

The Rite of Spring: Rex Lawson

Sunday 3rd July 2022 | VOCES8 Centre

We are delighted to welcome pianola virtuoso Rex Lawson to perform Stravinsky's ground-breaking ballet score for *The Rite of Spring*, with its depictions of pagan rituals and nature. It's partnered with his only piece written specifically for pianola, and a work by fellow countryman, Scriabin – a major influence on Stravinsky – played on a roll featuring Scriabin's original performance, 150 years after the composer's birth.

Programme

Igor Stravinsky *Étude pour pianola* (3 minutes)

Alexander Scriabin *Sonata No.3* (20 minutes)

5-minute interval

Igor Stravinsky *The Rite of Spring* (33 minutes)

About Rex Lawson

Fascinated by the acquisition of his first pianola in 1971, Rex abandoned plans for a more traditional music career and instead devoted himself to this rare instrument as both an international performer and academic.

In the decades since, Rex's music-making has included many remarkable discoveries unique to the pianola. He has performed worldwide with the likes of Pierre Boulez and Simon Rattle, resurrected the playing of Percy Grainger at the Last Night of the Proms, and taken the pianola to concert venues from Paris' Théâtre des Champs-Élysées to New York's Carnegie Hall.