



Press Release

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Britten Sinfonia: Spring 2010

Britten Sinfonia continues its 2009/10 season with specially commissioned works from three young composers – **Ulrich Kreppein, Nico Muhly** and **Gwilym Simcock** – and the return of **Mark Padmore, Pekka Kuusisto** and **Imogen Cooper**. Music ranges across both sides of the Atlantic, and through five centuries, from Gibbons to Copland, Mozart to Messiaen, Pärt to Purcell.

Highlights include:

Nico Muhly in residence – January 2010

Young American composer **Nico Muhly** takes up residence with the orchestra during January and early February 2010. The residency includes a concert at London's Roundhouse, as part of the new **Reverb Roundhouse Concerts** series (24 January), and the premieres of two new works. *Impossible Things*, with text taken from translations of the poems of C.P. Cavafy by **Daniel Mendelsohn**, has been written for string orchestra, tenor **Mark Padmore** and violinist **Pekka Kuusisto** (world premiere: 27 January, Eindhoven; UK premiere: 5 February, Cambridge; 8 February, Queen Elizabeth Hall and touring). The work is premiered as part of "*Britten in America*" a programme featuring music from both sides of the Atlantic – from Adams and Reich to Britten, Tippett and Purcell. Muhly's new chamber work, *Motion*, scored for clarinet, piano and string quartet and loosely based on Gibbons's "*See, See the Word is Incarnate*", is premiered as part of the orchestra's award-winning lunchtime series (17-22 January – Krakow and UK tour). *

Britten Sinfonia at the Roundhouse

Saturday 23 & Sunday 24 January

Britten Sinfonia makes a double appearance at the new Reverb Roundhouse Concerts series, with **Nico Muhly** (on 24 January) and **Joanna MacGregor** the previous night. The performance marks the launch of the release of a new CD featuring MacGregor and the orchestra *Live in Buenos Aires* (Warner Classics and Jazz, release date: 22 February). Recorded during the orchestra's first, highly acclaimed tour of South America in May 2007, *Live in Buenos Aires* ventures from Tudor laments to South American dance music, with music by Stravinsky, Gismonti, Golijov and Joanna MacGregor's arrangements of Piazzolla tangos and songs by John Dowland.** The Roundhouse concert also includes a performance of JS Bach's *Keyboard Concerto No.1 in D minor* and *Concerto No. 5 in F minor*.

Britten Sinfonia at Lunch – January, March and April/May 2010

Britten Sinfonia at Lunch waves goodbye to traditionally staid, 'safe' lunchtime concerts, by offering intelligent, fresh programming founded on outstanding musicianship. The series won this year's prestigious Royal Philharmonic Society Music Award for Chamber Music, for "extraordinary artistry as chamber musicians and soloists.... in a remarkably fresh project". Performances take place in West Road Concert Hall Cambridge, Birmingham Town Hall, the Filharmonie, Krakow, Assembly House Norwich and at London's Wigmore Hall, with a special Britten Sinfonia at Lunch week on BBC Radio 3 in late Spring 2010.

The programming mantle is handed to three composers in 2010, all under 30 years of age, each of whom also write a new work for the series, co-commissioned with the Wigmore Hall. **Nico Muhly's** January 2010 (17-22 January) lunchtime concerts mix music by Jacobean composer Orlando Gibbons with Herbert Howells and Aaron Copland; German composer **Ulrich Kreppein** (2 – 14 March) explores the sound of the oboe in a programme of music by Schubert, Mozart and Colin Matthews' arrangement of Schumann's *Mondnacht*; BBC Radio 3 New Generation Artist **Gwilym Simcock** stands at the meeting point between classical and jazz. He performs in his own new work in the final concert of the lunchtime series that brings together Ravel's *Piano Trio* and Messiaen's *Louange à l'éternité de Jésus* (25 April – 5 May).

Britten Sinfonia and Polyphony

8 April - Trinity College Chapel, Cambridge

9 April – Norwich Theatre Royal

Following the 2008 sell-out tour of *Messiah*, Britten Sinfonia once again joins forces with Polyphony for an Easter concert featuring Eriks Esenvald's powerful *Passion and Resurrection*, Bach's Concerto for two violins, BWV 1043 and Arvo Pärt's *Cantus in Memory of Benjamin Britten*, for string orchestra and bell.

Imogen Cooper and Britten Sinfonia

17 May – West Road Concert Hall

18 May – Queen Elizabeth Hall

20 May – Bregenz, Austria

Britten Sinfonia's acclaimed cycle of Beethoven Concerto's draws to a close when **Imogen Cooper** performs and directs the orchestra in the majestic "Emperor" Concerto. The first half of the programme provides an eloquent contrast with Mozart's elegant, spirited *Symphony No. 35 in D major*, directed by Britten Sinfonia leader **Jacqueline Shave**.

Full box office and booking details are available at www.brittensinfonia.com

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* *Impossible Things* has been co-commissioned by Britten Sinfonia, Muziekcentrum Frits Philips Eindhoven and Tapiola Sinfonietta. *Motion*, and all other new works in the lunchtime series, has been co-commissioned by Britten Sinfonia and the Wigmore Hall.

** Joanna MacGregor will release 'Live In Buenos Aires' through Warner Classics & Jazz on 22nd February 2010. The release marks the first of three new recordings on WCJ, as well as the forthcoming reissue of Joanna's entire back catalogue on CD, and for the first time digitally. Joanna's label, SoundCircus, continues as an imprint of WCJ.'