

Next Concert – Clare Hammond

Saturday 7th May 2022 @7:30pm, Gibson Hall, Dollar FK14 7DU

We're pleased that the postponed Sirocco Winds concert was able to be scheduled for early May. Hopefully the last Covid-related disruption.

Sirocco Winds are an award winning wind ensemble, who play a diverse range of music from classics to adapted traditional tunes. Their arrangements are both inspiring and an intriguing blend of sound textures.

Well worth hearing as the finale to the season!

"a musical triumph" (St Boswells Live)

<https://www.classicalmusiciansscotland.com/artists/sirocco-winds/>

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Clare Hammond

Saturday 9th April 2022, 7:30pm
Gibson Hall, Dollar Academy FK14 7DU



Clare Hammond

Acclaimed as a “pianist of extraordinary gifts” (Gramophone) and “immense power” (The Times), Clare Hammond is recognised for the virtuosity and authority of her performances. In 2016, she won the Royal Philharmonic Society's 'Young Artist Award' in recognition of outstanding achievement and in 2020 she was engaged to perform at the International Piano Series (Southbank Centre). This season she appears with the CBSO (Michael Seal) and BBC NOW, at the Aldeburgh and Husum Festivals, and gives live broadcasts for BBC Radio 3, and Danish Radio with violinist Henning Kraggerud.

Clare performed actively during the pandemic, including recitals for the Wigmore Hall, Aldeburgh Music, BBC Radio 3 Lunchtime Concerts and and broadcast recordings with the BBC Symphony Orchestra (Geoffrey Paterson) and BBC Concert Orchestra (Gavin Sutherland). During 2020-21, Clare was engaged to perform with the Britten Sinfonia (Ryan Wigglesworth), Sinfonia Varsovia (Jacek Kaspszyk), Royal Philharmonic Orchestra (Christoph Altstaedt) and the BBC Symphony Orchestra (Dalia Stasevska), while in recent seasons she has appeared with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra (Vasily Petrenko), BBC National Orchestra of Wales (Martyn Brabbins) and Philharmonia (Jamie Philips).

In 2019, Clare released the Complete Keyboard Works of Myslivecek with the Swedish Chamber Orchestra (Nicholas McGegan) for BIS Records. Clare's discs for BIS have been widely praised with her latest, Variations, receiving extensive critical approval. The disc was commended for its “*shimmering pianism and lightly-worn virtuosity*” (BBC Music Magazine) and “*artistry of the highest order*” (Musical Opinion), while Crescendo (Belgium) hailed her as “*one of the most exploratory pianistic personalities of our time*”. Clare's discography includes world premiere recordings of over 45 works.

Contemporary music is at the core of Clare's work and she has given over 50 world premieres, including those of major works by composers Kenneth Hesketh, Arlene Sierra, Robert Saxton and Michael Berkeley. An active chamber musician, Clare works regularly with the Carducci Quartet and Henning Kraggerud, and has started a new collaboration presenting concert plays with actor Tama Matheson. In 2018, she developed Ghosts & Whispers, a performance piece for piano and film, in collaboration with composer John Woolrich and animators, the Quay Brothers.

Community engagement forms an increasingly important part of Clare's work. Since 2017, she has performed to over 8,100 schoolchildren in partnership with Gloucestershire Music and Wye Valley Music in Schools. She frequently gives children's concerts and masterclasses at festivals in the UK and France, and runs an ongoing series of recitals in prisons.

Clare completed a BA at Cambridge University, where she obtained a double first in music, and undertook postgraduate study with Ronan O'Hora at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama and with Professor Rhian Samuel at City University London. She completed a doctorate on twentieth-century left-hand piano concertos in 2012.

Programme

Beethoven **Sonata No 3 in C, Op 2 No 3**

Composed in 1895, this early sonata was dedicated to Haydn and is often referred to as one of Beethoven's earliest "grand and virtuosic" piano sonatas. Its 4 movements are unusual for the time, indicating that Beethoven was aspiring to write a symphony. It is considered one of the classical period's most technically challenging sonatas.

1. Allegro con brio, 2. Adagio, 3. Scherzo: Allegro, 4. Allegro Assai

Brahms **Six Piano Pieces Op 118**

Some of Brahms most loved works, these were completed in 1893 and dedicated to Clara Schumann.

1. Intermezzo in A minor
2. Intermezzo in A major
3. Ballade in G minor
4. Intermezzo in F minor
5. Romanze in F major
6. Intermezzo in A minor

Interval

Carwithen **Sonatina**

Doreen Carwithen (1922-2003) was a British composer of classical and film music. The second wife of the English musician William Alwyn, she was also known as Mary Alwyn. She wrote scores for over 30 films, gaining a reputation for professionalism and speed under pressure. A Doreen Carwithen Music Festival will take place in the village of Haddenham between 30 June and 3 July 2022, marking her centenary.

WG Still **Bells**

William Grant Still (1895-1978) was an American composer of nearly 200 works. Known mainly for his first symphony *An Afro-American Symphony* (1930), which as until 1950 the most performed symphony composed by an American. Bells was written in 1944.

Medtner **Sonata Romantica, Op 53 No 1**

Nikolai Karlovich Medtner (1880-1951) was a Russian composer and pianist. After a period of comparative obscurity in the twenty-five years immediately after his death, he is now becoming recognized as one of the most significant Russian composers for the piano.

Sonata Romantica was written in 1930 and premiered in Glasgow. Taking four-movement form, it consists of a Romance (B \flat minor), Scherzo (E \flat minor), Meditazione (B minor), and Finale (B \flat minor).