

Biography

Clare Hammond, pianist

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Acclaimed as a pianist of “amazing power and panache” (*The Telegraph*), Clare Hammond is recognised for the virtuosity and authority of her performances and has developed a “reputation for brilliantly imaginative concert programmes” (*BBC Music Magazine*). In 2016, she won the Royal Philharmonic Society's 'Young Artist Award' in recognition of outstanding achievement while in 2020 she gives her debut recital for the International Piano Series at the Southbank Centre.

In recent seasons, Clare has performed Panufnik with the Warsaw Philharmonic Orchestra (Jacek Kasprzyk), Roxburgh with the BBC Symphony Orchestra (Michael Seal) and Chopin with the Philharmonia at the Royal Festival Hall (George Fenton). She recently gave the premiere of *Uncoiling The River* by Kenneth Hesketh with the BBC National Orchestra of Wales and in March 2019 releases the Complete Keyboard Works of Myslivecek with the Swedish Chamber Orchestra and Nicholas McGegan for BIS Records. Clare has forthcoming engagements with the Philharmonia, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra and Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.

Clare's most recent disc for BIS, of music by Kenneth Hesketh, has been widely praised with the Observer describing her as a “star interpreter of contemporary music”. Her previous release, ‘Etude’, received unanimous critical acclaim for its “unfaltering bravura and conviction” (*Gramophone*) while the *BBC Music Magazine* stated that “this array of wizardry is not for the faint hearted”. Her discography includes world premiere recordings of over twenty works.

In 2015, Clare performed at the Barbican Hall, where *The Guardian* described her as a “dazzling athlete”, and recorded discs for Sony, BIS and Signum. She also made her film debut as the younger version of Maggie Smith's character, ‘Miss Shepherd’, in the Alan Bennett film adaptation, *The Lady in the Van*, directed by Nick Hytner. The previous year, Clare gave a Panufnik Centenary tour of Poland under the auspices of the British Council's ‘Artists’ International Development Fund’ and made her debut at the ‘Chopin and his Europe Festival’ in Warsaw. Clare also co-curated and managed the festival ‘Panufnik 100: a family celebration’ with the Brodsky Quartet at Kings Place in London which was hailed as the “culmination of this year's Andrzej Panufnik centenary” (*The Telegraph*).

Contemporary music forms an important part of Clare's work. She has given over 35 world premieres including those of major works by composers Robert Saxton, Michael Berkeley, John McCabe and Arlene Sierra. Recently she has premiered and recorded concertos for trumpet and piano by Geoffrey Gordon, Toby Young and Nimrod Borenstein with Simon Desbruslais and the English Symphony Orchestra, released on Signum Records. An active chamber musician, Clare has worked with the Brodsky, Endellion, Badke, Dante and Piatti Quartets and with Henning Kraggerud, Andrew Kennedy, Jennifer Pike, Philippe Graffin and Lawrence Power.

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. In 2014 Clare was paired with French pianist Anne Queffelec on the Philip Langridge Mentoring Scheme run by the Royal Philharmonic Society.

Clare is grateful for the support of the RVW Trust, Hinrichsen Foundation, John S Cohen Foundation, Arts Council England, Gemma Classical Music Trust, Fidelio Charitable Trust, Help Musicians UK, Stradivari Trust, Ambache Charitable Trust, British Korean Society, Chandos Memorial Trust, Vernon Ellis Foundation, Polish Cultural Institute, British Council, and the Britten-Pears Foundation.