

Biography

Clare Hammond, pianist

www.clarehammond.com

info@clarehammond.com

Acclaimed by The Daily Telegraph as a pianist of “*amazing power and panache*”, Clare Hammond gave debut recitals at the City of London, Cheltenham and Presteigne Festivals, and made return visits to the Wigmore and Bridgewater Halls in 2013. Her Purcell Room debut for the Park Lane Group concert series was praised by The Guardian for its “*crisp precision and unflashy intelligence*”. A passionate advocate of twentieth and twenty-first century music, Clare combines a formidable technique and virtuosic flair onstage with stylistic integrity and attention to detail. Highlights in 2014 include 3 BBC radio broadcasts, debut performances at 7 festivals across Europe, including the ‘Chopin and his Europe’ Festival in Warsaw, the world premieres of works by 10 composers, and a Panufnik Centenary tour of Poland under the aegis of the British Council’s ‘Artists’ International Development Fund’.

Clare’s recent disc release, *Reflections*, of the piano music of Andrzej and Roxanna Panufnik, was featured on BBC Radio 3’s ‘CD Review’, and her performance described as “*commandingly virtuosic*” in BBC Music Magazine. International Piano Magazine recommended the disc as a “*fascinating compendium, expertly executed*” and it was awarded 5 stars in Diapason who stated that “*Hammond excels at instilling each piece with an atmosphere*”. She is a regular guest on ‘In Tune’, was featured on ‘Hear and Now’ with a recording of études by Unsuk Chin in 2013, and her recital at the Wigmore Hall in 2012 was broadcast on ‘Live in Concert’. Her performance that evening of *Le Tombeau de Couperin* by Ravel was chosen as one of BBC Radio 3’s classical highlights for the month and later broadcast on Radio 4 in the Netherlands. Notable performances in 2013 included the premieres of major works by Kenneth Hesketh and Robert Saxton, three BBC broadcasts and two discs for BIS records. The second, of études by Unsuk Chin, Karol Szymanowski, Nikolai Kapustin and Sergei Lyapunov, will be released internationally in February 2015.

In recent years, Clare has performed at St George’s Bristol, the Queen’s Hall in Edinburgh, Cheltenham Town Hall, the Barber Institute in Birmingham and the City of London, Presteigne and Brighton Festivals. The Guardian wrote of her performance of Ken Hesketh’s *Horae* at the Cheltenham Festival that she ‘displayed its scintillating passagework and poetic calm with great flair’. Clare has just been selected to participate in the Philip Langridge Mentoring Scheme, under the auspices of the Royal Philharmonic Society, through which she will work with French pianist Anne Queffélec. An active chamber musician, Clare has worked with Andrew Kennedy, Jennifer Pike, Philippe Graffin, Lawrence Power, Ruth Palmer, Sara Trickey and the Endellion, Piatti, Dante and Badke String Quartets. She has recently formed the Odysseus Piano Trio with violinist Sara Trickey and cellist Gregor Riddell. Clare is curating a chamber festival at Kings Place in 2014, to celebrate the centenary of the birth of composer Andrzej Panufnik, at which she will perform alongside the Brodsky Quartet and mezzo soprano Heather Shipp.

Eager to extend the boundaries of traditional concert life, Clare is intrigued by new perspectives that musicological study can bring to bear on performance. She completed a doctorate on twentieth-century left-hand piano concertos in 2012 and is in demand as a speaker, regularly giving presentations for research series at universities across the UK.

Clare completed a BA at Cambridge University, where she obtained a double first in music, and undertook postgraduate study with Ronan O’Hora at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama and with Professor Rhian Samuel at City University London. She is grateful for the support of the Fidelio Charitable Trust, Musicians’ Benevolent Fund, RVW Trust, the Vernon Ellis Foundation, Stradivari Trust and the Chandos Memorial Trust. Clare is represented by Liz Webb Management. *If you wish to be added to Clare’s mailing list, please email info@clarehammond.com or visit www.clarehammond.com/contact.html.*

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