

Press Release

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Britten Sinfonia 2016 Summer Concerts

Aldeburgh – BBC Proms – Cambridge – Norwich – London - Paris

- **Sunday 19 & Friday 24 June, Cambridge and Norwich:**
Ian Bostridge directs... Britten's *Serenade for tenor, horn and strings*
- **Monday 20 June: Festival St Denis, Paris**
Wish you were here... featuring Rosemary Standley (voice) and Dom La Nena (cello)
- **Thursday 23 June: Aldeburgh Festival – Oliver Knussen conducts ...**
Tippett's Concerto for Orchestra; UK premiere of Elliott Carter's *A Sunbeam's Architecture*
- **Thursday 30 June and Friday 1 July, Norwich and Cambridge:**
Kenneth Hesketh world premiere by young players of Britten Sinfonia Academy, inspired by Fitzwilliam Museum's Handelian collection
- **Sunday 3 July: Britten Sinfonia Voices at Nils Frahm's *Possibly Colliding* Barbican weekend**
- **Monday 15 August: BBC Proms – Thomas Adès conducts...**
Beethoven's 8th Symphony and a new version for cello and orchestra of Adès' own *Lieux retrouvés*, with soloist Steven Isserlis

Britten Sinfonia returns to the Aldeburgh Festival with **Oliver Knussen**, and the BBC Proms with **Thomas Adès**, and tours to Cambridge and Norwich with **Ian Bostridge** in summer concerts that include UK premieres by **Thomas Adès** and **Elliott Carter**.

The orchestra's sister ensembles – **Britten Sinfonia Academy**, featuring the cream of young musical talent from across the East of England – and its acclaimed choral ensemble, **Britten Sinfonia Voices** also feature in summer concerts: there's a new work by **Kenneth Hesketh** commissioned for the Academy, inspired by the carillon part in a Handel score in Cambridge's Fitzwilliam Museum; **Britten Sinfonia Voices** perform entrancing music by Stravinsky and Pärt in the evocative St Giles' Church, Cripplegate as part *Possibly Colliding*, a weekend of Barbican concerts curated by the experimental composer and pianist **Nils Frahm**.

Full details of all concerts are at: brittensinfonia.com

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THE CONCERTS

Ian Bostridge directs...

Sunday 19 June at 7.30pm – Norwich Theatre Royal

Friday 24 June at 7.30pm - West Road Concert Hall, Cambridge

Hot on the heels of their recent collaboration with **Ian Bostridge** on *The Dark Mirror – Zender's Winterreise* at the Barbican, the tenor and orchestra reunite for concerts in Cambridge and Norwich, featuring Britten's seminal *Serenade for tenor, horn and strings*, with **Martin Owen** (horn). The programme also includes *Three Welsh Songs*, by Britten Sinfonia's principal pianist **Huw Watkins**, Corelli's *Concerto Grosso in F major Op. 6 No.2*, and two works inspired by Corelli: Tippett's *Fantasia Concertante on a theme by Corelli* and Christopher Hogwood's arrangement of Bach's *Fugue in B minor on a Theme of Corelli BWV579*, directed by Britten Sinfonia Leader **Jacqueline Shave**.

Britten Sinfonia at Aldeburgh Festival

Thursday 23 June at 7.30pm, Snape Maltings Concert Hall

Oliver Knussen, who conducted the opening concerts of Britten Sinfonia's 2015/16 season, returns to lead the orchestra in a programme studded with surprising and colourful gems, including Beethoven's *Eighth Symphony*, Mozart's grand, elegiac miniature *Masonic Funeral Music* and Tippett's *Concerto for Orchestra*, dedicated to Benjamin Britten as a 50th birthday present. **Colin Matthews' Night Music**, and **Elliott Carter's A Sunbeam's Architecture** (receiving its UK premiere, with tenor **Robert Murray** as soloist) complete the programme. Carter's song cycle sets poems written by E.E. Cummings during World War I, resonant with the echoes of war and death.

Britten Sinfonia at St Denis Festival

Birds on a Wire: Wish you were here...

Monday 20 June at 8.30pm, Basilica, St Denis, Paris

Streamed live at <http://culturebox.francetvinfo.fr/live/>

Duo **Bird on a Wire** (**Rosemary Standley**, singer with international music collective, Moriarty, and young Brazilian cellist/singer-songwriter **Dom La Nena**) have recorded a songbook that journeys from Leonard Cohen and John Lennon to Caetano Veloso, and through the traditional, modern folk and baroque repertoire of England, Italy, Lebanon, Brazil, Portugal, Spain and French creole tradition. For this concert, created specially for the evocative St Denis basilica, they are joined by Britten Sinfonia for a new journey through a world of song, with arrangements by **Mike Smith**.

