

‘Étude’

A SOLO RECITAL DISC

Clare Hammond, piano

CLAUDE DEBUSSY
Études, Book I, 1916 (21'30)

UNSUK CHIN
Études, Nos. 1-6, 1995-2003 (18')

KAROL SZYMANOWSKI
Études, Op. 33, 1916 (13')

NIKOLAI KAPUSTIN
5 Études in Different Intervals, 1992 (16')

68'30 minutes in total

The six Études by the South-Korean composer, Unsuk Chin, form the centrepiece of this disc. Arguably the most important works to be written for the piano in recent years, these are natural successors to the piano études by György Ligeti and are already of international prominence. With their scintillating textures and inventive use of timbre, they are entirely absorbing and electrifying works which are sure to become a keystone of the piano repertoire.

These have been combined with a variety of études from either end of the twentieth century. Those by Debussy are structured around gradually expanding intervals, from the third, to the fourth, sixth and octave, and are some of his most strikingly original works. Szymanowski's Op. 33 were written in the same year as Debussy's studies yet, in their fleetness of touch and mercurial textures, inhabit an entirely different soundworld.

The programme ends with 5 Études in Different Intervals by Nikolai Kapustin. Each étude is structured around specific intervals yet, despite this rather rigid concept, they are in a free-formed jazzy style and provide an exuberant finale.

BUDGET

Clare is currently in discussion with various record companies about the possibility of distributing the CD under their label. The recording industry has been particularly badly hit by the recent financial crisis and most labels now require an artist to present them with a master recording which they then print and distribute.

The cost of producing a master recording of piano music is approximately £8,000, comprising:
£2,400 to hire a concert hall, grand piano and to pay a piano tuner for a two-day session.
£2,700 to pay a sound engineer, editor and producer to record and master a disc.
£250 for a cover image.
Up to £2,500 to hire a PR specialist to publicise the disc.

While most record labels would try to get a disc reviewed in the musical press, a PR specialist is necessary in order to coordinate a more substantial campaign for maximum impact. The specialist would work to secure reviews as well as feature articles in music magazines and the national press. Chasing radio and television interviews would be a priority and they would ensure that the concert tour was well integrated both with the CD release and the publicity surrounding it. Competition is now so fierce that even a high quality recording can sink without a trace if it is not adequately publicised so good PR is more essential than ever.

The Stradivari Trust (www.stradivaritrust.org) will act as a channel for charitable donations, which can be enhanced by Gift Aid. Using Gift Aid means that for every pound donated by a UK taxpayer, we can claim an extra 25 pence from HM Revenue and Customs, helping your donation to go further.



The Stradivari Trust



Clare Hammond

piano

"Amazing power and panache" **Daily Telegraph**

"Crisp precision and unflashy intelligence" **The Guardian**

www.clarehammond.com

www.clarehammond.com/etude_cd.html

WHY CLARE HAMMOND?

- Dedicated exponent of **twentieth-century** and **contemporary** repertoire, Clare combines a formidable technique and virtuosic flair onstage with stylistic integrity and attention to detail.
- Recent appearance on **BBC Radio 3**'s 'In Tune' playing Hesketh, Szymanowski and Liszt, with a forthcoming broadcast of 6 etudes by **Unsuk Chin**.
- Advocate of contemporary music with **premieres** of works by Kenneth Hesketh, David Matthews, Alan Mills, James Francis Brown, Peter Fribbins and Robin Walker in the current concert season.
- Recently completed a **Doctorate** in Musical Arts at the GSMD and City University London, with a thesis on **left-hand piano music**.
- **Chamber collaborations** with Jennifer Pike, Andrew Kennedy and Lawrence Power, as well as the Dante and Endellion String Quartets.
- Regular **concerto performances** with orchestras throughout the UK and on the continent.
- A committed **communicator**, Clare introduces recitals, enjoys pre and post concert talks and presents lecture recitals on diverse subjects to audiences of all levels. Her easy rapport with audiences makes her a natural for **media work**.

HIGHLIGHTS 2012-13

- Recital at the Wigmore Hall **broadcast live** by **BBC Radio 3** in April 2012 and her performance of Ravel's *Le Tombeau de Couperin* chosen as one of their "**Classical Highlights**" for the month.
- Performances at the **Queen's Hall Edinburgh**, St George's Bristol, St James's Piccadilly, **Bridgewater Hall Manchester**, and at festivals in Belgium and Hamburg.
- Kenneth Hesketh's ***Horae (pro clara)***, a series of twelve miniatures, written for Clare, as is a forthcoming piano cycle by **Robert Saxton**.
- **Two CDs released:** one of British contemporary piano music for Prima Facie Records and the other of **Debussy** and **Szymanowski** for Future Classics.



Classical Source Wigmore Hall, Richard Whitehouse

"... the precipitous drive through to a hair-raising close fairly brought the house down".

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