

NEWLY DISCOVERED KEYBOARD CONCERTO



JOSEF MYSLIVECEK

(1737-1781)

with pianist CLARE HAMMOND

Known by many as 'il divino Boemo', Josef Myslivecek was a close friend and mentor of Mozart who lived a life so scandalous that at times he shocked even Wolfgang Amadeus himself. He enjoyed great success on the international stage, both as an operatic and a symphonic composer, and was well established in his career when he met the young Mozart in Bologna in 1770. Myslivecek helped Mozart secure engagements and became a role model to him, both personally and musically. He is the most mentioned composer in the Mozart correspondence and the only one of whom Mozart spoke with affection and respect.

Myslivecek contracted syphilis later in life and lost his nose during the course of a botched operation intended to cure him. After deceiving Mozart's father in a business transaction, Myslivecek and the Mozart family became estranged and Myslivecek ultimately died disfigured and in poverty.

Keyboard Concerto No. 1 in B flat major (12')

i. Untitled, ii. Andantino, iii. Allegro
(2 ob, 2 hn, strings)

Pianist Clare Hammond has obtained a copy of the manuscript of Myslivecek's concerto, which has not been published, and has created her own edition. There has been no recorded performance of the work and Clare will give the **'modern-day world premiere'** in Poland in spring 2016.

Clare is seeking further performances of this spirited and lively work. Myslivecek's concerto could also be programmed alongside one by **Mozart**. Clare already performs No. 20 in D minor, K. 466 and No. 23 in A major, K. 488, and would be happy to learn another.

In the case of UK performances, Clare would aim to secure press coverage in collaboration with **publicist Jo Carpenter**. Jo has done some fantastic work on Clare's recent disc releases (see www.clarehammond.com/reviews.html).

"I should advise my sister to play Myslivecek's sonatas with plenty of expression, taste and fire, and to learn them by heart. For they are sonatas which are bound to please everyone, and very effective when played with proper precision."

Mozart, in a letter to his father, 1777

"There is no other composer in his entire life for whom Mozart expressed such affection and respect."

Daniel Freeman, scholar and biographer of Myslivecek



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Clare Hammond

piano

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

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

www.clarehammond.com

RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

- Performing Philip Glass' etudes alongside the composer in April 2015 at the **Barbican Hall, London**.
- Debut recitals for **Chopin i jego Europa** and the **Warsaw Autumn International Festival of Contemporary Music** in Poland in 2014.
- 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**.
- 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.
- 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 co-curated the chamber festival, **Panufnik 100**, at Kings Place with the **Brodsky Quartet**.
- World premieres** of works by **John McCabe**, Arlene Sierra, Adam Gorb 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.
- Recently completed a **Doctorate** at the GSMD and City University London, with a thesis on left-hand piano music and now lectures widely on **left-hand piano concertos** by Ravel and Britten.



CONCERTO HIGHLIGHTS 2014-16

- Centenary performances of Panufnik's Concerto with **Polish Symphony Orchestras** in Kalisz and Lublin, with return visits to Kalisz, Lublin and Jelenia Gora to perform **Mozart** and **Myslivecek** in 2016.
- Recording two double concertos by Geoffrey Gordon and Toby Young with the **English Symphony Orchestra** for **Signum Records** in Sept 2015.
- Recording of Chopin's first piano concerto with the **Philharmonia** and **BBC Concert Orchestra** for a soundtrack of the forthcoming feature film, 'The Lady in the Van', in cinemas worldwide from Nov 2015.
- David Matthews' Piano Concerto in Aug 2016 with the **Presteigne Festival Orchestra**.

REVIEWS

"unfaltering bravura and conviction"
Bryce Morrison, **Gramophone**

"style and substance"
Fiona Maddocks, **The Observer**

"imagination and bravura"
Paul Driver, **The Sunday Times**

"definition of bravura over barnstorming"
CRITIC'S CHOICE, **Classical Music Magazine**

"a pronounced virtuoso"
Hartmut Lück, **Klassik Heute**

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

"Elle excelle à installer dans chaque pièce une ambiance",
Bertrand Boissard, **5 Diapasons**



"... 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