

Paul Lewis Piano Masterclass

25 November 2020

2pm

Beethoven *Piano Sonata No 26 Op 81a 'Les Adieux'*

- 1. Das Lebewohl. Adagio – Allegro*
- 2. Abwesenheit. Andante espressivo*
- 3. Das Wiedersehen. Vivacissimamente*

William Bracken

Beethoven *Piano Sonata No 23 Op 57 'Appassionata'*

- 1 Allegro assai*
- 2. Andante con moto*
- 3. Allegro ma non troppo*

Élisabeth Pion

Liszt *Après une lecture du Dante. Fantasia quasi Sonata ('Dante Sonata')*

Gabriele Strata

Paul Lewis CBE



Paul Lewis is one of the foremost interpreters of the Central European piano repertoire, his performances and recordings of Beethoven and Schubert receiving universal critical acclaim. He was awarded CBE for his services to music, and the sincerity and depth of his musical approach have won him fans around the world.

This global popularity is reflected in the world-class orchestras with whom he works, including the Berlin Philharmonic, Chicago Symphony, London Symphony, Philharmonia, Bavarian Radio Symphony, NHK Symphony, New York Philharmonic, LA Philharmonic, Royal Concertgebouw and Leipzig Gewandhaus orchestras. His close relationship with Boston Symphony Orchestra led to his selection as 2020 Koussevitzky Artist at Tanglewood.

With a natural affinity for Beethoven and relentless pursuit of understanding his works, Lewis has been central to celebrations of the composer's 250th anniversary year around the world. He took part in the BBC's three-part documentary *Being Beethoven* and was due to perform concerto cycles at Tanglewood, Tiroler Festspiele Erl, Palau de la Música Catalana and Palermo's Teatro Massimo. He has performed the cycle all over the world, including with the Melbourne Symphony, São Paulo State Symphony and Royal Flemish Philharmonic orchestras, and was the first pianist to play the complete cycle in a single season at the BBC Proms in 2010.

Beyond many award-winning Beethoven recordings, his discography with Harmonia Mundi also demonstrates his characteristic depth of approach in Romantic repertoire such as Schumann, Mussorgsky, Brahms and Liszt.

In chamber music, he is a regular at Wigmore Hall, having played there more than 100 times, and was one of the artists selected to play at the hall's Lunchtime Series at the start of the Coronavirus crisis. He works closely with tenor Mark Padmore in lied recitals around the world – they have recorded three Schubert song cycles together.

Lewis is co-Artistic Director of Midsummer Music, an annual chamber music festival held in Buckinghamshire, UK. He is a passionate advocate for music education and the festival offers free tickets to local schoolchildren. He also gives masterclasses around the world alongside his concert performances. He studied with Joan Havill at Guildhall School of Music & Drama before going on to study privately with Alfred Brendel.

Awards: Royal Philharmonic Society Instrumentalist of the Year; two Edison awards; three Gramophone awards; Diapason d'Or de l'Annee; South Bank Show Classical Music Award; honorary degrees from Liverpool, Edge Hill and Southampton universities; appointed Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) in the 2016 Queen's Birthday Honours

Recital venues: Royal Festival Hall, Alice Tully, Carnegie Hall, Musikverein, Konzerthaus, Théâtre des Champs-Élysées, Concertgebouw, Berlin Philharmonie and Berlin Konzerthaus

Festivals: Tanglewood, Ravinia, Schubertiade, Edinburgh, Salzburg, Lucerne