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The London Piano Festival announces its 2019 programme, featuring Jonathan Dove world premiere and the annual Two-Piano Marathon

**Katya Apekisheva | Ingrid Fliter | Christian Ihle Hadland | Tim Horton | Sarah Nicolls
Charles Owen | Lucy Parham | Gwilym Simcock | Susan Tomes
2 – 6 October 2019 | Kings Place, London**



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'The festival came off with brio, brilliance and the brightest of spirits.'
The Sunday Times, October 2018

- **World premiere of new work by Jonathan Dove, performed by Katya Apekisheva and Charles Owen**
- **Solo recitals by Ingrid Fliter and Christian Ihle Hadland, jazz performance by Gwilym Simcock and lecture-recital by Susan Tomes**
- **Two-Piano Marathon with Katya Apekisheva, Ingrid Fliter, Christian Ihle Hadland, Tim Horton, Charles Owen and Susan Tomes**
- **London premiere of *I, Clara* celebrating 200 years since Clara Schumann's birth - created and performed by Lucy Parham and narrated by Dame Harriet Walter**
- ***The Inside-Out Piano* presented by pianist and composer Sarah Nicolls especially for families and children**
- **Under 30's tickets available for £8.50**

The London Piano Festival today announced its programme for 2019, taking place from 2-6 October at Kings Place, London. The Festival, now in its fourth year, is devised by Founding Artistic Directors **Charles Owen** and **Katya Apekisheva**. Nine pianists come together for five days of recitals, jazz, a lecture-recital, family concert and the much-anticipated annual Two-Piano Marathon. The Festival is offering a limited number of discounted tickets to under 30's, in order to broaden the reach of the Festival. The London Piano Festival is delighted to be working with **International Piano magazine** as media partner for the fourth year running. **BBC Radio 3** will once again broadcast

from the London Piano Festival.

“We are delighted to announce the fourth London Piano Festival programme, featuring unique pairings and contrasting sounds all centred around the three superb Steinways at Kings Place. Our nine pianists this year bring something for everyone, from jazz fans to children eager to experience the piano. Jonathan Dove is our Composer-in-Residence, and we’ve commissioned a brand new piece for two-pianos which will premiere during our central event, the Two-Piano Marathon.”

Charles Owen and Katya Apekisheva, London Piano Festival Founders and co-Artistic Directors

The London Piano Festival each year brings together leading pianists to present a variety of performances catering for all generations of piano lovers. This year the Festival opens with a solo recital by multi-award-winning Argentinian pianist **Ingrid Fliter** (2 Oct), who makes her Kings Place debut with a programme of Chopin’s 24 Preludes preceded by two Beethoven piano sonatas. Norwegian pianist **Christian Ihle Hadland** performs a programme of ‘Romantic Visions’, bringing together Schubert’s Sonata in E minor, D566, Schumann’s *Waldszenen* and Rachmaninov’s Piano Sonata No. 2 in B flat minor.

Katya Apekisheva and **Charles Owen**, the Festival’s co-Artistic Directors, are working closely with composer **Jonathan Dove** who is the **Composer-in-Residence** for this year’s Festival. The Festival commissioned Jonathan Dove, who is celebrating his 60th birthday this year, to write a new work for two pianos which will be premiered as part of the Two-Piano Marathon (5 Oct). Additionally, three further pieces by Dove will be performed in the duo’s recital (3 Oct) which sees them present both solo and duo repertoire. Katya will perform *Bindweed & Hop, Skip, Jump*, and Charles *Catching Fire*. The concert also includes works by Mozart, Grieg, Liszt, Poulenc and Rzewski.

The Festival prides itself in programming contemporary works within the programme, having previously commissioned Nico Muhly and Elena Langer to compose pieces (2016 and 2017). In addition works by this year’s composer-in-residence Jonathan Dove, the 2019 Festival also includes works by **Mark-Anthony Turnage** (*Two Portraits*, 2001) and **Frederic Rzewski** (*Winnsboro Cotton Mill Blues*, 1980).

