

Amphitheatre of Kameni Chora, Methana

24th August, 2025, 9:00 p.m.

Octet in F Major, D. 803

Franz Schubert

- (i) *Adagio - Allegro*
- (ii) *Adagio*
- (iii) *Allegro vivace - Trio - Allegro vivace*
- (iv) *Andante - variations. Un poco più mosso - Più lento*
- (v) *Menuetto. Allegretto - Trio - Menuetto - Coda*
- (vi) *Andante molto - Allegro - Andante molto - Allegro molto*

Bogdan Božović & Katharine Gowers, violins; Francis Kefford, viola; Julian Arp, cello; Harald Edin, double bass; Oleg Shebeta-Dragan, clarinet; Valeria Curti, bassoon; Tomás Figueiredo, French horn

PROGRAMME NOTE

Octet in F major, D.803 (1824)

Franz Schubert

Schubert's only octet was commissioned by his friend, Ferdinand Troyer, an accomplished amateur clarinettist and a strong admirer of Beethoven's popular earlier *Septet* for string trio, clarinet, bassoon, horn, and double bass. Schubert leapt at the idea, modelling it structurally on Beethoven's six movement piece, but adding a second violin. The result is a work of genius, which remains at the pinnacle of the chamber music repertoire, but is less familiar, mainly because of the logistical difficulties involved in assembling and rehearsing a group of such diverse instrumentalists all with the talent required to master the challenges of the score.

Schubert's romantic lyricism, energy, humour and poetry are all at their peak here. The first movement opens with a slow introduction, leading into a spirited *Allegro*. The subsequent movements include a rhapsodic *Adagio*, in which the clarinet shines, a spirited *Scherzo*, a set of variations on a theme from Schubert's earlier opera *Die Freunde von Salamanka*, a dramatic *Menuetto*, and a jubilant *Finale*, which unites the whole work, recalling themes from earlier movements.

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