"Let the Merry Bells Ring Round"

Britten Sinfonia Academy premiere of Kenneth Hesketh's Concerto Salmigondis

Thursday 30 June at 1pm, St Andrew's Hall, Norwich

Friday 1 July at 1pm, West Road Concert Hall Cambridge

Britten Sinfonia Academy is joined by members of Britten Sinfonia to perform works by Philip Glass' *Music in Similar Motion* and Beethoven's *Symphony No. 8*, alongside a new composition by **Kenneth Hesketh** inspired by the Fitzwilliam Museum's Handelian, Cambridge in the final 'At Lunch' concert of the 2015/16 season.

In summer 2015, Britten Sinfonia Academy and Kenneth Hesketh spent time exploring the Fitzwilliam's Handelian Collection as part of a wide-ranging programme to develop the musical skills of Academy members, some of the East of England's most talented young musicians. Hesketh, a life long Handel devotee, became fascinated with a fragment of score featuring the carillon, which Charles Jennen (librettist of Handel's *Saul*) described as "a very queer instrument...both in the make and tone like a set of Hammers striking upon Anvils. Tis play'd upon with Keys like a Harpsichord..." Hesketh was also inspired by a caricature of Handel by French engraver, painter and set designer Joseph Goupy of Handel, also in the museum, which features the composer sitting on a hoghead, with a 'bill of fare, and other emblems of voluptuousness scattered around him". Fragments of the carillon part from the Fitzwilliam collection peak through in Hesketh's new work,

Concerto Salgimondis, which is composed as a pasticcio (a musical work built from an adaptation of an existing work – or works). The piece also revisits music Hesketh wrote during his own formative years; by reworking the originals Hesketh ventures down very different compositional routes. He comments:

“Writing for a young group, without conductor, using music or some aspect of George Frederic Handel, is not the type of commission that comes across my desk every day, or even every year. The brief necessarily challenged my usual way of working and the commission became an enjoyable conundrum. Being able to cut one’s musical cloth and to quickly commit to a project outside of the everyday was something Handel was pretty good at. I greatly enjoyed doing likewise, just for a moment, and in the process, communicated, interacted and responded to the wider musical world in a way that usually evades me.”

The programme starts a brass fanfare by Academy member, **Jaspar Eaglesfield**.

Britten Sinfonia Academy, now celebrating its fifth year, is formed from outstanding young musicians from across the east of England, and focuses on the aspects that make Britten Sinfonia unique: performing without a conductor, working in small ensembles and exploring new music.

**Britten Sinfonia Voices at the Barbican’s *Possibly Colliding* Weekend
Sunday 3 July at 5.00pm, St Giles’ Church, Cripplegate (near Barbican)**

Britten Sinfonia’s acclaimed choir, **Britten Sinfonia Voices**, directed by **Eamonn Dougan**, performs works, interspersed by piano solos, by some of Eastern Europe’s most important composers, including Stravinsky, Rachmaninov, and Arvo Pärt. The concert, in the evocative setting of St Giles Church, Cripplegate is part of the Barbican’s *Possibly Colliding* weekend of concerts curated by German experimental composer and pianist **Nils Frahm**. Britten Sinfonia is a Barbican Associate Ensemble.

**Britten Sinfonia at the BBC Proms
Monday 15 August at 7.30pm – Royal Albert Hall London, and live on BBC Radio 3**

In Spring 2017, **Britten Sinfonia** and **Thomas Adès** embark on a three year Beethoven Symphony Cycle. In a taste of pleasures to come, Britten Sinfonia’s Proms programme features Adès conducting Beethoven’s *Symphony No. 8*, alongside the UK premiere of a new cello and orchestra version of his own work, *Lieux retrouvés*, inspired by the “haunting sense of time and place” of the cello, with soloist Steven Isserlis. The programme also features the London premiere of **Francisco Coll**’s piquant *Four Iberian Miniatures*, with violin soloist **Augustin Hadelich**, which was commissioned by Britten Sinfonia and Saffron Hall in 2014.

Venue/Festival websites for further information/booking details

West Road Concert Hall, Cambridge	brittensinfonia.com
Norwich Theatre Royal & St Andrew’s Hall, Norwich	theatroyalnorwich.co.uk
Aldeburgh Festival	aldeburgh.co.uk
The Barbican	barbican.org.uk
BBC Proms	bbc.co.uk/events/e45c8g
Festival Saint Denis	festival-saint-denis.com