

and Jos Vermunt, and has sung the solo soprano part in Bach's St. Matthew Passion, the St. John Passion as well as in several cantatas. Nienke regularly performs contemporary music, including Dutch composer Daan Manneke's 'Trajectoire', with the Helios ensemble.

Verena Zauner was born in Tirol (Austria). At the age of seven she started playing the recorder, two years later also the 'cello. In her teenage years she had the opportunity to enter the Conservatory of Innsbruck, studying the 'cello with Max Engel, Emil Rovner and Michael Hell.

Since 2005 Verena has been a student of the Amsterdam Conservatory. Her teachers are Maarten Mostert ('cello) and Viola de Hoog (Baroque 'cello). Verena also plays in various orchestras and chamber music groups in Austria and the Netherlands.

Cecily Lock was born in Leiden (the Netherlands). She graduated from St. Hilda's College, Oxford, with a degree in music, in 2004, and is now studying the piano with Mila Baslawskaya at the Amsterdam Conservatory. She has given concerts in many places, from Amsterdam to Kiev, and including various Oxford and Cambridge colleges.

She is artistic director of The Haydn Keyboard Project (www.haydnproject.org) and piano tutor in the Junior Department of The Royal Conservatory in The Hague. More information can be found on her website (www.cecilylock.com).

Nienke and Cecily have been working together for several years, performing in master classes and concerts. They have recently been joined by Verena to form a trio.

* * *

Robert Saxton

Having been a lecturer at Bristol University and Head of Composition at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama and The Royal Academy of Music respectively, **Robert Saxton** (born in 1953) is currently Professor of Composition at Oxford University. He was an undergraduate at Cambridge and a postgraduate at Oxford. In 1975 he was awarded first prize at the International Gaudeamus Festival in Holland.

Prayer before Sleep was written in 1997 in memory of Rabbi Hugo Gryn. It was first performed on 8th December 1997 at the Barbican Centre, London, by Teresa Cahill (soprano), Raphael Wallfisch ('cello) and John York (piano).

* * *

Russian composer **Sergei Prokofiev's 2nd sonata** is one of his most popular works among audiences and pianists alike. It was written in 1912 and premiered in 1914 in Moscow. On publication of the score the work was dedicated to Prokofiev's friend Maximilian Schmidthof, a good pianist and fellow student at the Conservatory, who committed suicide in 1913. Prokofiev was very upset by Schmidthof's death and also dedicated his 4th sonata, the 2nd piano concerto, and the 'Allemande' from Piano Pieces, op. 12, to his friend.

Robert Saxton – PRAYER BEFORE SLEEP - 1997

2nd movement:

O, wing your way to freedom,
Sun-high, fleeting, light-enhanced,
Through blue-white radiance,
Empowered by faith and love,
To climb, soar and rise again.

O, sing your way to heaven,
Now re-born and outside time,
without duration or division;
Let out your cry of glory
As the morning light enfolds you
when, released from earth's pull,
You may sing, dance, dance and sing;
Your being, earth-freed, now unbound,
will praise the universe in sound.

4th movement:

PRAYER BEFORE SLEEP

Blessed are You, Lord our God, King
of the universe, who weigh down my
eyes with bonds of sleep and
my eyelids with slumber.

Give light to my eyes lest I sink into
the sleep of death, for it is You who
illuminate the pupil of the eye Blessed
are You, O Lord, whose glory illuminates
all the world.

poem from the Talmud, trans. T. Carmi

The Oxford and Cambridge Society of the Netherlands
Candlemas Event 2009

Musical Programme

Sergei Prokofiev (1891-1953) -

from the 2nd Piano Sonata (op. 14)

Andante (3rd movement)

Vivace (4th movement)

Cecily Lock, piano

Robert Saxton (b. 1953) –

Prayer before Sleep

Nienke Otten, soprano

Verena Zauner, 'cello

Cecily Lock, piano



Dutch soprano ***Nienke Otten*** studied with David Wilson-Johnson and Valérie Guillorit at the Amsterdam Conservatory, taking her Bachelor's Degree in May 2008. She has also participated in masterclasses with Udo Reinemann, Ann Murray, Maarten Koningsberger, Claron McFadden, Emma Kirkby and Jard van Nes. Nienke has sung in opera productions of the Nationale Reisopera and the Opera Zuid, both as a choir member and as soloist. She has worked with conductors Ton Koopman, Ed Spanjaard, Lucas Vis