

MARK BEBBINGTON - Biography

The critical plaudits that have greeted Mark Bebbington's performances and recordings have singled him out as a British pianist of the rarest refinement and maturity. Internationally recognised as a champion of British music in particular, Mark has recorded extensively for the SOMM 'New Horizons' label to unanimous critical acclaim. He has the enviable record of having been awarded seven consecutive five-star reviews in *BBC Music Magazine*. His most recent CDs include three British piano concertos with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, an all-Gershwin album with Leon Botstein and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra (Recording of the Month from MusicWeb International), and 'The Piano Music of Vaughan Williams', which reached No. 3 in the UK Classical Charts.

Mark's premiere recordings include Bax's Piano Concertino coupled with Ireland's Piano Concerto and *Legend*, and premieres of Vaughan Williams's *Fantasia* and Mathias's first two Piano Concertos with the Ulster Orchestra.

In addition to concerto recordings, in 2015 Mark completed his Ireland and Bridge solo piano series and released a CD of Alwyn's piano works. As well as his *BBC Music Magazine* success, he has won *Gramophone* magazine's Editor's Choice, *International Record Review's* 'Outstanding' accolade and many others.

Over recent seasons Mark has toured throughout Europe and the USA (both as recitalist and as soloist with some of the world's leading orchestras), as well as the Far East and North Africa. He recently played Richard Strauss's little-known Piano Concerto for the Left Hand at Carnegie Hall with the American Symphony Orchestra, and gave a masterclass and recital of British music at Bard College. In the UK he has performed concertos with the Royal Philharmonic and Philharmonia orchestras, the London Mozart Players, the Orchestra of the Swan and the BBC Concert Orchestra. He has featured both as soloist and recitalist on BBC television and radio, and on major European television and radio networks.

Mark studied at the Royal College of Music, where he was a recipient of numerous international awards and prizes including a Leverhulme Scholarship, a Winston Churchill Fellowship and the Ivan Sutton Recording Prize – the latter awarded to the one outstanding graduate of the combined London music colleges. He later studied in Italy with the legendary Aldo Ciccolini.

Mark's programming demonstrates a commitment to the music of our time and he regularly includes contemporary composers as diverse as Toru Takemitsu, Julian Anderson, John McCabe, David Matthews, Pierre Boulez and Elliot Carter in his recital series.

Forthcoming projects include continuing releases for the SOMM label, appearances in major concert series and festivals both in the UK and throughout Europe (including a debut at the Husum Piano Rarities Festival in Germany and as part of the Bordeaux International Festival), and, closer to home, concerto performances with the London Philharmonic Orchestra (with whom tonight's concert marks his debut) and Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. He recently completed a two-week tour with the Czech National Orchestra. Mark will return to the USA for concerts with the Buffalo Philharmonic, and make his Israel debut on tour with the Israel Camerata.