

Press Release

For release: Wednesday 6 May 2016



James MacMillan's *Oboe Concerto*, recorded for Harmonia Mundi by Britten Sinfonia and Nicholas Daniel wins BBC Music Magazine Premiere Award

'If the musical public revered oboists as they do pianists and tenors, Nicholas Daniel would be as widely esteemed as Lang Lang or Jonas Kaufmann. He is arguably Britain's most virtuosic and adventurous instrumentalist and as mesmerising a talent now, at 53, as he was when he won the BBC Young Musician of the Year competition 35 years ago ... The oboe writing is insanely demanding throughout; Daniel is stunning.' --Richard Morrison - ***** *The Times*, 10th April 2015

The first recording of **James MacMillan's *Oboe Concerto***, by **Britten Sinfonia** and its principal oboe, **Nicholas Daniel**, and conducted by the composer, has won the BBC Music Magazine Premiere Award. It is part of a **Harmonia Mundi** recording which also features Nicholas Daniel as soloist and conductor in Vaughan Williams' *Oboe Concerto* – the work with which he won the BBC Young Musician of the Year Competition in 1980 at the age of 18. The disc is completed by MacMillan's *One*, and Britten's *Suite on English Folk Tunes: A Time There Was*.

The BBC Music Magazine Premiere Award is decided by an expert panel of the magazine's critics and reviewers. In its citation, the jury said: *'The winner of the Premiere Award is a Harmonia Mundi recording of a musically and technically superb performance of Sir James Macmillan's Oboe Concerto. Nicholas Daniel, to whom the work was dedicated, suggests that MacMillan's work is 'a major contribution to our literature'. It's easy to see why, when Daniel and the Britten Sinfonia perform it with such spirit, sensitivity and virtuosic spirit.'*

MacMillan's *Oboe Concerto* was commissioned by and written for Britten Sinfonia, and dedicated to Nicholas Daniel. The orchestra gave the concerto's world premiere in 2010.

David Butcher, Britten Sinfonia Chief Executive, comments:

"Britten Sinfonia has enjoyed a close relationship with James MacMillan over many years, and has premiered several of his works. His oboe concerto was written with our wonderful players in mind, and with Nicholas Daniel at its heart, and I'm delighted that this creative relationship has been recognised with this award."

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Catalogue no. HMU807573. www.brittensinfonia.com

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