



Jeroen Berwaerts • Prom 9

Tobias Broström: *Nigredo – Dark Night of the Soul*

‘A perfect month for me would be:

premiering a new trumpet concerto; a few concerts with some Jacques Brel songs; and a discussion with my students about John Cage’s *Ten Rules for Students, Teachers and Life*.’ Belgian trumpeter Jeroen Berwaerts’s wide-ranging tastes encompass jazz, period performance, contemporary music, core classical repertoire and plenty more. ‘I can’t do just one thing,’ he explains. ‘I need that variety to keep things interesting.’

It’s with a brand-new piece that he makes his BBC Proms debut as a soloist or, more correctly, co-soloist in Swedish composer Tobias Broström’s double trumpet concerto *Nigredo – Dark Night of the Soul*, alongside fellow trumpeter Håkan Hardenberger.

‘Tobias knows the trumpet very well,’ Berwaerts continues. ‘His writing is very melodic, full of tension and colours.’ How does Berwaerts feel about sharing the stage with Hardenberger? ‘He was my idol. When I was younger, I bought Håkan’s CDs and practised until I could play along with them. We met three years ago in Sweden, where I played a recital including Ligeti’s *Mysteries of the Macabre*, which was written for Håkan. You can imagine how that felt. Now, working with him is about sharing and learning on a professional basis – but, at the same time, it’s a dream come true.’