

# Clare Hammond

piano

"Amazing power and panache" Daily Telegraph

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

www.clarehammond.com

# REVIEWS OF 'REFLECTIONS'

Clare's debut CD for BIS Records of works by Andrzej and Roxanna Panufnik



"A fascinating compendium, expertly executed", CJ International Piano Magazine Choice

"stunningly performed by Clare Hammond", Ivan Moody

Gramophone UK

"a commandingly virtuosic performance", John Allison **BBC Music Magazine** 

"mit klug und spontan wirkendem", Peter Cossé
Klassik Heute

"skill, inspiration, clarity and and an extraordinarily meticulous performance", Artem Avatinian

### **Gramophone Russia**

"Elle excelle à installer dans chaque pièce une ambiance",

Bertrand Boissard, 5 Diapasons





Clare's second disc for BIS, of études by **Unsuk Chin**, Karol Szymanowski, Sergei Lypaunov and **Nikolai Kapustin** is due for international release in February 2015.

#### HIGHLIGHTS 2012-14

- Recital from 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.
- Debut recitals for Chopin i jego Europa and the Warsaw Autumn International Festival of Contemporary Music in Poland.
- Panufnik centenary tour of Poland under the auspices of the British Council's 'Artists' International Development Fund', including recitals in Zakopane and Kalisz, and performances in Kalisz and Lublin of Panufnik's Piano Concerto.



- Regular appearances on BBC Radio 3, including return invitations to In Tune and a broadcast of 6 études by Unsuk Chin for 'Hear and Now'.
- Clare is curating a chamber festival, Panufnik 100: a family celebration at Kings Place, London where she will perform with mezzo Heather Shipp, jazz singer Jacqui Dankworth and the Brodsky Quartet.
- World premieres of works by John McCabe, Arlene Sierra, Deborah Pritchard, Adam Gorb, Andrew Keeling, Robin Walker and Edwin Roxburgh.
- Return visits to give solo recitals at the Bridgewater Hall in Manchester and Wigmore Hall in London.
- Debut recitals in 2013 for the Cheltenham Music Festival and the City of London Festival with premieres of works written specially for Clare by Ken Hesketh and Robert Saxton.

## PRESS

"displayed its scintillating passagework and poetic calm with great flair"

The Guardian, Cheltenham Festival, Rian Evans

"... Most impressive, though, was her natural sense of pacing, allowing the hollowed-out climax of Pour les Arpèges Composées to gather like a wisp of smoke in sunlight before dissipating in a passing breeze."

The Guardian, Purcell Room, Guy Dammann

## SAMPLE PROGRAMME

## Full-length Evening Recital

This programme can be modified to fit a lunch-time slot.

SIBELIUS The Trees, Op. 75 (15')

RAVEL Le Tombeau de Couperin (25')

**INTERVAL** 

CHOPIN Études, Op. 25 (30')

#### **ALTERNATIVE WORKS**

RACHMANINOV Variations on a Corelli Theme, Op. 42 (20')

> SIBELIUS Selection of *Impromptus*, Op. 5 (9')

COUPERIN
Selection from Pièces de Clavecin, 6e ordre (8')

RAVEL Sonatine (12')

BEETHOVEN
Sonata No. 8 in C minor, Op. 13 'Pathétique' (20')

LYAPUNOV
Three Études d'Exécution Transcendante (16')

KAPUSTIN
Three Studies in Different Intervals (9')

Listen to audio demos of Lyapunov and Kapustin at: www.clarehammond.com/etude.html

The programme opens with Sibelius' *The Trees*, which Clare recorded for BBC Radio 3 in June 2014. A series of five miniatures, this piece is strongly influenced by folk music and is a strangely haunting work. This is followed by Ravel's *Tombeau de Couperin*, written in a neoclassical style as an eighteenth-century dance suite. Each movement is dedicated to the memory of a friend who was killed during the First World War.

The second half is comprised of Chopin's well-loved Études, Op. 25, performed by Clare at the 'Chopin and his Europe Festival' in Warsaw this August. An essential part of any pianist's armoury, these pieces are much more than merely technical studies. They include some of the most beautiful and exhilarating music to be written for the piano.

Alternative works include variations by Rachamninov and pieces by Sibelius, Couperin, Ravel and Beethoven. The études by Lyapunov and Kapustin are featured on Clare's forthcoming disc for BIS Records, to be released in February 2015 (see www.clarehammond.com/etude.html). Ferociously virtuosic pieces, these are universally popular with audiences and would form an electrifying close to any programme.

"In Ravel's Tombeau de Couperin, the pianist was likewise in full expressive command of her fingers, conveying the swirling shimmer and sweet melancholy of a work that veers between elegance and emotion."

Conrad Wilson, Herald Scotland

"Hammond recalled both Myra Hess and Annie Fischer, great Beethoven pianists of bygone generations."

Terry Blain, **Culture Northern Ireland**