

LANGTREE SINFONIA
ORCHESTRAL WORKSHOP

Vasily Kalinnikov

Васи́лий Кали́нников

Symphony No. 1



SHIPLAKE MEMORIAL HALL, SHIPLAKE, Nr HENLEY RG9 4DW

SUNDAY 21st FEBRUARY 2016 9.30am - 4.30pm

£ 10.00 Tea / coffee included

For further details contact :-

Chris Winch 01865 340339

Nick Kiff 01491 833515 or www.langtreesinfonia.co.uk





Vasily Sergeyevich Kalinnikov was born in 1866 at Voina, in the Orel District, where Turgenev, Henry James's "beautiful genius", had been born in 1818. The son of a police official, he studied at the seminary in Oryol before moving to Moscow in 1884 as a scholarship student at the Philharmonic Society School, taking lessons on the bassoon and in composition.

Kalinnikov's *Symphony No. 1 in G minor*, written in 1894 and 1895, was first performed at a Russian Music Society concert in Kiev in 1897. It is generally regarded as representative of the best of his achievements as a composer, although Rimsky-Korsakov was critical of the work on technical grounds.

Its first movement, marked *Allegro moderato*, has an attractive and lyrical principal theme of obvious Russian character. This is developed in colourful orchestration, with contrasting material related to it and with fugal treatment of the main theme. The slow movement, *Andante commodamente*, provides an immediate contrast in texture and colour, with orchestration that, as so often with Kalinnikov, suggests Tchaikovsky's skill in the art.

The *Scherzo*, even more Russian in its melodic language, changes the mood of introspection, now a peasant dance, contrasted with the melancholy of the trio section.

The final movement opens with a reminiscence of what has passed, before proceeding to a forthright principal theme, to which thematic material from the first movement and new material offer a contrast. The symphony ends in massive and positive triumph