

Press Release

For release: 26 January 2016



Britten Sinfonia announces 2016/17 season as Associate Ensemble at the Barbican

**Thomas Adès * Barbara Hannigan * John Adams * Mahan Esfahani * James MacMillan *
Mark Padmore * Harry Christophers and The Sixteen * Steve Reich * Gerald Barry ***

Britten Sinfonia's 2016/17 season, as Associate Ensemble at the Barbican, is awash with new music, and outstanding partnerships. From Bach to Barry, Beethoven to Reich, the season promises a huge array of music, often presented in surprising and illuminating combinations.

Highlights include:

- Two major projects with **Thomas Adès** and **Gerald Barry**. In Spring 2017, the orchestra launches a new three-year Beethoven Symphony Cycle, with Adès as director and conductor. Adès interleaves Beethoven's masterworks with the deft, audacious and sometimes explosive music of the wonderfully idiosyncratic Irish composer, **Gerald Barry**. (May/June 2017). Earlier in the season, Adès conducts the European premiere of **Gerald Barry's** *Alice's Adventures Under Ground* (co-commissioned by the Barbican, Britten Sinfonia and the LA Philharmonic Association). **Barbara Hannigan**, in the title role, leads an outstanding cast that also includes **Allan Clayton, Allison Cook** and **Hilary Summers** (28 November).
- *Alice's Adventures Under Ground* is just one of a number of projects where Britten Sinfonia, as Associate Ensemble, and the Barbican will collaborate during the season. The orchestra also joins Barbican celebrations of **John Adams at 70** (25 February 2017) with performances of Adams' *Chamber Symphony* and *Grand Pianola Music* and a new work for two pianos by **Timo Andres** (who premieres the work with **David Kaplan**). **Joana Carneiro** conducts. **Steve Reich** 80th birthday year is marked with the London premiere of his latest work, *Pulse*, in a programme that also includes *WTC 9/11*, which uses pre-recorded voices from the events of 9/11 (both Barbican co-commissions) and the prescient *Three Tales*, **Steve Reich** and **Beryl Korot's** 'video opera' that examines the themes of air travel, nuclear testing and genetic engineering (5 November 2016 – part of the Barbican's celebration of American composers John Adams, Philip Glass and Steve Reich).
- Britten Sinfonia's 2016/17 season opens with the world premiere of **James MacMillan's** *Stabat Mater*, (commissioned by the Genesis Foundation for **Harry Christophers and The Sixteen**). Britten Sinfonia strings join The Sixteen in a programme that also features MacMillan's *Miserere*, works by Tallis and Vaughan Williams' *Fantasia on a theme of Thomas Tallis* (15 October, part of a day-long Barbican focus on MacMillan's music).
- Virtuoso harpsichordist **Mahan Esfahani** directs a concert of music by Soler, Scarlatti, de Falla's *Harpsichord Concerto*, and the world premiere of a new work by **Francisco Coll** (3 February 2017).
- **Mark Padmore** directs, and sings Evangelist, in a stellar Good Friday performance of **Bach's** *St John Passion* with **Britten Sinfonia Voices** (14 April).
- For the first time, Britten Sinfonia brings its popular family concerts (for 3-7 year olds) to the Barbican, an unexpected meeting of music and picture books brought to life by leading illustrator **Ed Vere** (19 February 2017).

Full programme details at www.brittensinfonia.com

Details of the Barbican's 2016/17 season at www.barbican.org.uk/classical1617

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Britten Sinfonia, Associate Ensemble at the Barbican

Barbican 2016/17 season – Diary Dates

Saturday 15 October 2016 – Barbican Hall

James MacMillan's *Stabat Mater* (world premiere); *Miserere*; works by Tallis and Vaughan Williams

Harry Christophers (conductor); *The Sixteen*; *Britten Sinfonia Voices*

Produced by the Barbican

Saturday 5 November – Barbican Hall

Steve Reich at 80

Pulse (London Premiere), *Three Tales*

Clark Rundell (conductor); *Synergy Vocals*; *Beryl Korot* (video)

Produced by the Barbican

Monday 28 November – Barbican Hall

Gerald Barry's *Alice's Adventures Under Ground* (European Premiere)

Thomas Adès (conductor). Cast: *Barbara Hannigan* (Alice); *Allison Cook*; *Hilary Summers*; *Peter Hoare*; *Allan Clayton*; *Mark Stone*; *Joshua Bloom*.

Co-commissioned by the Barbican, Britten Sinfonia and Los Angeles Philharmonic Association (Music Director Gustavo Dudamel)

Produced by Britten Sinfonia and the Barbican

Friday 3 February – Milton Court Concert Hall

Mahan Esfahani directs...

Works by Soler, De Falla, D Scarlatti, and world premiere of new work by Francisco Coll

Mahan Esfahani (harpsichord/director); *Claudia Huckle* (mezzo-soprano)

Saturday 19 February – Barbican Hall

Britten Sinfonia Picture Book Concert: *Max the Brave*

Members of Britten Sinfonia; *Ed Vere* (illustrator)

Saturday 25 February – Barbican Hall

John Adams 70th Birthday

John Adams *Chamber Symphony*, *Grand Pianola Music*; Timo Andres – new work for two pianos

Timo Andres, *David Kaplan* (pianos)

Produced by the Barbican

Friday 14 April – Barbican Hall

Bach's *St John Passion*

Mark Padmore (Evangelist/director); *Britten Sinfonia Voices*; *Britten Sinfonia*

Tuesday 30 May – Milton Court Concert Hall

Prelude to Britten Sinfonia/Adès *Beethoven Symphony Cycle*

Featuring chamber works by Beethoven and Gerald Barry

Thomas Adès (piano); *Members of Britten Sinfonia*

Produced by Britten Sinfonia and The Barbican

Friday 2 June – Barbican Hall

Britten Sinfonia and Thomas Adès Beethoven Symphony Cycle – Part 1

Beethoven: *Symphonies no. 1 and 2*; Gerald Barry: *Beethoven*
Thomas Adès (conductor)

Tuesday 6 June – Barbican Hall

Britten Sinfonia and Thomas Adès Beethoven Symphony Cycle – Part 2

Beethoven: *Symphony no. 3, Op. 55, E-flat major*; Barry: *Chevaux de frise*
Thomas Adès (conductor)