Each year the Festival invites leading jazz musicians to perform, having previously had performances by Julian Joseph, Jason Rebello and Leszek Mozdzer. This year presenting a Friday night jazz concert is British pianist **Gwilym Simcock** (4 Oct). Referred to by *The Observer* as “a stupendous improviser and remarkable musician all round”, Simcock performs music from his recently released album, *Near and Now*, as well as other original pieces. The following day, pianist and writer **Susan Tomes** gives a lecture-recital on Schubert’s penultimate Sonata in A, D959, sharing her analysis of the work alongside a complete performance (5 Oct).

The climax of the Festival is its highly-anticipated **Two-Piano Marathon** which sees six pianists perform in a variety of unique pairings on two interlocking Steinways. This year’s performance is crowned by the world premiere of Jonathan Dove’s new work, commissioned by the Festival and performed by Katya Apekisheva and Charles Owen. Also performing are **Ingrid Fliter**, **Christian Ihle Hadland**, **Tim Horton** and **Susan Tomes**, with works ranging from Mozart to Mark-Anthony Turnage.

Lucy Parham returns to the Festival for the second time, this year staging the London premiere of her new show *I, Clara*, alongside **Dame Harriet Walter**. The show, created by Lucy, is a composer portrait of Clara Schumann and celebrates the bicentenary of her birth. The narrative of the show is drawn from letters and diaries which are narrated alongside performances of works by Clara Schumann and her contemporaries. *I, Clara* is also part of Venus Unwrapped, Kings Place’s year-long celebration of female creativity.

Concluding the Festival is this year’s family event with pianist **Sarah Nicolls** who brings two performances of her show, *The Inside-Out Piano*. The Inside-Out Piano was invented by Sarah, allowing audiences to see into the instrument and its moving parts whilst she plays. Children will have the chance to see and hear the piano like never before and explore the instrument close up.

Full Programme

Wednesday 2 October, 19:30pm | Hall One

'Keyboard Icons - Ingrid Fliter plays Beethoven and Chopin'

Beethoven *Sonata in D minor, Op. 31, No. 2 'Tempest'*

Beethoven *Sonata in E Flat major, Op. 31, No. 3*

Chopin *24 Preludes, Op. 28*

Thursday 3 October, 19:30pm | Hall One

'God, Mankind & Nature' - Charles Owen & Katya Apekisheva

Mozart *Sonata in F, K280* (KA)

Jonathan Dove *Bindweed & Hop, Skip, Jump* (KA)

Grieg *Lyric Pieces - The Brook Op.62, No. 4 & Lonely wanderer Op.43, No. 2* (KA)

Grieg *Carnival Scene op.19* (KA)

Liszt *Legende - 'St Francis of Assisi Preaching to the Birds'* (CO)

Liszt *'Les jeux d'eaux à la Villa d'Este'* (CO)

Jonathan Dove *Catching Fire* (CO)

Poulenc *Sonata for two pianos* (KA + CO)

Rzewski *Winssboro Cotton Mill Blues* (KA + CO)

Friday 4 October, 19:30 | Hall One

Gwilym Simcock - Near and Now

Saturday 5 October, 14:00 | Hall Two

'Finding a Way Through' - Susan Tomes explores the landscape of Schubert's late A major Sonata, D959.

Saturday 5 October, 16:00 | Hall One

'Romantic Visions' - Christian Ihle Hadland recital

Schubert *Sonata in E-minor, D566*

Schumann *Waldszenen, Op. 82*

Rachmaninov *Sonata No. 2 in B flat minor, Op. 36*

Saturday 5 October, 19:00 | Hall One

Two-Piano Marathon

Katya Apekisheva, Ingrid Fliter, Christian Ihle

Hadland, Tim Horton, Charles Owen, Susan Tomes

Mozart *Adagio and Fugue in C minor, K546* (ST + TH)

Mozart *Larghetto and Allegro* (ST + TH)

Ravel *Introduction and Allegro* (ST + CO)

Debussy *Jeux* (TH + CO)

Mark-Anthony Turnage *Two Portraits* (TH + CO)

