'll perform eleven today.

I'm extremely grateful to have studied these texts with Gerhard Gall, generously funded by the Oxford Bach Soloists, and am truly honoured to be working alongside Will, a collaboration we hope will continue well into the future!

Sebastian Hill

Seb is currently a Stipendiary Clerk with Magdalen College Choir, having graduated from Magdalen earlier this year with a first-class degree in Music, and studying voice with Giles Underwood. Alongside this, he performs regularly with the Oxford Bach Soloists and Ex Cathedra, including as a soloist in a recent performance of Monteverdi's *Vespers* at Birmingham Town Hall. Seb features on the 2019 disk of *Tudor Christmas Music* released by the Trinity Boys' Choir, as well as on Magdalen's 2020 disk 'Sing, Precious Music'. He performed at the Utrecht Early music festival in 2017, the Three Choirs Festival in 2018, took part in the Stile Antico Youth Consort in 2019, and was chosen as Oxford's representative for the Anthony Lewis Memorial Prize Competition (cancelled due to Covid-19). Seb has benefitted from a masterclass with Roddy Williams and in preparation for an upcoming Evangelist role, plans to study with James Gilchrist and Mark Padmore. Since September, he has also been spotted making pizzas and pouring pints at the Oxford Blue, and occasionally even serving them to the customers.

William Harmer

Will is a composer and pianist who recently graduated from Worcester College, Oxford, studying piano with Anna Tilbrook and composition with Robert Saxton. In 2017, Will won the BBC Proms Inspire Competition and was subsequently commissioned by the BBC Singers to compose 'Voyage of the Soul', a piece commemorating the Apollo 11 Moon Landings which was broadcast on Radio 3 last year. In 2020, Will's piece for French Horn 'Cetus' was performed on BBC radio and television by Annemarie Federle as part of the BBC Young Musician. This year he is a Graduate Choral Assistant at Keble College and works as a teacher at Oxford Youth Choirs, Dragon School and Carfax College.