

Behind the Mirror



FAIRYTALE

4 May 2025
4-6pm

St Peter's Church,
Berkhamsted

www.behindthemirror.org

Clare O'Connell (cello)
Viv McLean (piano)

An exploration of enchanting music inspired by folk stories and fairy tales

Janacek - Pohadkha (A Tale)

Medtner - A selection of Skazki (Fairy Tales) for solo piano

Dvorak - Silent Woods for cello and piano

Prokofiev - Sonata in C major Op. 119 for cello and piano

Leos Janáček's *Pohádka* is based on an epic poem by the Russian author Vasily Zhukovsky entitled *The Tale of Tsar Berendyey* which unsurprisingly piqued Janáček's interest in Russian culture.

Anton Dvořák's dreamy lyrical *Silent Woods* for cello and piano, originally entitled "the Silence" by Dvorak takes us to a magical place of stillness.

Nikolaus Medtner composed *Skazki* (Tales) throughout his life - his captivating music was inspired by various sources such as literature, nature, and Russian folklore, and Sergei Prokofiev's miraculous *Sonata* for cello and piano, composed in 1949, a year after he had been banned by the Soviet authorities, touches upon the subject of war and the futility of violence.

At times naive and childlike, at others satirical, it won't fail to fill you with a sense of optimism as it draws to its conclusion.