

Program Note

APHRODITE PATOULIDOU & JULIUS DRAKE

This recital offers a rich journey through folk traditions reimagined in art song, alongside original compositions in the folk idiom. Soprano *Aphrodite Patoulidou* and pianist *Julius Drake* explore music rooted in Europe's oral traditions, with moments where voice and piano are joined by the evocative tones of the *nyckelharpa*, played by Patoulidou.

The program begins with the pastoral charm of *Canteloube's Chants d'Auvergne*, followed by the dramatic intensity of *Wolf's Goethe Lieder*. *Ravel*, *Britten*, and the performers' own arrangements breathe new life into British and Celtic folksongs, blending elegance with raw narrative.

Dvořák's Gypsy Melodies pulse with rhythm and longing. The second half explores Greek heritage through expressive arrangements by *Constantinidis*, *Riadis*, and Patoulidou, with *Ravel's* Greek songs acting as a cultural bridge seen through a French lens.

The recital's northern arc spans Norwegian, Swedish, and Finnish works, where the *nyckelharpa* adds a haunting layer of authenticity—culminating in *Sibelius' Luonnotar*, a mythic, elemental finale. A celebration of voices—human, cultural, and instrumental—woven into song.