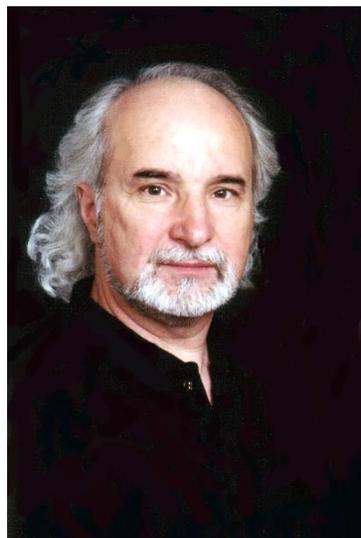




Works that speak the truth of our time

International Centre for Contemporary Music launched to promote the performance, production and commissioning of contemporary music

Inaugural London season of concerts and events announced



Zvonimir Hačko

Its name is in many respects self-explanatory, but the **International Centre for Contemporary Music** merits detailed attention as a multi-faceted organisation with a powerful vision. Newly launched and based in London, ICCM is devoted to the performance, production, and promotion of contemporary music and to encouraging audiences to experience works that are either entirely new or date from the recent past.

With performance at the core of its mission, and with Croatian-American conductor **Zvonimir Hačko** as its Artistic Director and Music Director, ICCM is announcing its first London concert seasons, scheduled for Spring 2022 and the 2022/23 concert season and featuring a number of world and UK premieres.

Among the performing ensembles are the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Philharmonia Orchestra and London Sinfonietta, and the themes are contemporary music from Eastern Europe and the US. The Spring 2022 series, **Leaning East**, will include works by, among others, Sofia Gubaidulina (who turns 90 in October 2021), Witold Lutosławski and Pēteris Vasks (a UK premiere); the Spring 2023 series, **America's High Cotton**, will feature such composers as John Adams, Jennifer Higdon, Steve Reich, Osvaldo Golijov, Philip Glass and Missy Mazzoli.

Krzysztof Penderecki, who died aged 86 in March 2020, will be a major focus for ICCM as it not only records all his symphonies, but also presents **Penderecki Retrospective** in Autumn 2022, a series of seven concerts featuring the composer's major orchestral works performed by several of London's leading orchestras including the Philharmonia and the RPO, different choruses and conductors, including Mo. Hačko.

Over the last 100 years or so, concert programming has come to be dominated by music of the past. ICCM is committed to reviving a performance culture in which a wealth of new music is presented as a matter of course. Throughout his international career, Zvonimir Hačko, has always commissioned and championed the work of contemporary composers. As Music Director/Principal Conductor of the Portland-based (Oregon, USA) Oregon Music Festival, he has given local premieres of works by composers such as Adams, Pärt, Vasks, Rautavaara, Górecki, Tavener and Kancheli.

"Every age has its prophets," Hačko says, "and ours does too. Our job is to find them and perform their works because they speak the truth of our time. That is what ICCM is about."

There will be further, complementary strands to ICCM's activities, embracing audience engagement and education, the nurturing of young composers, and partnerships with other artists, performers and cultural institutions. ICCM's commissioning programme has been active for the last 18 months before launching so that major symphonic works are ready to be programmed by leading orchestras. Likewise, ICCM's recording programme, and masterclasses and workshops are in operation. An international music academy will soon be launched that will give young musicians the opportunity to work beside established artists.

Already scheduled for 2022 is **Meet the Composer**, a free programme providing opportunities to interact with composers featured in ICCM's concert series. It will comprise public forums, open rehearsals, panel discussions, lectures and interviews. The three composers announced for 2022 are French composer **Thierry Escaich** in March, Polish composer **Paweł Mykietyn** in April and Brazilian-American composer **Clarice Assad** in November.

www.iccmlondon.org

All press enquiries to Simon Millward, Premier PR
simon.millward@premiercomms.com | +44(0)7990507310

Notes to Editors

ICCM was conceived and developed by Zvonimir Hačko, and endorsed by the Oregon Music Festival as an international project. They were joined by Fidelio International SRL and Only Stage as

development partners, and Hačko was joined by Susanna Stefani Caetani and Paolo Petrocelli in ICCM's three year planning period.

Zvonimir Hačko, Artistic Director & Music Director, International Centre for Contemporary Music

Croatian/American conductor Zvonimir Hačko serves as ICCM's Music Director/Principal conductor, Music Director of London Orchestra Next, and Artistic Director/Chief Conductor of Oregon Music Festival (USA). A conductor with an international career that spans nearly four decades, Hačko brings to his post a broad artistic perspective, rich international experience, and an in-depth knowledge of styles and repertoire. He has conducted many orchestras internationally including Österreichische Symphoniker, Brazil National Symphony, Haifa Symphony, Tbilisi Symphony Orchestra (Georgia), State of Mexico Symphony, Symphony Orchestra of Serbian Radio-Television, Poznan Philharmonic (Poland), Istanbul Chamber Orchestra, Orchestra Sinfonica Siciliana (Italy), Sacramento Philharmonic (USA), Los Angeles Baroque Orchestra (USA), Orchestra and Chorus of Croatian National Theater, and many others.

Hačko's upcoming performances and recordings include work with Budapest Symphony Orchestra, Roma Opera Orchestra, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, London Symphony Orchestra, Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, Orchestra of St. Luke's (New York), Philharmonia Orchestra, LaVerdi Milano, London Sinfonietta, Oregon Festival Orchestra, and others. He records for Signum Records and Naxos.

ICCM's inaugural concert series

LEANING EAST

March-May 2022

Sunday 13th March, 2022, 19:00

Music of Eastern Europe

Amaryllis Fleming Concert Hall (Royal College of Music)

Thierry Escaich, organ

Zvonimir Hačko, conductor

Royal Philharmonic Orchestra

Pēteris Vasks *Vēstijums* (Message) (1982) for strings, two pianos and percussion [UK premiere]

Thierry Escaich Organ Concerto No 1 (1995) for organ and orchestra [UK premiere]

Witold Lutosławski Symphony No 3 (1983)

Wednesday 27th April 27, 19:00

New Polish Music

Queen Elizabeth Hall

Wojciech Błażejczyk, electric guitar

Jessica Cottis, conductor

London Sinfonietta

Krzysztof Penderecki Sinfonietta per archi (1992)

Wojciech Błażejczyk Concerto for Electric Guitar & Orchestra (2020) [World premiere/ICCM commission]

Paweł Mykietyń *Prank* for chamber orchestra (2021) [World premiere/ICCM commission]

Sunday, 22nd May, 2022, 19:00

Celebrating Sofia Gubaidulina

Cadogan Hall

Geir Draugsvoll, bayan

Zvonimir Hačko, conductor

Philharmonia Orchestra

Isidora Žebeljan *The Horses of St. Mark's* (2004) [UK premiere]

Sofia Gubaidulina Fachwerk for bayan, percussion and strings (2009)

Witold Lutosławski: Concerto for Orchestra (1954)