

## The Geraldine Mucha Archive

Press Release

8th May 2017

### GERALDINE MUCHA 1917 - 2012

#### Centenary celebrations for the British composer who lived and worked in Cold War Czechoslovakia

Geraldine Mucha's story is unique in British music, and her life and work are celebrated this year with new recordings and concert performances, marking the centenary of her birth.

Geraldine was born in London in July 1917, and studied at the Royal Academy of Music. In 1945 she moved to Prague with her husband Jiří Mucha, son of the world-renowned Art Nouveau artist Alphonse Mucha. Although her music was performed in Czechoslovakia by leading ensembles, it remains largely unknown in the UK, a consequence of the many years she spent behind the Iron Curtain.

This year new audiences can discover her distinctive musical voice, with works drawn from a composing career spanning eight decades.

In July, a new recording 'Macbeth and Other Orchestral Works' will be released via ArcoDiva, featuring her ballet, Macbeth (1965), Overture to The Tempest (1963) and Piano Concerto (1961).

In November, a special centenary concert will include her two String Quartets and pieces for Chamber Orchestra, performed by the Stamic Quartet and others.

#### Quotes

*"Geraldine Mucha is a many-sided and expressive composer. Her music is full of feeling and colour..."* - Andreas Sebastian Weiser, Music Director of the State Opera, Prague

*"As a player in a quartet I am grateful for her two string quartets. Especially the first, which she composed during the Second World War. This has for us - apart from undeniable artistic qualities - many emotional resonances that touch us after all these years..."* - Josef Kekula, Stamic Quartet

*"I am delighted that people can now begin to discover my mother's music: composing it sustained her during the darkest years of communism."* - John Mucha, President of the Mucha Foundation

#### Contact Details

For further information, interview requests and images, please contact Christopher Vinz and Theo Carnegy-Tan at The Geraldine Mucha Archive.

[geraldinemucha@gmail.com](mailto:geraldinemucha@gmail.com)

<http://geraldinemucha.org>



Poster by Alphonse Mucha, 1911



Geraldine in the 1980s

### **Biography**

The lyrical, modern music of Scottish composer Geraldine Mucha was written during the course of a long life lived between Prague, London and Scotland. Her remarkable story began with highly praised compositions written during her student days in 1930s London and ended 70 years later among the Art Nouveau treasures of her father in law, Alphonse Mucha. Geraldine survived the oppression of life behind the Iron Curtain by writing music. Her style mixes Scottish folksong with the melodic tradition of Czech composers and the modern developments that surrounded her maturity as a composer. However, her musical career was overshadowed by her commitment to managing the family's artistic legacy (for which she established the Mucha Foundation). Nevertheless, she continued to compose until her death, aged 95, in 2012. In this her centenary year, her works are beginning to receive the revival they so much deserve. A new collection of recordings and several concerts will finally make her music available to audiences worldwide.

### **Significant and Forthcoming Events**

- 90th Birthday Concert at the National Museum Prague, April 2008
- 95th Birthday Concert at the Prague Conservatoire, September 2012
- Premiere of overture to 'The Tempest' by Solway Sinfonia at Gatehouse of Fleet, Scotland, March 2015
- First Quartet performed by Stamic Quartet at the Royal Pump Rooms, Leamington Spa, February 2017
- Centenary Concert at the Prague Academy of Music (HAMU), November 2017
- Release of 'Macbeth and Other Orchestral Works' via ArcoDiva Records, July 2017
- 'Holding the Fort' by Johnny Roberts, a forthcoming biography

### **Geraldine Mucha Archive**

At the Geraldine Mucha Archive we are working to secure a place for the composer in the concert halls and conservatories of the classical music world. Through the organisation of concerts and publication of her works the unique music and story of Geraldine Mucha is gradually being rediscovered. We are based in Prague, where our small team works amongst the iconic paintings and posters of Alphonse Mucha. Interviews and information in the UK are available with the cooperation of the Mucha Foundation, which is based in Prague.