

Michael Ayton

Béla Bartók, *Music for Strings, Percussion and Celesta*

Explore Lifelong Learning – Tuesday 10th March 18.00

Composed in summer 1936 in Budapest against a backdrop of growing fascist menace in Europe, Bartók's orchestral masterpiece moves from eerie, veiled beginnings, through wild cavortings and beguiling nature sounds to an exultant folk-dance-flavoured conclusion.

Aided by a filmed online performance, we'll examine how this stunning work is constructed, what influences lie behind its magical textures and driving rhythms, and who its intense, visionary composer really was.