

Press Release

27th September 2018

Mark Bebbington launches 'Pianograms': a new piano series at St John's Smith Square



British pianist Mark Bebbington launches 'Pianograms', an exciting three recital series at St. John's Smith Square, in which he contrasts themes of Grand Opera, Island Stories and Portraits with acknowledged masterpieces from the central piano repertoire - Schubert's Sonatas in B flat major D960, A major D664, Franck's *Prélude, Choral et Fugue* and Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition*.

The series opens on Wednesday, 14th November with 'Scenes from the Opera', the first concert featuring Liszt's virtuoso transcriptions for piano drawn from some of the great operas of Donizetti, Verdi and Wagner. From the introspection of Wagner's *Liebsteid* and Liszt's haunting reworking of Aida's *Duetto Finale*, through to the pianistic brilliance of dazzling *Lucia di Lammermoor* and *Rigoletto*, Bebbington reveals the multiplicity of Liszt's style and pianistic thinking. For the first half of this concert, Bebbington has chosen an undisputed masterpiece from the nineteenth-century, Schubert's sublime and valedictory final Sonata in B flat major D960.

For his second recital on April 4th, 2019, 'Island Stories', Mark Bebbington includes John Ireland's vivid evocation of an ancient Guernsey, *Sarnia* - perhaps his greatest work for solo piano. The inclusion of this work reflects Bebbington's enthusiasm for British piano music and in particular the five ***** BBC Music Magazine reviews for his recent Ireland recordings. Timelessness is also conjured in Satie's mystical *Gnossienne*, whilst Cesar Franck takes as his starting point the purity of J. S. Bach's contrapuntal writing for his great work of spiritual pilgrimage *Prélude, Choral et Fugue*.

For his final recital, 'Portraits', on 4th July, 2019, Bebbington has chosen one of classical music's finest examples of musical portraiture, Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition* - a work perfectly matched to the grandeur and acoustic of St. John's - which he will play alongside Schubert at his most lyrical and intimate, his Sonata in A major D664 and the Impromptus D899.

Booking is now open for this imaginative piano series and includes a [special 3 for 2 offer](#) if attending all three concerts in the series.

About Mark

Described by The Times as 'truly a remarkable pianist', Mark Bebbington has fast emerged as one of this country's most distinctive and innovative pianists, internationally acclaimed for his performances and recordings. Mark is recognised as a champion of British music and nine of his recent British music series on the Somm label have been awarded consecutive sets of 5***** in BBC Music Magazine. In 2017 his recording of Vaughan Williams' piano music reached number 3 in the Classical Charts where it remained for 8 weeks.

This year he achieved further plaudits with a CD on the SOMM label of piano concertos by Grieg and Delius with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and conductor Jan Latham Koenig, including the premiere recording of Grieg's sketches for his Second Piano Concerto, arranged and edited by Robert Matthew-Walker. This release was CD of the Week in both The Times and The Mail on Sunday and a CHOC in France's Classica Magazine.

In the concert hall, Mark has recently completed a European tour with the Czech National Orchestra and Libor Pesek, given performances in London and throughout the UK with the Royal Philharmonic and London Philharmonic Orchestras and early next year he will be touring Mendelssohn Piano Concertos with the Israel Camerata Orchestra.

"It would be hard to imagine better performances." The Independent

PIANOGRAMS I – SCENES FROM THE OPERA

14 November 2018, 7.30pm - St John's Smith Square, London

Scarlatti	<i>Sonata in F sharp K318</i>
Scarlatti	<i>Sonata in B minor K87</i>
Scarlatti	<i>Sonata in D K492</i>
Schubert	<i>Sonata in B flat D960</i>
Verdi / Liszt	<i>Danza sacra e duetto finale d'Aida</i>
Wagner / Liszt	<i>Isolde's Liebestod</i>
Donizetti / Liszt	<i>Réminiscences de Lucia di Lammermoor</i>
Verdi / Liszt	<i>Rigoletto Paraphrase de Concert</i>

PIANOGRAMS II – ISLAND STORIES

4 April 2019, 7.30pm - St John's Smith Square, London

Fauré	<i>Nocturne in D flat major Op. 63</i>
Franck	<i>Prélude, Choral et Fugue</i>
Satie	<i>Gnossienne No. 4</i>
Satie	<i>Embryons Desséchés</i>
Ireland	<i>Sarnia - an island sequence</i>
Chopin	<i>Nocturne in B flat minor Op. 9, No. 1 &</i> <i>Nocturne in F major Op. 15, No. 1</i>
Chopin	<i>Ballade in G minor, Op. 23</i>

PIANOGRAMS III – Portraits

4 July 2019, 7.30pm - St John's Smith Square, London

Schubert *Impromptus D899*
Schubert *Sonata in A major, D664*
Mussorgsky *Pictures at an Exhibition*

-ENDS-

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For full biography and discography for Mark Bebbington, please visit:
<https://markbebbington.co.uk/>