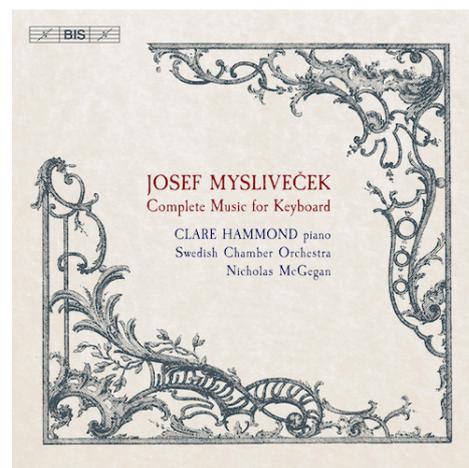


JOSEF MYSLIVECEK

complete keyboard works, recorded by

CLARE HAMMOND

and the SWEDISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA,
conducted by NICHOLAS MCGEGAN



PRESS RELEASE: IMMEDIATE

Pianist Clare Hammond and the Swedish Chamber Orchestra release a disc of Josef Mysliveček's complete keyboard works

*"They are sonatas which are bound to please everyone,
and very effective when played with proper precision"*
(Mozart, in a letter to his father, 1777)

On **29 March 2019**, BIS Records releases a disc of concertos and solo keyboard works by the Czech composer, **Josef Mysliveček** (1737-1781), performed by pianist **Clare Hammond** and the **Swedish Chamber Orchestra**, conducted by **Nicholas McGegan**. This is the **world premiere recording** of the second concerto, and the only time that his **Complete Keyboard Works** have been presented on disc.

Known by many simply as 'Il Boemo' ('The Bohemian'), Mysliveček lived a life so scandalous that at times he shocked even Mozart himself. He enjoyed great success on the international stage, both as an operatic and a symphonic composer, and was well established in his career when he met the young Mozart in Bologna in 1770. Mysliveček became a mentor to Mozart and is the only composer of whom Mozart wrote with affection and respect. His influence is apparent in Mozart's operas, violin concertos, symphonies and keyboard music from this period.

Mysliveček contracted syphilis later in life and lost his nose during the course of a botched operation. After deceiving Mozart's father in a business transaction, Mysliveček and the Mozart family became estranged and Mysliveček ultimately died disfigured and in poverty. His music fell out of fashion and was neglected by twentieth-century scholars who were biased towards German composers. Once Communist rule was established and Czech scholars were unable to travel freely, the barriers to a resurgence of Mysliveček's music in the West became even greater. It is only in the past few decades that his music has been revived.

The keyboard concertos have barely seen the light of day since Mysliveček's death and the first has never been published. Clare Hammond heard that autograph manuscripts of the concertos were held at the Bibliothèque Nationale de France and made her own edition of both works. She toured the first concerto in Poland in 2016, believed to be the 'modern-day world premiere' until an

archive recording from the 1970s with Anastasia Braudo and the Leningrad Chamber Orchestra came to light.

Acclaimed as a pianist of “amazing power and panache” (*The Telegraph*), Hammond won the Royal Philharmonic Society's 'Young Artist Award' in 2016 in recognition of outstanding achievements. Nicholas McGegan is hailed as “an expert in 18th-century style” (*The New Yorker*) while the Swedish Chamber Orchestra are renowned for a “textural clarity and steely edge unattainable by most period-instrument groups” (*The New York Times*). A film about Mysliveček's life, directed by Petr Vaclav, is to be released in 2020 and has been awarded the largest filmmaking grant ever distributed by the Czech government.

Notes to Editors

A dedicated press site for the disc with a pdf of the press release, press photos, and audio demos can be found at <http://clarehammond.com/myslivecek>.

This disc has been supported by the Gemma Classical Music Trust (Registered Charity No. 1121090).

Biography

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 achievements.

In the 2017/18 season, Clare performed Edwin Roxburgh's *Concerto for Piano and Winds* with the BBC Symphony Orchestra under Michael Seal and Panufnik's Piano Concerto with the Warsaw Philharmonic Orchestra under Jacek Kaspszyk. BBC Radio 3 and the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra have co-commissioned composer Kenneth Hesketh to write *Uncoiling the River*, which Clare will premiere with the BBC National Orchestra of Wales in 2019.

Clare's most recent disc for BIS, of music by Hesketh, has been widely praised with the Observer describing her as a “star interpreter of contemporary music”. A previous release, 'Etude', received unanimous critical acclaim for its “unflinching bravura and conviction” (*Gramophone*) while the *BBC Music Magazine* stated that “this array of wizardry is not for the faint hearted”.

Clare completed a BA at Cambridge University, where she obtained a double first in music, and undertook postdoctoral study with Ronan O'Hora at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama.

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| <p>For further information, press CDs, downloads, photos and interview opportunities, please contact: Jo Carpenter PR E: jo@jocarpenter.com T: 07771 538868</p> |
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| <p>BIS Records, BIS 2393</p> <p>Release date: 29 March 2019 Total playing time: 77 minutes</p> <p>Distributed in the UK by Select Music.</p> <p>More information online at: http://www.clarehammond.com/ https://bis.se/</p> | <p>Josef Myslivecek (1737-1781)</p> <p>1-3: <i>Concerto per Cembalo con più Stromenti del Signor Giuseppe Myslivecek detto il Boemo</i> (late 1770s)</p> <p>4-9: <i>Six Easy Divertimenti for the Harpsichord or Piano-forte</i> (1777)</p> <p>10-12: <i>Concerto Secondo del Signore Giuseppe Myslivecek, detto 'Il Boemo'</i> (late 1770s)*</p> <p>13-24: <i>Six Easy Lessons for the Harpsichord</i> (1780)</p> <p><i>*With one world premiere recording.</i></p> |
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