

MARK SIMPSON

One of today's most intriguing artists on the British music scene, it would be wrong to describe Liverpool-born Mark Simpson as either clarinettist or composer. His musical life is a symbiosis of his performing on the concert platform and pouring over his manuscripts. In 2022/2023 season Mark continues to premiere *Alchymia*, a new clarinet quintet by Thomas Adès dedicated to Mark and the Diotima Quartet, and in January 2023 his first piano concerto will be premiered by Vikingur Ólafsson and the London Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Ed Gardner.



In the 2022/23 season his piano concerto has further premiere performances with Vikingur Ólafsson under the baton of Ed Gardner with Bergen Philharmonic, in the Philharmonie Essen and with Louis Langrée and Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra. His violin concerto which received premieres with the London Symphony Orchestra and Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra performed by its' dedicatee Nicola Benedetti will also be performed by her with Netherlands Radio Philharmonic Orchestra in Amsterdam's Concertgebouw and Marcus Stenze and Cologne's Philharmonie with WDR Köln and Cristian Mcelaru. Other forthcoming premieres in Germany include Simpson's first opera, *Pleasure* at the Theater Erfurt in Spring 2023 and his orchestral work, *Israfel* with Deutsche Symphonie Orchester Berlin and Robin Ticciati. His solo work for horn and piano, *Nachtstück*, written for Ben Goldscheider (as an ECHO Rising Stars Artist) continues to be performed in major concert halls across Europe.

In 2022/23 Simpson continues his partnerships with Pierre-Laurent Aimard and Jean-Guihen Quénieux in performances of Helmut Lachenmann works touring to Vienna's Konzerthaus and the Philharmonie Luxembourg. He performs Adès's *Alchymia* with the Diotima Quartet at the 2022 Aix en Provence Festival, in Lucerne and Hamburg's Elbphilharmonie. As Artist in Focus in London's King's Place during 2021/22 season Mark curated chamber programmes with Leonard Elschenbroich, Richard Uttley, the Diotima Quartet and on a solo programme in collaboration with Philip Dawson on electronics, of 7 living composers Julian Anderson, Zoë Martlew and Philip Cashian were present for the premieres of their works on the programme.

Recent concerto highlights have included the world premiere of his own Clarinet Concerto with the BBC Philharmonic, Lindberg's Clarinet Concerto at the BBC Proms and Nielsen's Clarinet Concerto with the BBC Symphony Orchestra and the Scottish Chamber Orchestra. He has been soloist of the Mozarteumorchester Salzburg, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic and Danish National Symphony Orchestra. He has worked under the direction of Martyn Brabbins, Baldur Brönnimann, Sir Andrew Davis, Ben Gernon, HK Gruber, Cristian Macelaru, Juanjo Mena, Gianandrea Noseda, Sakari Oramo, Vasily Petrenko and Clemens Schuldt.

In other residencies, Simpson has enjoyed a Composer in Association at the BBC Philharmonic (2015-2019), featured composer at the 2020 Trondheim Chamber Music Festival, he is visiting

Fellow of Lady Margaret Hall (2022), St Catherine's College Oxford (where he graduated with a first class honours) where he returned in 2022 to premiere his own *Clarinet Quintet* with the Castalian Quartet and was one of the 2022 Aldeburgh Festival's artist in residence both as composer and performer.

Simpson's discography includes him both as performer and composer. *Prism* (as soloist) for NMC, was followed by a second disc for the label featuring his compositions including *Night Music* performed by Leonard Elschenbroich. His *Geysir* and Mozart Gran Partita disc (Orchid Classics 2020), won Presto Recording of the Year and was shortlisted for the 2021 Gramophone Classical Music Awards. In 2022, his *Essay for Love* for violin and piano featured on a compilation album, *The Jukebox Album* performed by Elena Urioste and Tom Poster won the Premiere Award of the BBC Music Magazine awards 2022.

A composition student of Julian Anderson's at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama, a BBC New Generation Artist (2021-2014), and a Fellow of the Borletti-Buitoni Trust (2014), Simpson was recipient of the Royal Philharmonic Society Composition Award in 2010, and the first ever winner of both the BBC Young Musician of the Year and BBC Proms/Guardian Young Composer of the Year in 2006. His oratorio *The Immortal* received the South Bank Sky Arts Award for Classical Music in 2019.

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