

Press Release

For release: 29 March 2016



Benjamin Grosvenor makes his directing debut with Britten Sinfonia

Young pianist directs from the keyboard, and is the soloist in Mozart's last piano concerto

- **Jacqueline Shave celebrates ten years as Britten Sinfonia leader**
- **Concert includes world premiere of Elena Langer's *Story of An Impossible Love***

Saturday 23 April, Wiltshire Music Centre, Bradford Upon Avon

Wednesday 27 April, West Road Concert Hall, Cambridge

Friday 29 April, St Andrew's Hall, Norwich

Sunday 1 May, Milton Court Concert Hall, London

Britten Sinfonia is something of a rarity: an orchestra without a principal conductor or music director. Instead, Britten Sinfonia works with guest artists, including the finest conductors, composers and instrumentalists from across the artistic spectrum on one-off collaborations, which provide illuminating perspectives on the music, and the musicians who play it.

In a long list of outstanding young composers and musicians to have worked with orchestra, few come with a higher pedigree than pianist **Benjamin Grosvenor**. Still only 23 years old, he makes his Britten Sinfonia debut, directing from the keyboard Mozart's last *Piano Concerto No. 27*, the first time that he will have directed a work in concert.

Without a principal conductor or music director, the role of the Britten Sinfonia's leader is pivotal, and for the past ten years, **Jacqueline Shave** has been at the musical heart of the orchestra. Her first decade as Britten Sinfonia Leader has encompassed playing and directing music for across four centuries and tours of the UK, South America and India. In this concert, as well as leading the orchestra, Jackie directs Elena Langer's new work and Strauss' *Metamorphosen*. Britten Sinfonia Chief Executive **David Butcher** comments: "*Jackie sets the bar very high, and as with all our players and guest artists, is driven by a desire for musical adventure and discovery, and crucially, enjoyment. I'd like to wish her a happy tenth birthday and look forward to more great music making in the future.*"

The concert also features a new William Alwyn Foundation commission, *Story of an Impossible Love* for chamber orchestra by **Elena Langer**, (fresh from the success of the Welsh National Opera premiere of her opera, *Figaro Gets a Divorce*). She comments: "*Story of an Impossible Love is written for chamber orchestra, with prominent violin and oboe lines. I was imagining a love story between these two instruments; they share tunes and dance together but their timbre is essentially different and they cannot become one. I haven't written for the Mozart-type orchestra before, and I enjoyed playing with the combination of woodwinds and strings - mixing them and playing with textures and colours.*"

Further press information from:

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Programme and booking details

Benjamin Grosvenor piano/director

Jacqueline Shave violin/director

Bartok *String Quartet No. 2 (2nd movement)*

Elena Langer *New work* (world premiere tour)*

Mozart *Piano Concerto No. 27 in B flat, K595*

Strauss *Metamorphosen*

• **BRADFORD ON AVON**

Wiltshire Music Centre

Saturday 23 April at 7.30pm

Box Office: 01225 860100

• **CAMBRIDGE**

West Road Concert Hall

Wednesday 27 April at 7.30pm

Box Office: 01223 357851

• **NORWICH**

St Andrew's Hall

Friday 29 April at 7.30pm

Box Office: 01603 630000

www.brittensinfonia.com/concerts/events/view/benjamin-grosvenor

• **LONDON**

Milton Court Concert Hall (Barbican)

Sunday 01 May at 7.30pm

Box Office: 020 7638 8891