

Press Release

For release: 6 June 2018

Britten Sinfonia – Summer 2018 Events

Britten Sinfonia starts its summer season in the company of the 'Dirty Duchess' of Argyll in **Thomas Adès's *Powder Her Face* at Nevill Holt Opera**, and ends it by dancing the tango at the **BBC Proms**. Along the way, the orchestra gives the world premiere of works by **Keaton Henson** at the Barbican, and **Michael Berkeley**, in a celebration of his 70th birthday at Wigmore Hall, and brings **Bernstein's** take on Plato to Peasmarsh. **Britten Sinfonia Academy**, featuring exceptional Secondary school-aged musicians from the East of England takes to the stage at **Latitude**, and explores musical adaptations in **lunchtime concerts in Norwich and Cambridge** which feature a new arrangement of Schumann's *Studies in Canonic Form* by the Academy's 2018 composer mentor, **Tom Coult**.

Full details are at www.brittensinfonia.com

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BRITTEN SINFONIA – SOUNDS OF THE SUMMER

Friday 22 June at 8pm

St Mary's Church, Rye

Britten Sinfonia returns to East Sussex's Peasmarsh Festival under the baton of **Douglas Boyd**. The programme juxtaposes Haydn's *The Philosopher* with Bernstein's depiction of the great thinkers presenting their statements on love – the fantastically scored *Serenade for strings, solo violin, harp and percussion*, featuring violinist **Antony Marwood**. Completing the programme is one of Boccherini's virtuosic concertos for the cello with **Richard Lester** as soloist. Part of Peasmarsh Festival.

Powder her Face – Nevill Holt Opera, Market Harborough

28 & 30 June and 1 July at 5.30pm

Nevill Holt Opera present the first UK revival of the acclaimed production of Thomas Adès' darkly comic opera *Powder her Face*, inspired by the sensational life of the 'Dirty Duchess' of Argyll. The production, directed and designed by **Antony McDonald**, was originally created by Northern Ireland Opera. **Ian Ryan** conducts a cast that includes **Mary Plazas** in the title role. Britten Sinfonia comes to Adès's sparkling score fresh from working with the composer on the latest instalment of their three-year Beethoven Symphony Cycle.

Britten Sinfonia Academy 'At Lunch'

Thursday 12 July at 1pm, St Andrew's Hall, Norwich

Friday 13 July at 1pm, Mumford Theatre, Anglia Ruskin University, Cambridge

Britten Sinfonia Academy takes centre stage in the final concerts of Britten Sinfonia's 2017-18 At Lunch series, with a programme that features a new arrangement by **Tom Coult** of Schumann's *Studies in Canonical Form*, written specially for the Academy alongside Ravel's *Mother Goose Suite* and Webern's orchestration of Bach's *Ricercar*.

The programme will be repeated amongst the rainbow-sprayed sheep and bull-rushes at the Music and Film Arena at Latitude Festival on Saturday 14 July.

The Academy features outstanding Secondary school age musical talent from the East of England and offers developmental musical experiences, including concerts and tailored workshops with Britten Sinfonia players.

Keaton Henson – *Six Lethargies* (world premiere)

Friday 20 July at 8pm, Barbican

Six Lethargies is the culmination of over three years of work from the musician, artist and composer **Keaton Henson**. Composed around, and from within, issues of mental illness and human emotion, the piece aims to express and explain feelings of anxiety and depression through six connected movements for string orchestra.

As a performer known for his inability to perform live due to anxiety, *Six Lethargies* is allowing the orchestra to be Keaton Henson's voice, as well as providing human connection and empathetic insight, all the while asking the audiences "if I write how it feels to me, will it make you feel the same?"

Produced by the Barbican

Michael Berkeley 70th Birthday Concert

Friday 20 July at 7pm, Wigmore Hall

The Wigmore Hall and Britten Sinfonia celebrate the 70th birthday of composer and eloquent champion of new music, **Michael Berkeley** with a concert of chamber music, including the world premiere of a new work by Berkeley for solo oboe (Britten Sinfonia principal oboe, **Nicholas Daniel**) and chamber work *Into the Ravine*. Richard Strauss's string septet *Metamorphosen*, and works by Beethoven, Mozart and Schubert complete the programme.

BBC Proms

Tuesday 4 September at 7.30pm, Royal Albert Hall and live on BBC Radio 3

Britten Sinfonia raises the tempo for Tango Night at the BBC Proms, exploring the raw and earthy vitality of the tango alongside Grammy-award-winning pianist **Pablo Ziegler** and leading singers, dancers and instrumentalists from Europe, the USA and Argentina. The concert celebrates the heady, sexually charged Latin American tango, from its origins in the bars of 1880s Buenos Aires, through to Ástor Piazzolla's Nuevo Tango that emerged in the 1950s. The story also embraces the Finnish tango tradition of the early 20th century – steeped in the themes of love, sorrow and nature – and comes bang up to date with some of the latest tango music, from the sultry intimacy of bandoneon to big-band orchestral forces.

Venue links

www.peasmarshfestival.co.uk

www.nevillholtopera.co.uk

www.barbican.org.uk

www.wigmore-hall.org.uk

www.bbc.co.uk/proms