

Multi-award-winning pianist Benjamin Grosvenor performs with the London Philharmonic Orchestra at the Royal Festival Hall on 23 October



Friday 23 October | 7.30pm

Royal Festival Hall

Benjamin Grosvenor piano

Thierry Fischer conductor

James Sherlock organ

London Philharmonic Orchestra

Bizet Symphony in C

Ravel Piano Concerto in G major

Saint- Saëns Symphony No.3 (Organ)

"The most important British pianist to emerge in decades. He's one in a million – several million."

The Independent



Multi-award-winning pianist **Benjamin Grosvenor** performs Ravel's *Piano Concerto in G major* with the London Philharmonic Orchestra on 23 October at the Royal Festival Hall. This performance marks Grosvenor's London debut with the London Philharmonic Orchestra, having performed in Eastbourne and Newbury with them in 2013. The full programme includes Bizet's *Symphony in C* and James Sherlock performing Saint-Saëns' *Symphony No. 3* in addition to Grosvenor's Ravel. This performance follows on from 23-

year-old Grosvenor's performance at the Last Night of the BBC Proms alongside opera stars Danielle de Niese and Jonas Kaufmann.

Prior to Grosvenor's concert at 7:30pm on 23 October, music charity London Music Masters present the world premiere of Gavin Higgins' *Tänze*

which will be performed by 60 of LMM's Bridge Project children and members of the London Philharmonic Orchestra at 6pm. Benjamin Grosvenor has been an Ambassador of London Music Masters since 2012.

In 2011 Grosvenor made history as the youngest soloist ever to perform at the **First Night of the Proms at the age of 19**. At the time, the Telegraph commented that *"Tennis has Andy Murray, the piano has Benjamin Grosvenor. He's our pianistic Team GB."* This coincided with Decca signing him for an exclusive contract making Grosvenor the youngest British musician ever to sign to the label and the first British pianist since Curzon. His debut album was awarded Gramophone's Young Artist of the Year and the Instrumental Award, a Classical Brits Critics Award and a UK Critics' Circle Award. Grosvenor's most recent CD *Dances* won a BBC Music Magazine Award in the Instrumental Category – this album has also recently been nominated for a Gramophone Award in the Instrumental category.



"His legendary reputation precedes him: the British pianist is one of three or four most important pianists of his generation"

Musik und Theater 2014

Last season established Grosvenor as one of the most talented young pianists of his generation, following a critically acclaimed tour of America. Grosvenor's recital at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum resulted in The Boston Globe and The Boston Musical Intelligencer both calling him the **"real deal"**. In the 2015-16 season Grosvenor again returns to the US with concerts in North Carolina, Kansas and Washington. In April 2016 Grosvenor will play Mozart's *Piano Concerto No. 27* at the Kauffman Centre for the Performing Arts in Kansas with the Kansas City Symphony Orchestra.

Reviews of Grosvenor's latest *Dances* album:

"This well-planned recital disc ... is consistently brilliant."

- **The Arts Desk**

"An invitation to take a twirl round the ballroom with Grosvenor is one worth taking up."

- **Financial Times**

"Benjamin Grosvenor may well be the most remarkable young pianist of our time..."

- **Gramophone**

"A prodigy who is maturing into a real star"

- **The Observer**

"His sense of rhythm – vital for a dancey disc – is so assured that you imagine if you dropped him, he'd bounce."

- **Sinfini**

"One pleasure follows another, with carefully balanced textures, widely varied degrees of touch and virtuosity that comes as naturally as breathing."

- **The Times**

Future highlights include:

4 September 2015	Musashino Civic Cultural Hall	Mendelssohn, Bach/Busoni, Franck, Ravel, Liszt
5 September 2015	Saitama Arts Theater	Mendelssohn, J.S. Bach/Busoni, Franck, Ravel, Liszt
12 September 2015	Last Night of the BBC Proms, Royal Albert Hall	Shostakovich, Gershwin/Grainger, Gould
25, 27 & 28 September 2015	Düsseldorf Symphony Orchestra, Tonhalle Düsseldorf	Grieg
15 October 2015	Zankel Hall (Carnegie Hall)	Mendelssohn, Bach-Busoni, Franck, Ravel, Liszt
23 October 2015	London Philharmonic Orchestra, Royal Festival Hall	Ravel
31 October 2015 – 14 November 2015	Australian Tour (Brisbane, Sydney, Adelaide, Melbourne)	Mozart, Grieg
23 January 2016 – 1 February 2016	American Tour (Oregon, North Carolina, Moore County, NC)	Chopin, Mozart, Mendelssohn, Ravel, Liszt
1 April 2016 – 3 April 2016	Helzberg Hall of Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts – Kansas City Symphony Orchestra	Mozart
7 April 2016 – 9 April 2016	John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts – National Symphony	Mozart

Benjamin Grosvenor

'Benjamin Grosvenor may well be the most remarkable young pianist of our time.'

