



Press Release

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Britten Sinfonia Winter/Spring 2012 highlights Diary Dates

JANUARY

World premiere by Elspeth Brooke as part of award-winning 'Britten Sinfonia at Lunch' series – first of three new commissions during winter/spring 2012

(UK tour: 20-28 January, Brighton, Norwich, Cambridge, Wigmore Hall London)

FEBRUARY

Britten Sinfonia makes New York debut:

Thomas Adés directs Adés, Ravel and Couperin in UK, Ireland and USA, with Pekka Kuusisto (violin)

(International tour: 11-28 February, including QEH (27 February), and performances in Dublin, Dijon and Alice Tully Hall, NYC)

Oliver Knussen leads Britten Sinfonia Composers Workshop 2012

(4 February, Cambridge)

MARCH

Simon Keenlyside, Lucy Crowe, Andrew Kennedy and Catherine Wyn-Rogers join Britten Sinfonia and newly formed Britten Sinfonia Voices for Mendelssohn's *Elijah*

(7 March, Barbican)

Luke Bedford premiere

(UK tour: 3-21 March, Brighton, Norwich, Cambridge, Wigmore Hall London)

World Premiere of Nico Muhly *Cello Concerto* and Owen Pallett *Violin Concerto*

(16 March, Barbican)

APRIL

Jonathan Dove premiere, funded with the support of over 160 Britten Sinfonia enthusiasts

(UK tour: 27 April-2 May, Norwich, Cambridge, Wigmore Hall London)

MAY

Mark Padmore sings Mahler

(UK tour: 12-19 May, Bradford Upon Avon, Cambridge, QEH, Brighton Festival)

FULL DETAILS AT www.brittensinfonia.com

Britten Sinfonia has developed an outstanding reputation for finely played and programmed concerts developed alongside a series of guest artists. It's an approach exemplified by its line up for winter/spring 2012.

Thomas Adés plays and directs the orchestra, teaming up with close Britten Sinfonia collaborator **Pekka Kuusisto** for performances of his own *Violin Concerto* and works by Couperin and Ravel in the UK, Dublin and in a first for the orchestra, the Lincoln Centre in New York (February). **Pekka Kuusisto** returns in March for the world premiere of **Nico Muhly's** Violin Concerto at the Barbican (in a programme which also features Oliver Coates in the world premiere of **Owen Pallett's** Cello Concerto).

Mark Padmore joins the orchestra for a programme of love, loneliness and longing, including Mahler's *Rückert-Lieder* and Webern's arrangement of Schubert's *Lieder* (April/May). Padmore also features in the world premiere of a new work (funded by an innovative crowd-funding scheme) by **Jonathan Dove** (April), one of three new pieces co-commissioned with Wigmore Hall for Britten Sinfonia's award-winning lunchtime series. New works by **Luke Bedford** (March) and **Elsbeth Brooke** (January) also feature. Brooke first worked with the orchestra as part of its annual Cambridge University Student Composers workshop (which in February 2012 will be led by **Oliver Knussen**).

Britten Sinfonia Voices, the orchestra's newest ensemble, features in a performance of Mendelssohn's *Elijah* (March), alongside a strong line up of soloists, including **Simon Keenlyside**, **Lucy Crowe** and **Andrew Kennedy**.

Many concerts tour nationally (the orchestra has residencies in Cambridge, Norwich and Brighton as well as making regular appearances in London throughout the season). In addition to its New York debut, international touring takes the orchestra to France and Ireland (supported by its International partner, Cambridge University Press).

Full details of all concerts are available at www.brittensinfonia.com

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