

Britten Sinfonia



If you think classical music is dead, go hear the Britten Sinfonia and see a healthy body bursting with vitality. This band seems to have its finger on the pulse without resorting to any trendy gimmicks. The audience is a bigger mix than any to be seen over at the Festival Hall concerts, with plenty of young people and quite a few kids, and as the lights dim and the players come on stage, they're received with all the ecstasy usually reserved for a cult group.

David Nice, writer/broadcaster

One of Europe's most celebrated and innovative groups, Britten Sinfonia features some of the finest chamber musicians and soloists. The orchestra is widely praised for the quality of its performance and intelligent approach to concert programming which is centred around the development of its players. Uniquely it does not have a principal conductor or artistic director but chooses to work with a range of the finest international guest artists from across the musical spectrum as suited to each particular project.

Recent seasons have included projects with Thomas Adès, Pierre-Laurent Aimard, James MacMillan, Ian Bostridge, Joanna MacGregor, Masaaki Suzuki, Polyphony and the Michael Clark Company. In 2008/09 guest artists include Mark Padmore, director Katie Mitchell, Imogen Cooper, Dhafer Youssef, Alina Ibragimova and Paul Lewis.

Britten Sinfonia performs in many of Europe's finest concert halls and Festivals and is a regular at the BBC Proms and has residencies in Cambridge, Norwich,

Birmingham and Krakow with a concert series at London's Southbank Centre and the Wigmore Hall. The ensemble enjoys a blossoming international profile, a recent highlight being an acclaimed tour of South America, and is frequently heard on disc, BBC Radio 3 and commercial radio. The orchestra has received awards including a Gramophone Award and in 2007 won the prestigious Royal Philharmonic Society Ensemble Award in recognition for its work.

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