

Saturday 10 October 2020

Jennifer Pike awarded MBE for Services to Classical Music



Jennifer Pike © Arno

British-Polish violinist Jennifer Pike has today [Saturday 10 October 2020] been awarded an MBE for her Services to Classical Music.

Jennifer Pike said: 'I am honoured to receive an MBE for services to Classical Music. Performing has been my life for over 20 years and I have been privileged to have been a part of the fabric of the performing arts, such a vital part of our identity, and experienced the impact it has on the world stage.'

Creativity, music and the arts have been a part of our culture and a human need for thousands of years, giving us hope, expression and meaning to our lives. Music is a part of our daily life in ways that is sometimes easy to miss, whether part of life's great celebrations, a score to our favourite film, or simply a birthday song we sing whilst washing our hands!

Not only do the Performing Arts contribute billions to the economy but it also gives us the power to connect and heal as a nation, which will be a vital lifeline to so many after this pandemic. Freelance musicians, orchestras and so many behind the scenes are the foundation of our culture and will be at the core of our national recovery, and I appeal for support at this time to save the arts in Britain. I

will continue to serve Classical Music and with this award I hope to highlight the enormous benefits that it can bring to our society.'

Passionate about sharing music with the wider community and believing that music has the power to enrich lives, Pike has worked prolifically with charities across the UK, currently acting as ambassador for organisations including The Prince's Foundation for Children and the Arts, The Prince's Trust, London Music Masters, City Music Foundation and The WellSpring.

Known as an artist of exceptional integrity and depth and dazzling audiences as a soloist in the world's top concert halls for over 20 years, Pike first gained international recognition aged 11 at her concerto debut with the Hallé, subsequently becoming the youngest ever winner of the BBC Young Musician of the Year Award as well as the youngest major prize-winner of the Yehudi Menuhin International Violin Competition. In 2009, she was a BBC Proms featured artist, also taking part in the 'Night of the Proms' 2016 tour to Poland. In 2014, she performed Vaughan Williams' *The Lark Ascending* at the Commemoration Vigil marking the centenary of the first world war, broadcast live from Westminster Abbey on BBC Two, and made her Carnegie Hall debut with the same work the following year. She also took part in a broadcast performance of Schindler's List as part of BBC Two's Holocaust Memorial Day tribute, as well as a broadcast live on Classic FM for the Queen's 90th Birthday Concert. Jennifer's latest recording of works by Elgar and Vaughan Williams was released by Chandos to great acclaim in July 2020.

A passionate champion of contemporary music, Pike has shone a light on lesser-known and under-represented composers throughout her career. In 2017 she curated a 'Polish Music Day' at London's Wigmore Hall, featuring specially-commissioned works from Polish composers. Her work with contemporary composers also includes personal commissions from the likes of Hafliði Hallgrímsson, Andrew Schultz, Charlotte Bray and Dani Howard. Outside of Western music, Jennifer continues to collaborate with celebrated sarod players Ayaan and Amaan Ali Bangash on a special Bach and Khan programme.

Earlier this month, Pike performed on the steps of Manchester Central Library with Vanessa Redgrave and Andy Burnham to shine a light on the difficulties facing the arts sector in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, and will return to the Wigmore Hall on 24th October to perform Polish contemporary works alongside well-loved classics of the violin repertoire.

<http://www.jenniferpike.com/>

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Jennifer Pike

Renowned for her unique artistry and compelling insight into music from the baroque to the present day, Jennifer Pike has firmly established herself as one of today's most exciting instrumentalists. She made her concerto debut with the Hallé Orchestra aged eleven, and her international career was launched the following year when she won the BBC Young Musician of the Year and became the youngest major prize winner in the Yehudi Menuhin International Competition.

Appearing as soloist in a broad repertoire at the world's top concert halls, she has performed with eminent conductors including Sir Andrew Davis, Jiří Bělohlávek, Sir Mark Elder,

Vladimir Fedoseyev, Juanjo Mena, Andris Nelsons, Sir Roger Norrington, Alondra de la Parra, Jukka-Pekka Saraste, Leif Segerstam, Tugan Sokhiev, and Mark Wigglesworth. She has appeared at Carnegie Hall, New York, and with St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra, Nagoya Philharmonic Orchestra, Oslo Philharmonic, Royal Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra, Singapore Symphony Orchestra, Staatsorchester Rheinische Philharmonie, Tchaikovsky Symphony Orchestra, Moscow, Tokyo Symphony Orchestra, Zürcher Kammerorchester, all the BBC orchestras, and major orchestras across the UK. She has appeared as a guest director with the BBC Philharmonic, Manchester Camerata and English Chamber Orchestra, among others.

Equally sought after as a recitalist and chamber musician, she has collaborated worldwide with artists including Anne-Sophie Mutter, Nikolaj Znaider, Nicolas Altstaedt, Sir Bryn Terfel, sarod players Ayaan and Amaan Ali Bangash, Igor Levit, Martin Roscoe and Mahan Esfahani, with whom she recently toured China. She has curated concert series at LSO St Luke's for BBC Radio 3 and at the Wigmore Hall, where she celebrated her Polish heritage with three recitals of Polish music, including several UK and world premieres.

Her critically acclaimed discography on Chandos includes 'The Polish Violin,' a disc championing Polish composers, the concertos by Sibelius, Rózsa, and Mendelssohn, sonatas by Brahms, Schumann, Debussy, Ravel, and Franck and the complete works for violin and piano by Janáček.

Jennifer Pike is an ambassador for the Prince's Trust and Foundation for Children and the Arts, and patron of the Lord Mayor's City Music Foundation. She plays a 1708 Matteo Goffriller violin.