- Bryce Morrison, Gramophone Magazine

British pianist Benjamin Grosvenor is internationally recognized for his electrifying performances and insightful interpretations. His virtuosic command over the most strenuous technical complexities underpins the remarkable depth and understanding of his musicianship. Benjamin is renowned for his distinctive sound, described as 'poetic and gently ironic, brilliant yet clear-minded, intelligent but not without humour, all translated through a beautifully clear and singing touch' (*The Independent*) making him one of the most sought-after young pianists in the world.



Benjamin first came to prominence as the outstanding winner of the Keyboard Final of the 2004 BBC Young Musician Competition at the age of eleven. Since then, he has become an internationally regarded pianist performing with orchestras including the London Philharmonic, RAI Torino, New York Philharmonic, Philharmonia Orchestra, Leipzig Gewandhausorchester, Tokyo Symphony, and in venues such as the Royal Festival Hall, Barbican Centre, Singapore's Victoria Hall, The Frick Collection and Carnegie Hall. Benjamin has worked with numerous esteemed conductors including Vladimir Ashkenazy, Jiří Bělohlávek, Semyon Bychkov, Andrey Boreyko, Sir Mark Elder, Alan Gilbert, Vladimir Jurowski, Andrew Litton, Andrew Manze, Ludovic Morlot, Kent Nagano, Alexander Shelley, Thomas Søndergård, John Storgards, Gabor Takacs-Nagy, Michael Tilson Thomas and François Xavier-Roth.

At just nineteen, Benjamin performed with the BBC Symphony Orchestra at the First Night of the 2011 BBC Proms. Following re-invitations in 2012 for a performance with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and Charles Dutoit and in 2014 for a recital and Chopin's Piano Concerto No. 1 with the BBC Philharmonic and Gianandrea Noseda, Benjamin made his debut in 2015 at the Last Night of the Proms performing Shostakovich's Piano Concerto No. 2 with the BBC Symphony Orchestra and Marin Alsop.

Recent and future highlights include engagements with the Cleveland and Hallé Orchestras, Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra, San Francisco, Singapore, Houston, Melbourne, Montreal and National Symphony Orchestras, as well as recital debuts at Vienna Konzerthaus, Zankel Hall at Carnegie Hall and performances at the Utzon Music Series at Sydney Opera House, Konzerthaus Berlin, the Lucerne Festival, La Roque d'Antheron and International Piano Series at the Southbank Centre. As of the 2015-16 season he has been invited to participate in the prestigious "Junge Wilde" series by Konzerthaus Dortmund, where over the course of three years he will perform on a number of occasions. Benjamin continues to incorporate chamber music collaborations into his schedule, including a performance with the Escher String Quartet in Paris at Musée du Louvre

and at the Queen Elizabeth Hall's International Chamber Music Series with the Endellion String Quartet, alongside a chamber performance at the Montreal OSM Classical Spree.

In 2011 Benjamin signed to Decca Classics, and in doing so has become the youngest British musician ever to sign to the label, and the first British pianist to sign to the label in almost 60 years. Benjamin's most recent release - *Dances* – a recital album that presents a historically and stylistically varied offering of works influenced by dance, has been described as 'breathtaking' (*The Guardian*), offering "performance after performance of surpassing brilliance and character" (*Gramophone Magazine*) and won the BBC Music Magazine Instrumental Award 2015. During his sensational career to date, Benjamin has also received Gramophone's 'Young Artist of the Year' and 'Instrumental Award', a Classic Brits 'Critics' Award', UK 'Critics' Circle Award' for Exceptional Young Talent and a Diapason d'Or 'Jeune Talent' Award. He has been featured in two BBC television documentaries, BBC Breakfast and The Andrew Marr Show, as well as in CNN's Human to Hero series.

The youngest of five brothers, Benjamin began playing the piano aged 6. He studied at the Royal Academy of Music with Christopher Elton and Daniel-Ben Pienaar, where he graduated in 2012 with the 'Queen's Commendation for Excellence'. Benjamin has been supported since 2013 by EFG International, the widely respected global private banking group.

<http://www.benjaminrosvenor.co.uk/>

For more information on any of the above, please contact:

Nicky Thomas Media
+44 (0) 203 714 7594 | +44 (0) 7768 566530
info@nickythomasmedia.com
www.nickythomasmedia.com