

Concert-plays of words and music

with director / actor **Tama Matheson**
and pianist **Clare Hammond**

A Poesis Production (www.poesis.co.uk)



The Life and Passions of J S Bach

The Life and Passions of J S Bach chronicles the life of perhaps the greatest composer in the entire Western canon, tracing, amid a setting of his incomparable music, the longings, desires, urges, and inspirations that drove him to his miraculous creations. *The Life and Passions of J S Bach* is a desperately moving, often funny, always fascinating insight into the life of one of the world's most indispensable artists.

Music by **J S Bach, Biber, Wilhemine von Bayreuth, Pachelbel** and **Georg Röhms**.

Ben: The Artistic Struggles of Benjamin Britten

Ben: The Artistic Struggles of Benjamin Britten traces the development of one of the undeniable giants of 20th-century music. Conceived as a play-with-music, Ben is narrated by Benjamin Britten himself, who takes the audience into the experiences of his own life. Set amid a concert of his own music, Ben takes the audience into the private and creative life of one of the masters of classical music.

Music by **Britten, Lutyens, Bridge, Maconchy, Carwithen** and **Purcell**.



His Quest for Peace - Andrzej Panufnik

Born into war-torn Poland, Panufnik lived under the successive rule of the Nazis and the Soviets, enduring a tyranny over body and mind that these repressive regimes imposed. Over the course of the play, we follow Panufnik as he struggles to find an artistic voice in a world where free speech is forbidden. Filled with funny, shocking, and tragic incidents - including confrontations with Nazi overlords, and a high-speed car-chase that would be the envy of a Hollywood blockbuster - the play explores the horrors of tyranny, the power of art, and the triumph of the human spirit over tribulation.

Music by **Andrzej and Roxanna Panufnik, Chopin, Bacewicz** and **Stravinsky**.

Don Juan: the brilliant irreverence of Lord Byron

Don Juan explores the seductive and scandalous life of the great poet, Lord Byron, examining it through the prism of his great poem, *Don Juan*. The play interweaves the lives of Byron and his great hero into one brilliant and hilarious whole, leaving the audience with a rich impression of one of the greatest creative geniuses of all time. Performed to a rich soundtrack of classical music, *Don Juan* merges the life of one of the great geniuses of Western culture with one of its great creations, until it becomes difficult to tell where fact ends and fiction begins.

Music by **Liszt, Berlioz, Fanny Mendelssohn** and **Chopin**.



Listen to radio plays by Tama Matheson online:

<https://vimeo.com/showcase/7118779>

Password: promo

BIOGRAPHIES

Tama Matheson, director and actor

Tama is an award-winning writer, director, and actor with a passion for bringing together music and the spoken word. He has been producing Lyric Dramas for several years in both England and Australia, where they have met with universal acclaim.



Tama has written and performed six original plays, including *Ben* (on the life of Benjamin Britten), *Bright Stars Shone for Us* (on Tchaikovsky), *Don Juan – the Scandalous Life of Lord Byron* (performed this year at the Barnes Festival), *Panufnik – his Quest for Peace*, *The White Mouse* (on the war heroine, Nancy Wake), *Johann Sebastian* (on the life of Bach), and his own adaptations of *A Christmas Carol* and *Christmas Fairy Tales*. He has also recorded his *Christmas Carol* for 4MBS radio in Australia, where it is played every year, as well as his own adaptation of *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*. The Bach, Tchaikovsky and Britten scripts have been turned recently into audio plays (with well known actors and orchestras), to be released in 2021.

Tama was Artist in Residence at 4MBS Classic FM for 3 years, during which time he produced several radio programmes, as well as audio productions of his own adaptation of *A Christmas Carol* and his original drama about Polish composer Andrzej Panufnik. Tama has collaborated on Lyric Dramas with several orchestras, including the London Mozart Players, Solomon's Knot, the Brisbane Camerata, and the Melbourne, Tasmanian, and Queensland Symphony Orchestras. He is booked to perform with the Royal Philharmonic and the Queensland Symphony Orchestra in 2021 – in both instances to produce Lyric Dramas.

www.tamamatheson.com / www.poesis.co.uk



Clare Hammond, pianist

Acclaimed as a pianist of “amazing power and panache” (*The Telegraph*), Clare Hammond is recognised for the virtuosity and authority of her performances and has developed a “reputation for brilliantly imaginative concert programmes” (*BBC Music Magazine*). In 2016, she won the Royal Philharmonic Society's 'Young Artist Award' in recognition of outstanding achievement and in 2020 she was engaged to perform at the International Piano Series (Southbank Centre) and the Aldeburgh Festival.

In recent seasons, Clare has performed Hesketh with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra (Vasily Petrenko), Panufnik with the Warsaw Philharmonic Orchestra (Jacek Kaspszyk), Roxburgh with the BBC Symphony Orchestra (Michael Seal), and Connession with the Philharmonia (Jamie Phillips). In 2019, she gave the world premiere of *Uncoiling The River* by Kenneth Hesketh with the BBC National Orchestra of Wales (Martyn Brabbins) and released the Complete Keyboard Works of Myslivecek with the Swedish Chamber Orchestra (Nicholas McGegan) for BIS Records. She was engaged to perform with the Britten Sinfonia (Ryan Wigglesworth), Sinfonia Varsovia (Jacek Kaspszyk) and Royal Philharmonic Orchestra (Christoph Altstaedt) in 2020 and performs Rachmaninov with the BBC Symphony Orchestra (Dalia Stasevska) in 2021.

Clare's discs for BIS have been widely praised with her latest, *Variations*, receiving extensive critical approval. *Gramophone* described her as a “pianist of extraordinary gifts”, *The Times* as a “player of immense power, tightly harnessed now to the moment's expressive needs” and *Crescendo* (Belgium) hailed her as “one of the most exploratory pianistic personalities of our time”. The disc was commended for its “shimmering pianism and lightly-worn virtuosity” (*BBC Music Magazine*) and “artistry of the highest order” (*Musical Opinion*). Clare's discography includes world premiere recordings of over twenty works.

www.clarehammond.com