

ACADEMY OF ST MARTIN IN THE FIELDS

Thursday, March 23, 2017

Pro Musica

The Academy of St Martin in the Fields is one of the world's premier chamber orchestras, renowned for its fresh, brilliant interpretations of the world's most-loved classical music.

Formed by Sir Neville Marriner in 1958 from a group of leading London musicians, the Academy gave its first performance in its namesake church in November 1959. Through its live performances and vast recording output – highlights of which include the 1969 best-seller Vivaldi's *Four Seasons* and the soundtrack to 1985's Oscar-winning film *Amadeus* – the Academy quickly gained an enviable international reputation for its distinctive, polished and refined sound.

Today the Academy is led artistically by Music Director and virtuoso violinist Joshua Bell, retaining the collegiate spirit and flexibility of the original small, conductor-less ensemble which has become an Academy hallmark. Each year the Academy works with some of the most talented soloists and directors in the classical music scene, performing symphonic repertoire and 'chamber music on a grand scale' at prestigious venues throughout the world.

Highlights of the Academy's 2015/16 season include concerts and international tours with world-leading soloists, including cellist Steven Isserlis, violinist Julia Fischer and trumpeter Håkan Hardenberger. Music Director Joshua Bell leads tours of the UK, Europe and the United States, Principal Guest Conductor Murray Perahia tours Germany and Europe, and Life President Sir Neville Marriner takes the Academy to Asia with renowned pianist Angela Hewitt.

In addition to a busy concert and touring schedule, the Academy continues to reach out to young people and adult learners through its learning and participation programmes. This year's projects include the Academy's flagship *Create, Cultivate, Orchestrate!* workshops for primary and secondary school children; professional development partnerships with Southbank Sinfonia, the Guildhall School of Music and Drama and the Royal Northern College of Music; and working with some of London's most vulnerable and homeless adults, creating opportunities for everyone to connect and create music with the orchestra.

With over 500 recordings to date, the Academy is one of the most recorded chamber orchestras in the world. Recent highlights include *Beethoven Symphonies Nos. 4 & 7*, the Academy's first recording under Joshua Bell's directorship, which reached No. 1 on the Billboard Classical Albums Chart, and the critically acclaimed *Bach*, which had the distinction of being Joshua Bell's first-ever Bach concertos recording.

Joshua Bell's position as Music Director is supported by Klara and Larry A. Silverstein together with the American Friends of the Academy of St Martin in the Fields, and the Academy's March 2016 US tour is supported by Maria Cardamone and Paul Matthews together with the American Friends of the Academy of St Martin in the Fields. The American Friends was founded in 1998 to support the work of the Academy around the world, particularly in the USA.

TOMO KELLER, conductor

Tomo Keller was born in Stuttgart in 1974 to German-Japanese parents, both of whom were professional pianists. He started playing the violin at the age of six and at ten years old he gave his first performances as a soloist with an orchestra.

Tomo studied at Vienna's University for Music and Performing Arts and New York's Juilliard School. Numerous prizes and awards followed, including 1st prize at the Austrian National Music Competition, 3rd prize at the Fritz Kreisler Competition, 1st prize at the Johannes Brahms Competition, and the Grand Prize at the German Music Competition Berlin. He was also the first instrumentalist to receive the Aalto Stage Prize for young musicians.

He has since performed at major concert halls all around the world, including the Musikverein and Konzerthaus Vienna, Gewandhaus Leipzig, Konzerthaus Berlin, Beethovenhalle Bonn, Kirov Theatre St Petersburg, Salle Pleyel Paris and the Barbican in London. He has been invited to music festivals such as the Schleswig-Holstein Musik Festival, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern Festspiele, Ludwigsburger Schlossfestspiele, Festival de Musica Manuel de Falla and Oberösterreichische Stiftskonzerte. He has also been a frequent guest on radio and television broadcasts (ARD, BBC, NHK, ORF).

As a soloist Tomo Keller has performed with the Beethovenhalle Orchestra Bonn, St Petersburg Camerata, London Symphony Orchestra, Radio Symphony Orchestra Berlin and the Vienna Symphony Orchestra. Concert tours have led him all across Europe, as well as Russia, Asia, America and the Middle East.

