

Press Release

For release: 8 March 2017



Britten Sinfonia Easter concerts

Britten Sinfonia and Mark Padmore: Bach's *St John Passion* with poetry by T.S. Eliot and sacred texts read by Simon Russell Beale

Thursday 13 April at 7.30pm – St Andrew's Hall, Norwich

Good Friday, 14 April at 6.00pm – Barbican Hall, London

Saturday 15 April at 7.30pm – King's College Chapel Cambridge

www.brittensinfonia.com

Tenor **Mark Padmore** describes Bach's music as '*an endless journey of discovery*'; as part of this journey, he has sung the role of the Evangelist in Bach *Passions* numerous times, to widespread critical acclaim. This Easter (13-15 April), he joins **Britten Sinfonia** to offer a personal reflection on Bach's *St John Passion*, singing Evangelist and curating a programme that sets the majestic mix of the theatrical and devotional in Bach's masterwork alongside a selection of poems by T.S. Eliot and sacred texts, read by **Simon Russell Beale**. Britten Sinfonia Leader **Jacqueline Shave** directs the orchestra, with **Britten Sinfonia Voices** directed by **Eamonn Dougan**.

Mark Padmore comments: "*Bach's St John Passion is a profound meditation on suffering. It was written for the Good Friday service in the Thomas Church of Leipzig to disturb the conscience and provoke the compassion of the congregation. By including biblical texts and poetry by T.S. Eliot - read by Simon Russell Beale - we hope to focus attention on the message that this timeless masterpiece has for our own age*".

Mark Padmore has been a regular musical collaborator with Britten Sinfonia since 2008. The collaboration has resulted in many and varied projects including: Britten's *Nocturne*, performed in a concert staging by Katie Mitchell; performances of Britten's *Serenade for Tenor, Horn and Strings* and *Les Illuminations*; a sixteen date European tour featuring the premiere of a specially commissioned work for tenor and orchestra by Nico Muhly, and an acclaimed English song programme with Finzi's *Dies Natalis* at its heart (also released on Harmonia Mundi HMU807552).

Britten Sinfonia's Easter concerts are something of a seasonal fixture at the Barbican, where the orchestra is an Associate Ensemble, and in Norwich and Cambridge, where the orchestra also enjoys residencies.

Further press information from: Sophie Cohen on 020 7482 3466 (NOTE – NEW PHONE NUMBER) 07711 551 787 sophiecohen@blueyonder.co.uk

www.brittensinfonia.com www.markpadmore.com

Venue, ticket and box office information

Thursday 13 April at 7.30pm – St Andrew’s Hall, Norwich

www.brittensinfonia.com

Tickets: £6-£30

Good Friday, 14 April at 6.00pm – Barbican Hall, London (NOTE – Early Start)

Box Office: 020 7638 8891

www.barbican.org.uk

Tickets: £10-£45

Saturday 15 April at 7.30pm – Kings College Chapel, Cambridge

Box Office: 01223 769342

www.kings.cam.ac.uk/events/easter-at-kings

Tickets: £15 - £40