

WIGMORE HALL

Celebration of the music of Sir George Benjamin at Wigmore Hall and the Roundhouse

5 & 6 March 2019



- **Rare chance to hear Benjamin's celebrated chamber opera *Into the Little Hill* with Anu Komsu (soprano), Helena Rasker (contralto) and Ensemble Modern conducted by Sir George Benjamin ([5 March](#))**
- **First-ever concert promoted by Wigmore Hall at the Roundhouse, featuring large-scale works such as Benjamin's *Palimpsests for orchestra* and Messiaen's *7 haïkai for piano and orchestra*, with Ueli Wiget (piano) and Ensemble Modern Orchestra conducted by Sir George Benjamin ([6 March](#))**

Internationally regarded as one of the finest composers of our time, Sir George Benjamin is the focus of landmark concerts on 5 and 6 March 2019, the first at Wigmore Hall and the second at the Roundhouse, promoted by Wigmore Hall.

On 5 March, Benjamin conducts his highly successful first opera, *Into the Little Hill*, at Wigmore Hall, retelling the ancient tale of the Pied Piper of Hamelin in a novel way, alongside a new work by the Australian composer Cathy Milliken and a recent one by the English composer Christian Mason.

On 6 March, Wigmore Hall promotes its first concert at the Roundhouse in a red-letter day for contemporary music fans, harking back to the days of Boulez's famous avant-garde concerts at the iconic Camden venue. This performance includes *Composition No. 2 'Dies irae' for 8 double basses, percussion and piano* by the Russian Galina Ustvolskaya (1919-2006), and **Sir George Benjamin** conducts his own *Palimpsests* (2002), inspired by 'the concept of a piece of parchment, or slate, used over and over again for different pieces of music'.

John Gilhooly, Executive and Artistic Director of Wigmore Hall, said: '*It is a great joy to place Sir George's extraordinary music at the heart of our contemporary series this season. I am thrilled to welcome Ensemble Modern back to the Hall, and to take Wigmore Hall's artistic programme to the Roundhouse to fully explore Sir George's remarkable sound world.*'

Sir George Benjamin said: 'It is both a delight and a privilege for me to collaborate on this project, especially as it involves my great friends from the Ensemble Modern. I look forward tremendously to returning to the Wigmore Hall and the Roundhouse – both absolutely magnificent venues, in their different ways - and send my warmest thanks to John Gilhooly and everyone involved.'

Concert details:

5 March 2019, 7.30pm – Wigmore Hall

Ensemble Modern; Sir George Benjamin (conductor); Anu Komsis (soprano); Helena Rasker (contralto)

Christian Mason (b.1984) *Layers of Love*

Cathy Milliken (b.1956) *New work* (Commissioned by Ensemble Modern)

Luigi Dallapiccola *Piccola Musica Notturna*

Sir George Benjamin (b.1960) *Into the Little Hill*

Tickets £18-£40 (£5 tickets for Under 35s available). Further information [here](#)

6 March 2019, 7.30pm – Wigmore at the Roundhouse

Ensemble Modern Orchestra; Sir George Benjamin (conductor); Ueli Wiget (piano)

Pierre Boulez *Initiale*

Olivier Messiaen *7 haïkaï for piano and orchestra*

Galina Ustvolskaya *Composition No. 2 'Dies irae' for 8 double basses, percussion and piano*

György Ligeti *Ramifications for 12 solo strings*

Sir George Benjamin (b.1960) *Palimpsests for orchestra*

Tickets £10-£40 (£5 tickets for Under 35s available). Further information [here](#)

For further press information, images or press tickets, please contact

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