

## PRESS INVITATION

London premiere of Mark Bowden's *Five Memos* commissioned by London Music Masters for the charity's first concert at The Estorick Collection of Modern Italian Art on 12 May



**12 May**

**The Estorick Collection of Modern Italian Art**

7:00pm

*Barkham Fantasy* by **Mark Simpson** for solo piano

*North Wall* by **Donnacha Dennehy** for solo piano

*Brother* by **Edmund Finnis** for Violin and Viola

*To See the Summer Sky* by **Helen Grime** for Violin and Viola

*Five Memos* by **Mark Bowden** for Violin and Piano (**London Premiere**)

**Robert Ames** Viola  
**Roderick Chadwick** Piano  
**Hyeyoon Park** Violin  
**Eloisa-Fleur Thom** Violin  
**Richard Uttley** Piano

RSVP to [info@nickythomasmedia.com](mailto:info@nickythomasmedia.com) by 7 May

On **12 May, London Music Masters** host their first concert featuring new music by living composers at **The Estorick Collection of Modern Italian Art** in **Islington**, including the London premiere of Mark Bowden's *Five Memos* based on Italo Calvino's final essays. Following the world premiere at the Newbury Spring Festival on 10 May, LMM Award Holder Hyeyoon Park and pianist Richard Uttley perform Bowden's piece – commissioned by LMM – in London. The concert programme at The Estorick Collection includes contemporary music by composers **Donnacha Dennehy, Edmund Finnis, Helen Grime** and **Mark Simpson**, with musicians from YCAT and the London Contemporary Orchestra who have recently joined LMM as Creative Partners.

**London Music Masters**, the music charity that advocates new music for young professionals and children, has commissioned three new works by British composers **Mark Bowden**, **Gavin Higgins** and **Edmund Finnis** for premieres in 2015. As a strong supporter of contemporary music, **LMM** has commissioned a number of works including a violin concerto by **Martin Suckling** for former Award Holder **Agata Szyczewska** in 2011, and an educational work by **Charlotte Bray** for **primary school children**, former Award Holder **Jennifer Pike**, and the **London Philharmonic Orchestra**.

For **Five Memos**, **Mark Bowden** was inspired by the writings of the Italian author and journalist **Italo Calvino** (1923-1985). Calvino was due to deliver the prestigious **Charles Eliot Norton lecture series** at Harvard for 1985-6, but he died in September 1985 before they were completed. The incomplete scripts were subsequently published in 1988 as **Six Memos for the Next Millennium**, of which only five were fully drafted. The five extant essays explore principles of writing literature that Calvino wanted to pass on to the future but the same discipline could be applied to composing music or any art form. Calvino advocates notions of **lightness, quickness, multiplicity, exactitude** and **visibility** (constancy would have been the sixth) in writing. The Estorick Collection of Modern Italian Art acts as the perfect setting for the London Premiere, as the space exhibits the works of Italian modern painter Amedeo Modigliani, focussing on his works on paper, showing the spiritual and stylistic development of his portrayal of the human face and form.

As Bowden explains:

***"I have lived with Italo Calvino's book for years, dipping into it for inspiration. It was a tonic to turn to these texts again after the last 18 months composing 'A Violence of Gifts', a large-scale work for orchestra, chorus and soloists.. These profound yet playful essays cite a vast range of sources from comic strips to folklore. My piece draws upon imagery and ideas from each of the five chapters to create a multi-movement work exploring the virtues that Calvino held so highly as values to be used by us all to shape the future. For example lightness of thought - it's easy to create heaviness but much harder to compose something mercurial."***

In addition to Mark Bowden's *Five Memos* London Music Masters' two other commissions from composers Gavin Higgins and Edmund Finnis will be premiered later this year. Gavin Higgin's piece will be premiered on 23 October 2015 at the **Royal Festival Hall**, in a performance with the **LMM Bridge Project Children** and the **London Philharmonic Orchestra**. **Edmund Finnis'** piece will be premiered in December 2015 with the **London Contemporary Orchestra** and **LMM Award Holder Benjamin Beilman**.

