



Press Release

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Britten Sinfonia at Lunch Sunday 25 April – 5 May 2010

Britten Sinfonia's award-winning 'at lunch' series draws to a close for 2009/10 with a concert featuring BBC Radio 3 New Generation Artist **Gwilym Simcock**.

Gwilym Simcock stands at the meeting point between classical and jazz. He performs in his own new work, *Simple Tales*, a suite of 'miniatures' co-commissioned with the Wigmore Hall, in a programme that also features Ravel's *Piano Trio*, with soloist **Shai Wosner**, and Messiaen's *Louange à l'éternité de Jésus*. Britten Sinfonia leader **Jacqueline Shave** and principal cello **Caroline Dearnley** complete the quartet of musicians featured in this concert.

Britten Sinfonia at Lunch has grown rapidly over the past three seasons and now includes performances in Cambridge, Birmingham Town Hall, the Filharmonie, Krakow, Assembly House Norwich and at London's Wigmore Hall. Britten Sinfonia at Lunch will also be broadcast on BBC Radio 3 in Spring 2010. All concerts begin at 1pm (Midday in Krakow) and last one hour, with tickets as low as £7 (£3 concessions) in Cambridge. Norwich and Birmingham/ £12/£10 in London.

www.brittensinfonia.com

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Sunday 25 April at Midday Krakow Filharmonic Hall
Tuesday 27 April at 1pm West Road Concert Hall, Cambridge
Friday 30 April at 1pm Norwich Assembly House
Tuesday 4 May at 1pm Birmingham Town Hall
Wednesday 5 May at 1pm Wigmore Hall, London

Jacqueline Shave	violin
Caroline Dearnley	cello
Gwilym Simcock	piano*
Shai Wosner	piano **
Simcock	Simple Tales * (world premiere tour)
Ravel	piano trio **
Messiaen	Louange à l'Eternité de Jésus

Gwilym Simcock

28 year old, Gwilym Simcock is one of the most gifted pianists and imaginative composers on the British scene. Able to move effortlessly between jazz and classical music, he can, at times, inhabit both worlds and has been described as stylistically reminiscent of Keith Jarrett, complete with 'harmonic sophistication and subtle dovetailing of musical traditions' as well as being a pianist of 'exceptional', 'brilliant' and 'dazzling' ability. His music has been widely acclaimed as 'engaging, exciting, often unexpected, melodically enthralling, complex and wonderfully optimistic'.

Gwilym's influences include jazz legends Keith Jarrett, Chick Corea and John Taylor and classical composers Maurice Ravel and Igor Stravinsky, Mark-Anthony Turnage. Although principally a jazz artist, Gwilym is breaking new ground between genres and often uses classical reference points in his composed work.

Aside from his renowned solo piano work, Gwilym has worked extensively throughout Europe with the cream of British and international jazz artists including Dave Holland, Kenny Wheeler, Lee Konitz, Bill Bruford's Earthworks, Bob Mintzer and Bobby McFerrin. His own groups as leader range from trio to big band. His debut album "Perception" featuring his sextet with Stan Sulzmann (saxophones), John Parricelli (guitar), Phil Donkin (bass), Martin France (drums) and Ben Bryant (percussion) was nominated for Best Album in the BBC Jazz Awards 2008 and has been critically acclaimed at home and abroad.

Winner of the Perrier Award, BBC Jazz Awards 2005. British Jazz Awards 2005 Gwilym was the first BBC Radio 3 New Generation jazz Artist. He was voted "Jazz Musician of the Year" at the 2007 Parliamentary Jazz Awards nominated for the 2008 BBC Jazz Awards as Best Instrumentalist. His impressive formal education includes Trinity College of Music (London), Chetham's School of Music (Manchester) – where he studied classical piano, French horn and composition and the Royal Academy of Music (London) where he graduated from the jazz course with first class honours and the coveted 'Principal's Prize' for outstanding achievement.