

Biography

Clare Hammond, pianist

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Acclaimed as a pianist of “*amazing power and panache*” (*The Telegraph*), Clare Hammond is recognised for the virtuosity and authority of her performances and is forging an international career as an advocate of new and unfamiliar repertoire. In 2014 she gave debut performances at 7 festivals across Europe, including the ‘Chopin and his Europe Festival’ in Warsaw, world premieres of works by 10 composers, and three broadcasts for BBC Radio 3.

Hammond’s involvement in centenary celebrations for composer Andrzej Panufnik in 2014 saw the release of her first disc for BIS Records, *Reflections*, described as “*commandingly virtuosic*” in BBC Music Magazine, selected as ‘Critic’s Choice’ in Gramophone UK, and praised for its “*skill, inspiration and clarity*” in Gramophone Russia. International Piano Magazine recommended the disc as a “*fascinating compendium, expertly executed*” and it was awarded 5 stars in Diapason France who stated that “*Hammond excels at instilling each piece with atmosphere*”. Clare undertook a recital and concerto tour of Poland under the auspices of the British Council’s ‘Artists’ International Development Fund’ while her debut recital at the ‘Chopin and his Europe Festival’ was recorded for broadcast on Polish Radio. She co-curated and managed the festival ‘Panufnik 100: a family celebration’ with the Brodsky Quartet at Kings Place in London, hailed as the “*culmination of this year’s Andrzej Panufnik centenary*” by the *Telegraph*.

Hammond is a regular guest on BBC Radio 3 and makes her fourth appearance on ‘In Tune’ in January to promote her forthcoming disc of études by Unsuk Chin, Nikolai Kapustin, Sergei Lyapunov and Karol Szymanowski. In 2012 her live recital broadcast of Ravel’s *Le Tombeau de Couperin* from the Wigmore Hall was chosen as one of Radio 3’s highlights of the month and was later transmitted on radio in the Netherlands. In autumn 2015 she will appear as a younger Maggie Smith in Nick Hytner’s film adaptation of Alan Bennett’s play *The Lady in the Van*.

Hammond completed a BA at Cambridge University, where she obtained a double first in music, and undertook doctoral study with Ronan O’Hora at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama and with Professor Rhian Samuel at City University London.

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