

PRIMA  
CLASSIC



# THE LITTLE PRINCE

OLGA JEGUNOVA & MATTHEW CRAMPTON

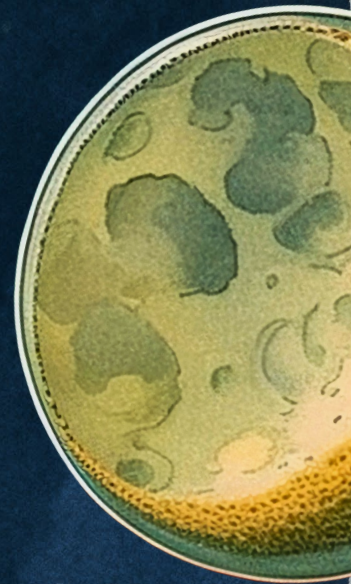


# THE LITTLE PRINCE

OLGA & MATTHEW

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ioneering musical storytellers Olga & Matthew present their spellbinding interpretation of the beloved tale of *The Little Prince*. Recorded live in London, storyteller Matthew Crampton tells his own version of the famous book by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, while pianist Olga Jegunova improvises on classical themes to weave musical magic through the words.

***Maybe one day you will find yourself in the desert. Maybe you will meet a young boy who laughs, who has golden hair, and who refuses to answer questions...***

*The Little Prince* has captivated generations since its publication in 1943. It is one of the world's best-selling and most-translated books. Olga & Matthew's approach succeeds by capturing the purity of personal storytelling. Matthew's script teases out the beauty of Saint-Exupéry's story, while Olga's music helps the audience, like readers of the book, create their own world for this tale.

***Children. Be patient with adults. They can't help being grown-up.***

This is a recording for both children and adults, whether they hear it apart, but especially when they hear it together.



## MATTHEW TALKS ABOUT THE LITTLE PRINCE

### PIONEERS IN MUSICAL STORYTELLING



Olga is winner of several major international piano competitions and a music journalist, while

Matthew is a storyteller, writer and folk singer.

Together, they have developed a remarkable way to tell stories with voice and solo piano. Drawing on popular books, traditional tales and Greek myths, Matthew performs the story while Olga improvises around classical themes. Aside from *The Little Prince*, they have recently won acclaim for their versions of *Diana & Actaeon* and *The Flaming Firebird*. Aimed at both grown-ups and children, this is storytelling at its most vibrant and fresh.

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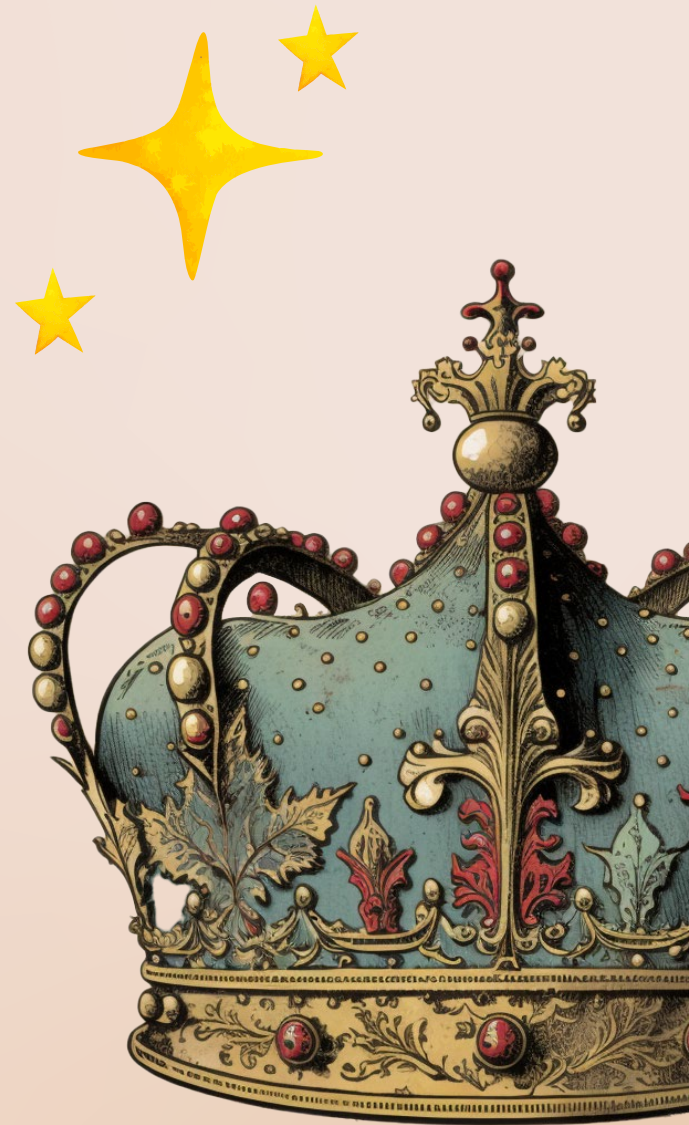
One of the joys of being a storyteller emerges after the show. Audience members, particularly adults, come up to say “It’s SO good to be told a story. I haven’t felt like this since I was a child.” Then they tell you which tales they loved when they were young. And for our first few years performing as Olga & Matthew, it was incredible how many people told us *The Little Prince* was their favourite book. So for their pleasure, and yours, we created our own version.

