

Press Release

For release: 10 November 2016



Britten Sinfonia at Lunch 2016-2017

London * Norwich * Cambridge

December 2016 – July 2017

- **Featuring specially commissioned new chamber works by Mark-Anthony Turnage, Brian Elias and Elena Langer**
- **Season opens 9-14 December with the world premiere of a piano trio by Sohrab Uduman, winner of the orchestra's OPUS2016 open submission scheme for unpublished composers.**

Serving up lunchtime music with real bite, Britten Sinfonia's At Lunch season returns in December, with a series of new works (co-commissioned with Wigmore Hall) from leading and emerging composers, alongside some of the greatest chamber repertoire including music by Webern, Schoenberg, Ravel, Stravinsky, Oliver Knussen, Finzi and Mozart.

Concerts, which begin at 1pm, last an hour and won't break the bank, offer the chance to hear some of the country's finest chamber musicians in more intimate repertoire. The outstanding line-up of featured Britten Sinfonia Principals include the orchestra's Leaders **Thomas Gould** and **Jacqueline Shave**, award-winning oboist **Nicholas Daniel**, **Caroline Dearnley** (cello), **Clare Finnimore** (viola), **Miranda Dale** (violin) and **Joy Farrell** (clarinet). The final At Lunch concert of the season, features **Britten Sinfonia Academy**, the ensemble's orchestra for outstanding teenage musical talent from the East of England, in the world premiere of a specially commissioned new work by **Elena Langer**.

Britten Sinfonia at Lunch 1: Sohrab Uduman premiere

9, 13 and 14 December

Norwich St Andrew's Hall; Cambridge West Road Concert Hall; Wigmore Hall, London

Britten Sinfonia launches its 2016-17 season of At Lunch concerts with the world premiere of *Dann klingt es auf*, a new piano trio by 53-year-old **Sohrab Uduman**, the winner of the orchestra's popular OPUS competition for unrepresented composers. The work is part of a programme that also includes Webern's *Four Pieces for violin and piano, Op.7*, and Schoenberg's first published work, *Verklarte Nacht* arranged for piano trio by Eduard Steuermann, and is performed by Britten Sinfonia Principals **Thomas Gould** (Leader), **Caroline Dearnley** (cello) and pianist **Diana Ketler**.

Commenting on his new work, **Sohrab Uduman** says:

“The piece takes as its starting point the fusion and disentangling of the contrasting timbres of the piano and strings; taking the sound-world on a journey through rhythms and textures which compress and stretch, shrink and expand. The title and impulse for the piece, the idea of a sound’s moving, ‘shimmering colours’ at times masked, muted, at others radiant and revealed, as well as the music’s play between darkness and illumination, comes from a poem by Hildegard Jone, by way of a text used by Webern for his Second Cantata: ... Dann klingt es auf /Wenn nichts das Aug mehr bindet, /dann flutet Glanz ins Ohr”.

OPUS offers unrepresented composers a rare opportunity not just to write a new piece for the orchestra’s lunchtime series, but also to work with Britten Sinfonia’s outstanding chamber musicians in the development of their work. OPUS2016’s winner, **Sohrab Uduman**, emerged from a shortlist of ten composers, chosen from over 280 applications by composers nationwide. He was selected as the competition winner following a weekend of intensive public workshops, which included performances, recording and discussion of all ten shortlisted works, and a one-to-one ‘instrument surgery’ with Britten Sinfonia musicians.*

Further press information from:

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*The first three OPUS competitions were won by young composers Ryan Latimer, Patrick John James and Edward Nesbit. To date, over 550 composers have applied to OPUS.

Diary Dates:

At Lunch Concert 2: Mark-Anthony Turnage premiere

8, 10 and 14 February

Wigmore Hall, London; St Andrew’s Hall, Norwich; West Road Concert Hall, Cambridge

Stravinsky	Three Pieces for String Quartet
Mark-Anthony Turnage	Prayer for a great man
Oliver Knussen	Cantata for Oboe Quartet
Ravel	Introduction & Allegro
Stravinsky	Concertino for String Quartet
Mark-Anthony Turnage	Col (world premiere tour)

At Lunch Concert 3: premiere of Oboe Quintet by Brian Elias

19, 21 and 25 April

London, Norwich and Cambridge

Finzi	Interlude
Brian Elias	New work for oboe quintet (world premiere tour)
Mozart	String Quintet in C minor 406/516b

**At Lunch Concert 4: Britten Sinfonia Academy - Elena Langer premiere
Plus a new fanfare from Academy Composer Member, Morgan Overton
13 & 14 July**

Norwich and Cambridge

Morgan Overton
Arvo Part
Elena Langer
Dvorak

Fanfare
Cantus in Memoriam Benjamin Britten
Swimming in the Limmat!
Czech Suite

Notes to editors:

Britten Sinfonia has commissioned or premiered over 100 new works across all its concerts in the past seven years alone, with almost 50 in the first decade of its 'At Lunch' series. In addition, the orchestra introduces school children to composing through regular sessions in schools. Its annual composition workshop for Cambridge University composition students (which is led each year by Britten Sinfonia musicians and a leading composer - including John Woolrich, Oliver Knussen, James MacMillan and Nico Muhly) has resulted in a number of commissions for young composers.

www.brittensinfonia.com

About Sohrab Uduman

Sohrab Uduman was born in Sri-Lanka in 1962. He began his musical life as a clarinettist, at the University of Surrey, and went on to study composition at the University of Birmingham with Vic Hoyland and Jonty Harrison where he received a PhD in 1993. His music has received several awards, including an international prize at the Huddersfield Festival of Contemporary Music, The Bourges International Competition for Electro-acoustic Music, the George Butterworth Award, the Oskar Back Foundation Prize for Young European Composers and the Prix Annelie de Man. Sohrab Uduman's music has featured at many festivals, including the Oxford Festival of Contemporary Music, The Spitalfields Festival, the Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival, the Cheltenham International Festival of Music, Darmstadt, Britten Festival Brugges and Agora Festival at IRCAM, Centre Georges Pompidou Paris. He lives in Cheshire and works at the Department of Music & Music Technology at Keele University. www.sohrabuduman.co.uk