**London Music Masters | Learning and Artists**

## LMM: learning

Since 2008 LMM has worked with **over 670 primary school children** and their families on a weekly basis. For most of these children LMM provides the only option for high quality musical instrument tuition that is both accessible to families on a low income and affordable for state schools.



LMM board member **Shaun Bailey** explains: *"In areas of economic deprivation and low morale, music plays a vital role in breaking down restrictions of background, wealth and culture. The discipline of playing an instrument teaches numerous transferable skills. Inspiring a child to pursue excellence reinforces their self-belief and drives their ambition."*

**LMM has trained over 25 graduates** from leading European conservatoires (Royal College of Music, Royal Academy of Music, Paris Conservatoire) and our teaching is being recognised as some of the best of its kind in the country. In partnership with the Royal College of Music and the Royal Academy of music LMM is developing a training module on group string tuition for undergraduates.

LMM has established a programme for the most gifted students from under-represented communities called Pathways led by Professor Itzhak Rashkovsky which has had **remarkable results** with children winning places at specialist music schools (Chetham's School of Music), junior conservatoires (Royal College of Music), and music scholarships to state and independent schools.

## LMM: artists

Launched in 2009 the innovative LMM Award was conceived as an alternative to the traditional violin competition. Its aim is to support and nurture the careers of the very best young musicians from around the world. The musicians (all violinists) are invited to accept the award by a panel of distinguished musicians who have received recommendations from conductors, teachers and musicians from across the globe. As an indicator of the quality of the recipients our award holders have gone on to become BBC New Generation artists and recipients of the Borletti Buitoni prize as well as winning plaudits from audiences and critics alike.

The award comprises mentoring, recital and concerto opportunities and commissions of new works.

In addition to all of these things the Award Holders are given time to develop a practical understanding of community outreach by working with our schools and in the communities around the schools. For London Music

Masters it is vitally important that the next generation of young soloist is as comfortable performing off the concert platform as they are on it.

London Music Masters is proud to have **five world class ambassadors: Nadine Benjamin, Colin Currie, Benjamin Grosvenor, Anthony Marwood and Tai Murray.** These are artists with established international careers who share our core values and beliefs. The Ambassadors promote the work of LMM but also engage with it personally. They work with our students and Award Holders, give concerts and talks in support of the work and act as inspiring role models for the organisation and all who are connected with it: parents, children, teachers, Award holders.

### **Mark Bowden**

Mark Bowden came to public attention when he was awarded the Royal Philharmonic Society Composition Prize for his first BBC orchestral commission *Sudden Light* in 2006. Bowden is currently Resident Composer with the BBC National Orchestra of Wales. He was the 2011-12 Music Fellow at Rambert Dance Company and the first composer-in-residence at Handel House Museum.

### **Helen Grime**

Born in 1981, Helen Grime studied oboe with John Anderson and composition with Julian Anderson and Edwin Roxburgh at the Royal College of Music, graduating from the BMus course with First Class Honours and completing her Masters with Distinction in 2004. In 2003 she won the Making Music Award for *Oboe Concerto* at the British Composer Awards, and was awarded the Lili Boulanger Memorial Fund in 2010.

### **Donnacha Dennehy**

Born in Dublin in 1970, Donnacha Dennehy - previously a tenured lecturer at Trinity College Dublin - was appointed a Global Scholar at Princeton University in the Autumn of 2012. He was also appointed composer-in-residence for the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra in Texas (2013-14). In 2014 Donnacha joined the music faculty at Princeton University.

### **Edmund Finnis**

Edmund Finnis (b.1984) is a London-based composer. Finnis was awarded first prize in the 2011 International Composer Pyramid, and in 2012 he received a Paul Hamlyn Foundation Award for Artists. He was Composer-in-Residence at the 2013 Chelsea Music Festival in New York City.

### **Mark Simpson**

At the age of 17 Mark Simpson became the first ever winner of both the BBC Young Musician of the Year & BBC Proms/Guardian Young composer of the Year Competitions. The BBC commissioned him to write the opening work for the 2012 Last Night of the Proms. In 2015 he was announced as the BBC Philharmonic's Composer in Association.



**[www.londonmusicmasters.org](http://www.londonmusicmasters.org)**

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