*The Little Prince* is hardly a typical children’s story (indeed many argue it’s really for adults). The tale is not full of action, but dreamlike and philosophical. It creates a delicate mood, and wanders between a series of quirky characters. A strong streak of melancholy runs through the book, and the story ends, remarkably, with a child seeming to will their own death.

Yet for all this strangeness, this is clearly the world of a child, so young readers feel at home within it. Moreover, Saint-Exupéry’s genius is to view this world through an adult dropped into it – so opening the door to grown-up readers too.

The early arguments between the aviator and the prince remind young people of the frustrations of being misunderstood by grown-ups. At the same time, brilliantly, they waken adults to the beauty of childhood, and what they've lost in growing up. It's lovely to watch a parent and child together in the audience, experiencing the story separately and together.

A quick word about my script. It's not simply a translation, for I have made many changes to adapt a literary work into a performance piece. Though far shorter in length than the original, it still includes most of the story, and the main characters and scenes. Early on we wondered whether we should incorporate the gorgeous pictures from the book. But we realized that Olga's music helps you create those pictures for yourself. Together, the voice and piano recreate the intimacy of having the story read personally to you.

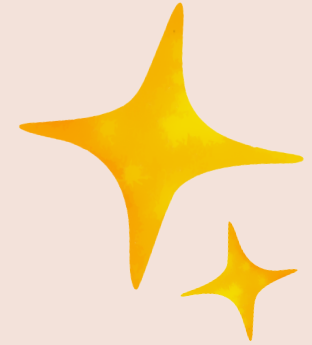




## OLGA JEGUNOVA



**O**lga Jegunova is a multifaceted Russian-Latvian artist combining various genres and disciplines. While being a classical concert pianist, she puts strong emphasis on educational projects and philanthropic work.



As a concert pianist, Olga performs in various genres as a soloist and in ensembles recognised by multiple international awarding bodies, artists and educational organisations. Among them are Jāzeps Vītols Latvian Academy of Music, Hochschule für Musik und Theater Hamburg and the Royal College of Music in London. Her repertoire is therefore vast, spanning from baroque to contemporary pieces composed especially for her. Olga is also a Steinway Artist.

Olga has also created a charity called Open Music Foundation supporting talented musicians of all ages and organising fundraising events digitally and live. As an open-minded and dedicated creative, Olga continuously expands her practice in an effort to enrich the music community.

*[olgajegunova.com](http://olgajegunova.com)*





## MATTHEW CRAMPTON

**M**atthew Crampton is a storyteller, writer and singer. As a storyteller, he works solo as well as with other artists such as Olga Jegunova, developing new ways to tell stories with music. His co-devised show *The Transports* won Five Stars from The Guardian and was an evening concert on BBC Radio 3. His show *Human Cargo* is based on his 2016 book *Human Cargo: stories & songs of emigration, slavery & transportation*.

Based in London, Matthew also performs music hall, works in schools and writes books on subjects as diverse as Hebridean fishing and making sweets. His publishing company Muddler Books reprints classic books such as *Animal Farm*. Among previous careers, he worked as a speechwriter in London and Hong Kong, dramaturg at The Old Vic theatre, masseur and finance director. His awards include Hebridean Fish of the Year 2008.

*[matthewcrampton.com](http://matthewcrampton.com)*



## CREDITS

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Executive Producer: Edgardo Vertanessian

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