

## Press Release

For release: Friday 3 February 2017



### **Britten Sinfonia 2017-18 season as Associate Ensemble at the Barbican**

**The season marks Britten Sinfonia's 25<sup>th</sup> birthday**

#### **Highlights include:**

- **The second year of Thomas Adès's Beethoven Symphony Cycle, alongside music by Gerald Barry**
- **Mark Elder conducts Brahms, Mahler and Finzi**
- **Britten Sinfonia and the Choir of King's College Cambridge in Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms***
- **Jeremy Denk and Britten Sinfonia in jazz-inspired works by Stravinsky and Gershwin**
- **Britten Sinfonia Voices in Stravinsky's *Mass* and Mozart's *Missa Solemnis***

**Soloists include Elisabeth Kulman, Ailish Tynan, Nicolas Hodges, Joshua Bloom and BBC Young Musician 2016 finalist, Ben Goldscheider**

**General booking opens 10am, Friday 3 February**

**[www.barbican.org.uk/classical1718](http://www.barbican.org.uk/classical1718)**

In 2017/18, Britten Sinfonia celebrates its first five years as an Associate Ensemble at the Barbican, and its 25<sup>th</sup> birthday with a season (from September 2017) that features symphonic masterpieces, choral gems, contemporary classics and jazz-inspired rhapsodies. **General booking opens today (Friday 3 February) at [www.barbican.org.uk](http://www.barbican.org.uk).**

Highlights of Britten Sinfonia's 2017/18 season as Associate Ensemble at the Barbican include:

- The second year of Britten Sinfonia's three-year Beethoven Symphony Cycle conducted by **Thomas Adès** features Beethoven's 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Symphonies, juxtaposed with music by **Gerald Barry**, whose "ferociously objective" music is

described by Adès as a natural companion to Beethoven. *The Conquest of Ireland*, with bass **Joshua Bloom** and the London premiere of Barry's *Piano Concerto* with soloist **Nicolas Hodges** are the featured Gerald Barry works (22 & 24 May 2018).

- **Sir Mark Elder** returns to conduct the orchestra in Brahms's *First Symphony*. Brahms's symphony was originally performed with considerably smaller musical forces than we are used to hearing today, and Elder remains true to the authentic spirit in this performance, allowing the fascinating details of Brahms's lyrical masterpiece to shine through. To accompany the symphony, Elder has chosen poetic works including Mahler's *Rückert-Lieder*, with soloist **Elisabeth Kulman**, and Finzi's soaring *Fall of the Leaf*. (9 November 2017)
- Christmas and Easter are marked by choral masterworks. The **Choir of King's College Cambridge** joins Britten Sinfonia for a performance of two 20<sup>th</sup> century greats: Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms*, an exhilarating invocation of the composer's hopes for brotherhood and peace, sentiments mirrored by Vaughan Williams's impassioned *Dona nobis pacem*. **Stephen Cleobury** conducts the orchestra and soloists including **Ailish Tynan**. The concert opens with the premiere of a new work by **Emma-Ruth Richards**. (2 December 2017).

Easter is marked by **Britten Sinfonia Voices** in a performance of two masses written 170 years apart: Stravinsky's *Mass*, with its sensational harmonic colours and Mozart's beautiful *Missa Brevis*. The concert is completed by 2016 BBC Young Musician of the Year finalist **Ben Goldscheider** in Esa-Pekka Salonen's *Concert étude* for solo horn. (28 March 2018).

- Mercurial American pianist **Jeremy Denk**, last heard putting the orchestra through its paces as part of the Barbican's Sound Unbound weekend in 2015, returns to direct a Milton Court Concert Hall programme of jazz-inspired works by Stravinsky and Gershwin. Jeremy Denk is Milton Court Artist-in-Residence in 2018. (27 February 2018).

Britten Sinfonia's 2017-18 season opens with a concert of outstanding chamber music of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century by **Stravinsky**, **Britten** and English composers including **Oliver Knussen**, **Helen Grime** and **Thomas Adès** as part of the Barbican's *This is Rattle* season (20 September 2017).

**Further press information from: Sophie Cohen on 020 7428 9850**  
**07711 551 787 [sophiecohen@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:sophiecohen@blueyonder.co.uk) [www.brittensinfonia.com](http://www.brittensinfonia.com)**