Tomo Keller is a much sought-after orchestral leader, having led the Essen Philharmonic Orchestra (1999–2007), the London Symphony Orchestra (Assistant Leader 2009-2015) and the Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra (2014-present). He has appeared with more than 20 orchestras as guest leader including the BBC Symphony Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra of Europe, DSO Berlin, SWR Stuttgart, WDR Cologne, London Philharmonic Orchestra, Philharmonia Orchestra and Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. Tomo was appointed Leader of the Academy of St Martin in the Fields in December 2015.

Tomo's recordings include solo works by Bach, Bartok and Ysaye, orchestral recordings including Stravinsky's *Apollon musagète* with Sir John Eliot Gardiner/LSO, and *Avant Gershwin* with Patti Austin and the WDR Big Band, which was awarded a Grammy in 2008.

He has given masterclasses and orchestral classes at the Guildhall School and the Royal Academy of Music London as well as in South Korea and the United States.

Tomo Keller plays a violin by Andrea Guarneri, Cremona 1667, made available to him by the Swedish Järnåker Foundation.

INON BARATAN, piano soloist

"One of the most admired pianists of his generation" (*New York Times*), Inon Barnatan is celebrated for his poetic sensibility, musical intelligence, and consummate artistry. He was a recipient of Lincoln Center's Martin E. Segal Award in 2015, recognizing "young artists of exceptional accomplishment," as well as the prestigious Avery Fisher Career Grant in 2009. This year he embarks on his third and final season as the inaugural Artist-in-Association of the New York Philharmonic, in which capacity he plays Beethoven's First Piano Concerto in February under the baton of Manfred Honeck. Barnatan also collaborates with Philharmonic Music Director Alan Gilbert, who calls him "the complete artist: a wonderful pianist, a probing intellect, passionately committed, and a capable contemporary-music pianist as well." The two perform Beethoven's Second Concerto this season for Barnatan's Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra debut, after joining forces in recent months with the Academy of St. Martin in the Fields to record that orchestra's first complete Beethoven concerto cycle on disc.

The pianist opens his 2016-17 season playing and leading Mozart's Concerto No. 13 with San Francisco's New Century Chamber Orchestra, followed by a packed schedule that includes debuts with the Chicago, Baltimore, Seattle, Nashville, San Diego and Fort Worth Symphony Orchestras, and returns to many orchestras and venues around the U.S. He also makes his debut with the Hong Kong Philharmonic under Jaap Van Zweden and his Australian debut with the Queensland Symphony, returns to Tokyo with the Tokyo Metropolitan Orchestra, and performs the complete Beethoven piano concerto cycle in Marseilles.

In January Barnatan joins his frequent recital partner, cellist Alisa Weilerstein, along with clarinetist Anthony McGill, for a trio tour of the U.S., performing works by Beethoven and Brahms alongside the world premiere of a new work by the young American composer Joseph Hallman.

In the spring the pianist leads his third U.S. tour with the Academy of St. Martin in the Fields, playing and conducting Mozart and Shostakovich concertos from the keyboard, as well as the premiere of a newly commissioned concerto by Alasdair Nicolson. Soon after he embarks on a European recital tour with Weilerstein, and he ends the season playing solo recitals in Tel Aviv and London's Wigmore Hall.

Highlights of recent seasons include his Walt Disney Hall debut with the Los Angeles Philharmonic under Gustavo Dudamel; performances of Copland's jazz-inflected Piano Concerto with the San Francisco Symphony and Michael Tilson Thomas in San Francisco and at Carnegie Hall; a debut with the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic; performances with the Gulbenkian Orchestra in Lisbon; and solo recital debuts at the Celebrity Series of Boston and the Harris Theater in Chicago. He has performed with many of the world's most celebrated orchestras, and under such eminent conductors as Roberto Abbado, Susanna Mälkki, Vasily Petrenko, James Gaffigan, Matthias Pintscher, Edo De Waart, Pinchas Zukerman and Jaap van Zweden, among many others. He also collaborated with choreographer Mark Morris and pianist Garrick Ohlsson in a string of performances by the Mark Morris Dance company at the Mostly Mozart Festival in New York.

