

## Press Release

For release: 17 October 2016



### BRITTEN SINFONIA – NOVEMBER CONCERTS

- **Steve Reich at 80**
- **European premiere of Gerald Barry's *Alice's Adventures Under Ground***
- **UK premiere of Hartmann's *Simplicius Smplicissimus*, with Independent Opera at Sadler's Wells**
- **Elgar's *The Dream of Gerontius* at Ely Cathedral**
- **Celebrating the newly-restored organ at King's College Chapel**

Britten Sinfonia's November concert programme is typical of the orchestra's bold, energising approach to music making. The packed month of music includes a celebration of **Steve Reich's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday**, and the European premiere of Gerald Barry's ***Alice's Adventures Under Ground*** at the Barbican. The orchestra also takes a leading role at **Cambridge Music Festival** with concerts in two of East England's most evocative settings: a performance of Elgar's ***The Dream of Gerontius*** in Ely Cathedral bringing together Cambridge University's finest college choirs with outstanding soloists including tenor, **Allan Clayton**, and a gala concert to inaugurate the newly restored organ in **King's College Chapel**. Britten Sinfonia also joins forces with **Independent Opera at Sadler's Wells** for the UK premiere of Karl Amadeus Hartmann's rarely performed opera, *Simplicius Smplicissimus*.

Concerts take place at the Barbican (where Britten Sinfonia is an Associate Ensemble), Saffron Hall (where the orchestra is Resident Orchestra) and at venues including Colston Hall, Bristol and Sadler's Wells, London.

#### Further press information from:

Sophie Cohen on 020 7428 9850 07711 551 787 [sophiecohen@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:sophiecohen@blueyonder.co.uk)

Visit [www.brittensinfonia.com](http://www.brittensinfonia.com) for full details.

Box Office details/links

[Barbican Hall, London](#)

[Saffron Hall, Saffron Walden](#)

[Colston Hall, Bristol](#)

[Sadler's Wells, London](#)

[Cambridge Music Festival](#)

## The Concerts

### Steve Reich at 80

**Saturday 5, Sunday 6 and Monday 14 November**

**Barbican, Saffron Hall and Colston Hall Bristol**

A concert to celebrate the master of minimalism's 80th birthday. Alongside Steve Reich and Beryl Korot's acclaimed multi-media fable for the 20th century, *Three Tales*, Britten Sinfonia performs Reich's latest work, *Pulse* (a Barbican co-commission), and his seminal work for string quartet and tape, *Different Trains* – works which see Reich at his most innovative, uncompromising and prophetic.

*Three Tales* reflects on the dramatic impact technology has exerted on life in the twentieth century. This sound and video work contemplates three definitive historical moments: the 1937 Hindenburg crash, the nuclear bomb tests at the Bikini atoll in 1949, and the cloning of sheep "Dolly" in 1997 utilising archive footage, images and interviews.

The Barbican performance is part of a *Reich at 80* weekend (5-6 November) and *The Sounds That Changed America*, the Barbican's year-long celebration of the music of Steve Reich, John Adams and Philip Glass. **Clark Rundell** conducts.

Saffron Hall pre-concert talk, 6.30pm: Britten Sinfonia musicians discuss tonight's programme (free to ticket holders)

### Kings College Organ Gala, with Thomas Trotter

**Wednesday 9 November and live on BBC Radio 3**

Britten Sinfonia alongside acclaimed organist, **Thomas Trotter**, returns to King's College for the first concert on the Chapel's newly restored organ. The programme, with **Jennifer Johnston** (mezzo-soprano) and the **King's College Choir** conducted by **Stephen Cleobury**, includes Poulenc's lyrical Organ Concerto and Durufle's plainsong-inspired Requiem. The performance is part of Cambridge Music Festival and promoted in association with Concerts at King's

### Independent Opera at Sadler's Wells

**UK premiere of *Simplicius Simplicissimus***

**Friday 11, Tuesday 15, Thursday 17 & Saturday 19 November**

**Lilian Baylis Studio, Sadler's Wells**

**Independent Opera at Sadler's Wells** returns with **Britten Sinfonia**, for the UK première of 20<sup>th</sup> century German Karl Amadeus Hartmann's *Simplicius Simplicissimus* in a new translation by **David Pountney**.

Written in 1934, and premiered in 1948, Hartmann's opera draws on Grimmelshausen's 17th-century epic picaresque novel of the same name to create a powerful meditation on the forces of innocence and experience, testimony to the tumultuous times in which the opera was written,. The opera tracks the journey of one individual, the sheltered, ignorant shepherd boy, Simplicius Simplicissimus, whose life is upturned by the events of the Thirty Years' War. 2016 Independent Opera Director Fellow, **Polly Graham**, directs and **Timothy Redmond** conducts.

## **The Dream of Gerontius at Ely Cathedral**

**Saturday 12 November**

**Allan Clayton** (tenor), **Allison Cook** (mezzo-soprano) and **Duncan Rock** (baritone) lead the mass choirs of **Jesus, Clare, Gonville, Caius and Selwyn Colleges Cambridge**, the **Choristers of Jesus and St Catharine's Colleges** and the **Girls Choristers of Ely Cathedral** and **Cambridge University Chamber Choir** in a Cambridge Music Festival performance of Elgar's choral masterpiece. **Mark Williams** conducts.

## **European premiere of Gerald Barry's *Alice's Adventures Under Ground***

**Monday 28 November, Barbican**

Opera through the looking glass: the surreal imagination of Carroll collides with one of contemporary music's most idiosyncratic minds in **Gerald Barry's** uproarious new opera. **Thomas Adès** conducts Britten Sinfonia and an outstanding cast in a concert performance, with **Barbara Hannigan** singing the role of Alice.

*Alice's Adventures Under Ground* also marks the start of a special Britten Sinfonia association Thomas Adès and Gerald Barry this season. Adès returns in the spring for the start of a three-year Britten Sinfonia Beethoven Symphony Cycle, with each programme interleaved with works by Barry.

Britten Sinfonia's associateship at the Barbican has resulted in close collaboration between venue and ensemble, both on and off-stage; *Alice's Adventures Under Ground* has been co-commissioned by the Barbican, Britten Sinfonia and Los Angeles Philharmonic Association.

Produced by Britten Sinfonia and the Barbican