

BL Ballet Victoria

Felix Mendelssohn composed music for Shakespeare's play A Midsummer Night's Dream, at the start of his Career, he wrote the famous overture.

The first British performance of the overture was conducted by Mendelssohn himself, on 24 June 1829, at the Argyll Rooms in London, at a concert in benefit of the victims of the floods in Silesia.

After the concert, Thomas Attwood was given the score for the Overture for safe-keeping, but he left it in a cab and it was never recovered. Another trick from one of the characters? Mendelssohn rewrote it from memory!

Sixteen years later, in 1842, he wrote the music for the complete play including the overture. The first performance was in October 1843 in Potsdam, 4 years before he died aged 38 in November 1846.



Portrait of Mendelssohn by
James Warren Childe, 1839



Gail Takahashi