A sought-after chamber musician, Barnatan was a member of the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center's *CMS Two* program from 2006 to 2009, and is still a regular performer on CMS programs at home in New York and on tour. His passion for contemporary music has led him to commission and perform many works by living composers, including Thomas Adès, George Benjamin, George Crumb, Avner Dorman, James MacMillan, Kaija Saariaho and others. In past seasons he has premiered new pieces written for him by Matthias Pintscher and Sebastian Currier, commissioned jointly by Wigmore Hall, the Concertgebouw and the Aspen Music Festival. He also gave the European premiere of a piano concerto by Andrew Norman with the Orchestre National de France, and composer Alan Fletcher is writing a new piano concerto for him that will be performed with the Los Angeles Philharmonic at the Hollywood Bowl, as well as with the Atlanta Symphony and at the Aspen Music Festival.

Barnatan's latest album release is a live recording of Messiaen's 90-minute masterpiece, *Des Canyons Aux Etoiles* ("From the Canyons to the Stars"), in which he played the notoriously challenging solo piano part with an ensemble conducted by Alan Gilbert at the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival. Last October the pianist released *Rachmaninov & Chopin: Cello Sonatas* on Decca Classics with Alisa Weilerstein, which earned rave reviews on both sides of the Atlantic. His most recent solo album, featuring Schubert's late piano sonatas, was released by Avie in September 2013. It garnered praise from such publications as *Gramophone* and *BBC Music*, and his rendition of the great A major Sonata, D. 959 from the disc was chosen by BBC Radio 3 as one of the all-time best recordings of this piece. His 2012 album, *Darkness Visible*, debuted in the Top 25 of the Billboard Traditional Classical chart in its first week of release and received universal critical acclaim, being named *BBC Music's* "Instrumentalist CD of the Month" and winning a coveted place on the *New York Times'* "Best Classical Music Recordings of 2012" list. His debut solo recording of Schubert piano works, released by Bridge Records in 2006, prompted *Gramophone* to hail him as "a born Schubertian" and London's *Evening Standard* to call him "a true poet of the keyboard: refined, searching, unfailingly communicative."

Born in Tel Aviv in 1979, Inon Barnatan started playing the piano at the age of three after his parents discovered he had perfect pitch, and he made his orchestral debut at eleven. His musical education connects him to some of the 20th century's most illustrious pianists and teachers: he studied first with Professor Victor Derevianko, who, himself, studied with the Russian master Heinrich Neuhaus; and in 1997 he moved to London to study at the Royal Academy of Music with Maria Curcio – a student of the legendary Artur Schnabel – and with Christopher Elton. Leon Fleisher has also been an influential teacher and mentor. Barnatan currently resides in a converted warehouse in Harlem in New York City. For more information about Inon Barnatan visit www.inonbarnatan.com

MARK DAVID, trumpet

Mark David, Principal Trumpet in the Academy of St Martin in the Fields, has enjoyed a distinguished career as a performer with some of the most prestigious ensembles in the world. He has been described as "epitomising the very best of British Trumpet playing: clarity of tone, elegance of style and with sustained power when required." Prior to joining the ASMF he held the position of Principal Trumpet in the Philharmonia Orchestra for over twenty years. He performed as a soloist with the Philharmonia in Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No 2, directed by András Schiff, the Haydn trumpet concerto conducted by Vladimir Ashkenazy and Copland's Quiet City at Buckingham Palace in a private concert for the Prince and Princess of Wales. He has also performed the Haydn concerto with the ASMF in London and Switzerland.

Mark was born in Cornwall and began his musical life in the county's renowned brass bands. He studied at the Birmingham School of Music with John Wilbraham and later with Håkan Hardenberger. His professional career began as Principal Trumpet at Opera North and continued at the Bournemouth Symphony before he moved to the Philharmonia in 1990.

Alongside his performing schedule, Mark is Artistic Director and Head of Brass at the Royal Academy of Music. Under his leadership, the brass department has become widely recognised as one of the foremost in the world and his former students occupy positions in orchestras worldwide.

In his leisure time Mark is a keen sportsman, competing in triathlons and ultra-marathons and is a qualified ski instructor, personal trainer and mountain bike instructor. His teaching draws on techniques and inspiration from these and other disciplines to underpin his teaching philosophy of "guided self-discovery."

.