



## **Adam Gatehouse becomes sole Artistic Director of The Leeds, as Paul Lewis concentrates on international performing career**

Following a hugely successful 2018 event, Paul Lewis has decided to step down as co-Artistic Director of the Leeds International Piano Competition to enable him to concentrate on his international performing career. Adam Gatehouse becomes the sole Artistic Director of The Leeds.

Paul is delighted to have been part of the remarkable team that helped to formulate and build a vital and exciting new vision for The Leeds following the retirement of Dame Fanny Waterman in 2015. Looking ahead to the next three years and his performance and family commitments, Paul feels that he will not have the time to give the Competition the attention it deserves.

Paul Lewis said:

*“The journey at LIPC over last three years has been an endlessly fascinating one, full of discoveries, challenges, and surprises along the way. It has been a huge thrill and a privilege to have played a part in the process of renewing the competition, and I have no doubt that The Leeds will continue to evolve and develop in exciting ways over the coming years.”*

Adam Gatehouse, Artistic Director of The Leeds, said:

*“It has been a pleasure and a privilege working with my old friend Paul Lewis on re-envisaging and transforming the Competition these past three years. We will all miss the knowledge, passion, inventiveness and commitment that Paul has brought to the Competition. The Leeds is now in a great place and I look forward to working with our team in further developing and enhancing its position as one of the world’s pre-eminent music competitions in the coming years.”*

Fiona Sinclair, newly-appointed Chief Executive of The Leeds, said:

*“Paul Lewis brought a passionate and visionary approach to The Leeds and I have greatly admired his very personal commitment to supporting the welfare and development of young pianists. We are hugely grateful to Paul for all his work with Adam towards creating such a successful 2018 Competition and wish him well. The future holds many exciting opportunities for The Leeds and we are looking forward to our next Competition in 2021 which aims to further raise the barre internationally for wider engagement with the piano.”*

In the past three years, and especially during the 2018 Competition, The Leeds has built on its reputation as one of the world’s most cherished music competitions. The Competition’s renewed mission is to celebrate the piano in new ways, aiming to unlock its transformative potential and inspire, educate and connect people through its music.

The success of the 2018 Competition ensured that over one million people enjoyed The Competition, either in person in Leeds or watching online in 158 countries. The new-look festival programme enlivened the city of Leeds with 7,730 people taking part in 65 events. Eric Lu won First Prize to great critical and artistic

acclaim, securing worldwide management with Askonas Holt, a recording with Warner Classics, recitals at Wigmore Hall and international touring opportunities.

[www.leedspiano.com](http://www.leedspiano.com)

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**About Adam Gatehouse:**

Adam Gatehouse studied conducting at the Guildhall School of Music in London, where his teachers included Sir Adrian Boult and André Previn. From 1974 to 1991 he enjoyed an international career as conductor, working as Music Director with Ballet Rambert, Dutch National Ballet and the Dutch National Youth Orchestra, and guest conducting at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, and in France, Spain, Germany, Italy, Canada and the USA.

From 1991 to 2013, Adam was a producer and later Editor Live Music with BBC Radio 3, where he worked with many of the leading artists. He started both the BBC Wigmore Hall Lunchtime Concert series, Radio 3's flagship Chamber Music Series, and the LSO St. Luke's Lunchtime Concert series in collaboration with the LSO. In 1999 he created and for 14 years was Editor of BBC Radio 3's prestigious New Generation Artists scheme, which helped launch the careers of over 100 international artists and ensembles, including Paul Lewis, Stephen Osborne, the Belcea Quartet, Alison Balsom, Alice Coote, Janine Jansen and more recently Benjamin Grosvenor and Igor Levit.

In July 2013 he conducted the world premiere of *and the Crowd (wept)*, a new opera by Erick Flores and Afsaneh Gray, at Riverside Studios in London as part of the Tete à Tete Festival. He has served on the juries of the BBC Cardiff Singer of the World and the Leeds International Piano Competition. Adam Gatehouse was also the Founder and Director of the internationally acclaimed Festival de Valloires in Picardy, France. He became co-Artistic Director of The Leeds in 2015 and Artistic Director in 2018.

**About The Leeds International Piano Competition ([www.leedspiano.com](http://www.leedspiano.com)):**

The first Leeds International Piano Competition took place in 1963; the idea of local piano teacher and former concert pianist, Fanny Waterman. In bringing the competition to fruition, Dame Fanny, as she was to become in 2005, was assisted by her husband Geoffrey de Keyser and by Marion Thorpe, then Countess of Harewood. The first Competition was won by Michael Roll before a jury chaired by Sir Arthur Bliss. In 1981 Dame Fanny Waterman chaired the jury for the first time, continuing to do so until her retirement as artistic director in 2015, when she was succeeded by Paul Lewis (chair of the jury) and Adam Gatehouse as Co-Artistic Directors.

The Leeds hugely expanded its programme for 2018, going beyond a single competition to become a city-wide celebration of the piano. With an international First Round on three continents, global streaming of the Competition across 158 countries, and in Leeds, a new programme of talks, masterclasses, exhibitions, free family events, schools projects, concerts and city-wide events, The Leeds shared its passion for the piano with more people than ever before.

The concerto finals have been supported by a number of major UK orchestras over the years including the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and the Hallé. Sir Mark Elder has

conducted the Hallé at all the finals between 2003 and 2015. Other conductors with long associations with the Competition include Sir Charles Groves and Sir Simon Rattle. In 2018 Edward Gardner conducted the finals for the first time. The BBC has broadcast all Competitions since 1966, which continued in 2018, while worldwide streaming by [medici.tv](https://www.medicivt.com/) was introduced for the first time.

The list of eminent past winners and alumni includes Radu Lupu and Murray Perahia. More recent winners with growing professional careers include Alessio Bax, Sunwook Kim and Federico Colli. The roll call of other Competition finalists is equally illustrious as that of the winners and includes Dame Mitsuko Uchida and Sir Andrés Schiff (1975), Peter Donohoe (1981), Louis Lortie (1984), Lars Vogt (1990), Denis Kozhukhin (2006) and Louis Schwizgebel (2012). The 2018 Competition was won by American pianist Eric Lu to great critical and artistic acclaim, securing worldwide management with Askonas Holt, an album recording with Warner Classics and international touring opportunities.

The Competition's 1972 winner Murray Perahia became Patron in June 2017. Lang Lang is Global Ambassador and Dame Fanny Waterman was appointed Life President and Founder Director Emeritus in 2015.