

Press Release

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Britten Sinfonia – Concert highlights Spring 2018

Britten Sinfonia's 25th anniversary season continues in the New Year with a series of world and UK firsts. Highlights include:

- The second installment of **Thomas Adès's Beethoven Symphony Cycle**, with Beethoven's Symphonies 4, 5 & 6 alongside **Gerald Barry's *The Conquest of Ireland*** and the London premiere of his *Piano Concerto*.
- The world premiere of **Mark-Anthony Turnage's opera *Coraline***, in a Royal Opera House production at the Barbican.
- **Jeremy Denk** in a jazz-infused programme, including the original jazz band arrangement of Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*.
- Easter performances of Stravinsky's *Mass*, Mozart's *Missa Brevis* and Bach's *St John Passion*
- **Ben Goldscheider** in Esa-Pekka Salonen's *Concert étude* for solo horn.
- World premiere of works by **Leo Chadburn**, **Caroline Shaw** and **Tom Coult** as part of Britten Sinfonia 'At Lunch' 2018 season.
- International touring includes performances at the Philharmonie, Paris and Amsterdam Concertgebouw.

FULL DETAILS AT: www.brittensinfonia.com

FURTHER PRESS INFORMATION FROM: Sophie Cohen on 020 7482 3466 07711 551 787
sophie@sophiecohenartspr.com

BRITTEN SINFONIA SPRING 2018 CONCERTS MONTH BY MONTH DIARY

JANUARY 2018

A new work by **Leo Chadburn**, co-commissioned with Wigmore Hall, is on the menu in the first 'At Lunch' concert of 2018. Scored for electronics and string trio – the outstanding line up features Britten Sinfonia Principals **Jacqueline Shave** (violin), **Caroline Dearnley** (cello) and **Huw Watkins** (piano). Chadburn's new work features alongside music spanning 350 years: **Mozart's *Piano Trio in B Flat***, **Biber's *Annunciaton Sonata 1***, **Arvo Pärt's *Spiegel im Spiegel*** and **Philip Glass's *Orbit***. Composer **Leo Chadburn** is also a self-styled "transgressive, investigatory pop" performer under his alter-ego Simon Bookish.

Tuesday 23 January – West Road Concert Hall, Cambridge

Wednesday 24 January – Wigmore Hall, London

Friday 26 January – St Andrew's Hall, Norwich

FEBRUARY

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 jazz-inspired programme of works by Stravinsky and Gershwin. At its centre are two works written in 1924: Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*, performed in the original jazz band arrangement and Stravinsky's rhythmically complex *Concerto for piano and winds*. Jeremy Denk is Milton Court Artist-in-Residence in the Barbican's 2017/2018 season.

Tuesday 27 February – Milton Court Concert Hall, London

Friday 2 March - St Andrew's Hall, Norwich

Monday 5 March – The Apex, Bury St Edmunds

MARCH/APRIL

The orchestra features in the Royal Opera House production of **Mark-Anthony Turnage's** latest opera, *Coraline*, based on the atmospheric, fantasy novel by Neil Gaiman.

29 March – 7 April, Barbican Theatre, London

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. Ben is the son of Britten Sinfonia violinist Nicola Goldscheider.

Wednesday 28 March – Milton Court Concert Hall

Britten Sinfonia also joins forces with **Polyphony** for a Good Friday performance of Bach's *St John Passion* at St John's Smith Square, London. **Stephen Layton** conducts with soloists including **Nicholas Pritchard, Ashley Riches and Neal Davies**

Good Friday 30 March – St John's Smith Square

American composer **Caroline Shaw**, the youngest ever winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Music in 2013, is a solo violinist, chamber musician, vocalist in the Grammy Award-winning ensemble Roomful of Teeth, and has collaborated with superstar rapper Kanye West. Britten Sinfonia leader **Thomas Gould** (violin), **Clare Finimore** (viola), **Caroline Dearnley** (cello) and **Tom Poster** (piano) perform **Caroline Shaw's** new piano quartet (co-commissioned by Wigmore Hall) alongside Brahms's expansive *Piano Quartet No. 1 in G minor Op. 25*.

Tuesday 17 April – West Road Concert Hall, Cambridge

Wednesday 18 April – Wigmore Hall, London

Friday 20 April – St Andrew's Hall, Norwich

MAY

Thomas Adès and Britten Sinfonia's journey through Beethoven's Symphonies reaches the midway point. Pairing familiar masterpieces with the audacious works of composer Gerald Barry, the concerts set out to shed new light on Beethoven's monuments of the orchestral repertoire. Barry's passionate *The Conquest of Ireland*, with bass **Joshua Bloom**, is set alongside Beethoven's *Pastoral* 6th Symphony. Beethoven's 4th and 5th Symphonies are accompanied by the London premiere of Barry's *Piano Concerto*, written for, and performed by soloist **Nicolas Hodges**. Thomas Adès also leads a concert of more intimate chamber works by Beethoven and Barry from the keyboard at Milton Court Concert Hall, featuring tenor **Allan Clayton**. At Amsterdam's Concertgebouw, Adès and Britten Sinfonia are joined by **Steven Isserlis** for the composer's cello concerto, *Lieux retrouvés*.

Thomas Adès Beethoven Symphony Cycle Symphonies 4 & 5 and Gerald Barry's Piano Concerto

Saturday 19 May – Saffron Hall, Saffron Walden

Tuesday 22 May – Barbican Hall, London

Sunday 27 May – Theatre Royal, Norwich

Thomas Adès chamber concert

Wednesday 23 May – Milton Court Concert Hall

**Thomas Adès Beethoven Symphony Cycle
Symphony 6, and Gerald Barry's The Conquest of Ireland**

Sunday 20 May, Saffron Hall, Saffron Walden

Thursday 24 May – Barbican Hall

Thomas Adès, Steven Isserlis and Nicolas Hodges

Saturday 26 May - Concertgebouw, Amsterdam

JULY

Tom Coult's *St John's Dance*, a musical reflection on mass hysteria, opened this year's BBC Proms. Coult will write for and act as a mentor to the young musicians of Britten Sinfonia Academy, with special 'at lunch' Academy performances as part of the orchestra's 'At Lunch' series.

Thursday 12 July – St Andrew's Hall, Norwich

Friday 13 July – Mumford Theatre, Cambridge

INTERNATIONAL TOURING

Hitchcock in Paris

Saturday 3 & Sunday 4 February – Philharmonie, Paris

Thomas Adès, Steven Isserlis and Nicolas Hodges

Saturday 26 May - Concertgebouw, Amsterdam

Website links for venues

www.barbican.org.uk

www.saffronhall.com

www.westroad.org

www.wigmore-hall.org.uk

www.brittensinfonia.com (for ticket sales and information for Norwich concerts)