

Press Release

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Britten Sinfonia Creative Learning

Britten Sinfonia Academy turns five in a 2016-2017 season of new commissions, performances and workshops

Cementing its place as the foremost chamber orchestral training opportunity for bright teenage talent from the east of England, Britten Sinfonia is committed to nurturing the next generation of dynamic music-makers through **Britten Sinfonia Academy**. Academy members have the chance to work with internationally acclaimed guest artists, commission new work, perform alongside their professional colleagues and take up the challenge as inspirational role-models to other young musicians.

A year-long intensive course led by Britten Sinfonia players explores orchestral skills. This season, which marks five years of Britten Sinfonia Academy, focuses on two specific aspects of orchestral learning: new and contemporary music, and presenting music to family audiences. Workshops include one-to-one sessions, open rehearsals and the chance to meet some of music's outstanding soloists and composers, including John Adams and James MacMillan. This year, two young composers join the Academy for the first time as part of a 35-strong cohort.

The Academy also gives the valuable chance for young musicians to perform in leading venues, including the Barbican Hall, where the orchestra is an Associate Ensemble, and Saffron Hall, Saffron Walden, where Britten Sinfonia becomes Resident Orchestra from October 2016.

2016-2017 performance highlights include:

Sunday 16 October 2016 – Pre-concert performance of Britten's *Suite on English Folk Tunes* for the launch of Britten Sinfonia's inaugural season as Resident Orchestra at Saffron Hall, conducted by James MacMillan.

January 2017 – A residency at the Fitzwilliam Museum includes the premiere of a new work for children and families by Britten Sinfonia Academy member, 16-year-old Morgan Overton, inspired by Edward Lear's poem, *The Owl and the Pussycat*.

Saturday 25 February 2017 – Britten Sinfonia Academy join Britten Sinfonia for a performance of Philip Glass's *Music in Similar Motion* at the Barbican Hall in John Adams 70th Birthday Concert.

July 2017 – The world premiere of a new work by **Elena Langer**, commissioned for Britten Sinfonia Academy as part of the orchestra's award-winning At Lunch concert series.

About Britten Sinfonia Creative Learning

Britten Sinfonia's vibrant creative learning programme works with up to 10,000 people of all ages from schools, families and communities across the East of England and beyond. Britten Sinfonia Creative Learning sets out to encourage participants to discover something new, by exploring extraordinary works in the company of Britten Sinfonia players, participatory music making, and celebrating the extraordinary talent of the future. Projects in 2016-2017 also include the return of the orchestra's **OPUS** competition for new composing talent, and the start of a **partnership with Saffron Hall**, which will also throw open the doors of rehearsals to pupils of Saffron Walden County

High School – in which the hall is situated – and take to the road for workshops in schools across the region.

For further details about Britten Sinfonia Creative Learning please visit www.brittensinfonia.com

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