Stravinsky *Madrid* (KA + CO)

Chabrier *España* (KA + CO)

-

Brahms *Haydn Variations* (CIH + KA)

Jonathan Dove *New Work *world premiere** (KA + CO)

Bartok *7 pieces from Mikrokosmos* (IF + CIH)

Arensky *Suite No. 1* (KA + IF)

Sunday 6 October, 10:30 + 12:00 | Hall Two

'The Inside-Out Piano' with Sarah Nicolls

Sunday 6 October, 11:30 | Hall One

I, Clara *London premiere*

Lucy Parham – piano, Dame Harriet Walter – narrator

www.londonpianofestival.com

www.kingsplace.co.uk

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For further information or to arrange interviews/press tickets please contact

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Notes to editors

[Photos](#)

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[Tickets](#)

Kings Place Box Office: 020 7520 1490

Save 20% when you book 2+ London Piano Festival concerts (subject to terms and conditions)
£8.50 student tickets (limited capacity)

Biographies

Katya Apekisheva - [full biography here](#)

Katya Apekisheva, described as being a “profoundly gifted artist” by Gramophone magazine, is one of Europe’s most renowned pianists, in demand internationally as both a soloist and as a chamber musician. She has been marked out as a pianist of exceptional gifts, performing with many of the world’s leading orchestras, and has received widespread critical acclaim for her interpretations. Katya is a Professor of Piano at The Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

Ingrid Fliter – [full biography here](#)

Ingrid Fliter sprang to international attention when she was awarded the 2006 Gilmore Artist Award, one of only a handful of pianists to have received this honour. Ingrid Fliter has established a reputation as one of the pre-eminent interpreters of Chopin, her two all-Chopin discs on EMI Classics a testament to this.

Christian Ihle Hadland – [full biography here](#)

In the last decade Christian Ihle Hadland has established himself as a true craftsman of the piano, a musician whose delicate, refined playing and individual touch have led him to the most prestigious stages in the world. Christian came to international attention in 2011 when he began a two-year stint as a BBC New Generation Artist.

Tim Horton – [full biography here](#)

Tim Horton is one of the leading chamber pianists of his generation. He is a founder member of both the Leonore Piano Trio and Ensemble 360 and has been a regular guest pianist with the Nash Ensemble.

Sarah Nicolls – [full biography here](#)

Sarah Nicolls is a UK-based experimental pianist, at the forefront of innovations in piano performance. She invented the ‘Inside-out Piano’, a sculptural feast of an instrument played, pushed and swung in her touring show *Moments of Weightlessness*.

Charles Owen – [full biography here](#)

Described by Gramophone magazine as “one of the finest British pianists of his generation”, Charles Owen has enjoyed an extensive international career performing a wide ranging repertoire to outstanding critical acclaim. Charles Owen is a Professor of Piano at the Guildhall School in London and was appointed Steinway & Sons UK Ambassador in 2016.

Lucy Parham – [full biography here](#)

One of Britain’s finest pianists, Lucy Parham applies her sensitivity and imagination not only to concertos and recitals, but also to portraits in words and music of such composers as Schumann, Rachmaninoff, Chopin, Liszt and Debussy. In recent years, Lucy Parham has established herself as a leading interpreter of the works of Robert Schumann and of his wife, Clara.

Gwilym Simcock – [full biography here](#)

Gwilym Simcock has carved out a career as one of the most gifted pianists and imaginative composers on the European scene. He moves effortlessly between jazz and classical music, with a ‘harmonic sophistication and subtle dovetailing of musical traditions’.

Susan Tomes – [full biography here](#)

Susan Tomes has won numerous international awards as a pianist, both on the concert platform and in the recording studio, including the 2013 Cobbett Medal for distinguished service to chamber music. She has made over fifty CDs, many of which have become benchmark recordings. In addition to her performing career, Susan gives masterclasses and serves on competition juries across Europe.

Dame Harriet Walter – [full biography here](#)

Dame Harriet Walter is an Olivier-Award-winning English stage and screen actress. She was appointed Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire (DBE) in 2011 for services to drama.