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instruments of change



**London Music Masters presents world premieres of  
Gavin Higgins' *Tänze* on 23 October and Edmund  
Finnis' *Shades Lengthen* on 10 December as part of  
LMM's 2015 commission series**



**Friday 23 October 2015**  
**6pm**  
**Royal Festival Hall**

***Tänze***  
**(world premiere)**  
**Gavin Higgins composer**  
**LMM Learning students**  
**London Philharmonic**  
**Orchestra**

**Thursday 10 December 2015**  
**St. John's, Hackney**

***Shades Lengthen***  
**(world premiere)**  
**Edmund Finnis composer**  
**Benjamin Beilman *violin* (LMM**  
**Award Holder)**  
**London Contemporary**  
**Orchestra**

**London Music Masters** hosts world premieres of two new works by leading British composers **Gavin Higgins** on **23 October**, and **Edmund Finnis** on **10 December** as part of LMM's 2015 series of commissions. Higgins' dance suite ***Tänze*** will be performed by 70 of London Music Masters Learning students aged 9-11 and the **London Philharmonic Orchestra** at the **Royal Festival Hall**. This free event precedes pianist and LMM Ambassador **Benjamin Grosvenor's** concert with the London Philharmonic Orchestra, performing Ravel's Piano Concerto in G major, marking his first time performing with them in London.

Higgins' large scale, innovative new work will explore the history of dance music from the Baroque period to the present day. Higgins explains:

*"Tänze is a new work inspired by the Baroque dance suite. As such the piece is made up of the four dances most commonly utilised; Allemande, Courante, Sarabande and a lively Gigue. Dance music has always been very important to me and I've been wanting to write a 'dance suite' for some time now. When I was approached by LMM to write this piece I felt this was the opportunity to do just that. The music is fast, driven, and fun and I hope the LMM students enjoy working on the piece."*

Following this, London Music Masters **Award Holder Benjamin Beilman** premieres **Edmund Finnis'** violin concerto ***Shades Lengthen*** alongside

the **London Contemporary Orchestra** on 10 December at **St. John's, Hackney**. The London Contemporary Orchestra have been a long-time collaborator with London Music Masters and they have recently formed a Creative Partnership together. Of his new piece *Shades Lengthen*, Edmund Finnis comments:

*"In this new piece for Benjamin Beilman and the London Contemporary Orchestra the violin soloist articulates clear melodic lines which are variously mirrored, refracted, diffused and paralleled by the ensemble. Single, readily perceivable lines gradually being overlaid become patterns of varying degrees of transparency. The piece is a continuation of my ongoing interest in thinking about musical material in relation to visual analogies, and is inspired by the intricate interplay of sounding lines in French medieval music."*

**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. Mark Bowden's *Five Memos* was premiered at the Newbury Spring Festival in May 2015, performed by **LMM Award Holder Hyeyoon Park**. 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 Szymczewska** in 2011, and an educational work by **Charlotte Bray** for **primary school children**, former Award Holder **Jennifer Pike**, and the **London Philharmonic Orchestra**.

## **London Music Masters**

LMM Awards are given every three years to three exceptional violinists between the ages of 16 and 25, recognising extraordinary musicianship with generous financial and career support. The LMM Awards seek to help exceptionally talented young artists to further their professional careers while serving as positive role models, reaching new audiences and enriching their communities and themselves.

LMM Learning is an educational initiative which identifies and nurtures young children who might not otherwise have the opportunity to engage in classical music. Targeting diverse and socio-economically challenged inner-city boroughs, the Project encourages children, their families, and their communities to develop a life-long appreciation for classical music in all its varied forms.

## **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 their 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 performers 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 soloists 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.

## Gavin Higgins

Described as 'boldly imaginative' and 'extraordinary', Gavin Higgins has been consistently praised by critics for his distinct and visceral compositional style.



The early stages of his career saw Higgins receive substantial commissions for some of the country's leading orchestras, including the BBC Symphony Orchestra, the London Philharmonic Orchestra, Manchester Camerata, Northern Sinfonia and the National Youth Wind Orchestra of Great Britain. He has worked with soloists and ensembles such as Mark Simpson, the Flotilla Saxophone Quartet, the Tredegar Town Band, Rambert Orchestra, London Sinfonietta and the Fidelio Trio.

The Gloucester born composer comes from a long lineage of brass band musicians, dating back to 1895. Growing up in the Forest of Dean, he followed an initial musical training in the family brass band, with studies of french horn and composition at Chethams School of Music, the Royal Northern College of Music and the Royal College of Music with Gary Carpenter and Ken Hesketh.

Higgins has continued this heritage with high profile commissions and performances of vigorous, daring brass band pieces including *Freaks* (2007), *Tango* (2008) – both recorded by Black Dyke Band's principal trombone, Brett Baker; *Fanfares and Loves Songs* (2009) for the National Children's Band of Great Britain and, *Destroy, Trample, As Swiftly As She*, commissioned for the 2011 European Brass Band Championships in Montreux, Switzerland.

In 2010 he was appointed Rambert Dance Company's Inaugural Music Fellow. This appointment has led to the 'blasting, warping score' (The Guardian) of, *What Wild Ecstasy*, and more recently the innovative and ambitious *Dark Arteries*. This music of 'such ingenuity, flair and skill' was premiered at Sadler's wells by the Tredegar Town Band. *What Wild Ecstasy* was nominated for a British Composer Award in the stage works category 2012. This follows on from nominations for, *A Forest Symphony* (2009) and, *Diversions After Benjamin Britten* (2013).

A growing collection of ensemble and orchestral works have been featured at major festivals, such as the saxophone quartet, *ENDGAME*, commissioned as part of the 2011 Cheltenham Festival; and his 'boldly imaginative response to last summer's riots' (The Times), *Der Aufstand*, which was commissioned as part of the 2012 BBC Proms.

Recent successes includes performances of a music theatre piece, *Uncle Dima*, by the London Sinfonietta; the premiere of his 'striking' (The Guardian) piano trio, *The Ruins of Detroit* – commissioned by the Britten Pears Foundation and performed by the Fidelio Trio at the Cheltenham Festival; and the premiere of the 'fast, exciting and brilliantly scored' (The Telegraph), *Velocity* - commissioned by the BBC to open the Last Night of the 2014 Proms.

## Benjamin Beilman

Twenty-five year old American violinist Benjamin Beilman is winning plaudits in both North America and Europe for his passionate performances and deep rich tone, which the Washington Post called "mightily impressive" and the New York Times described as "muscular with a glint of violence". The Times also praised his "handsome technique, burnished sound, and quiet confidence [which] showed why he has come so far so fast". Following his performance of the Sibelius Concerto at the Montreal Competition, the Strad described the 25-year-old American's performance of the slow movement as "pure poetry".



Beilman has received several prestigious awards including a Borletti-Buitoni Trust Fellowship in 2014, and an Avery Fisher Career Grant and a London Music Masters Award in 2012. In 2010 he won the First Prize in the Young Concert Artists International Auditions, and as First Prize Winner of the 2010 Montréal International Musical Competition and winner of the People's Choice Award, Beilman recorded Prokofiev's complete sonatas for violin on the Analekta label in 2011.

Beilman has played with orchestras such as the London Philharmonic, Frankfurt Radio Symphony, Tonhalle, Basel Symphony, Malaysian Philharmonic orchestras and in North America the Orchestre Métropolitain de Montréal, San Francisco Symphony, Indianapolis Symphony, Detroit Symphony and Los Angeles Chamber orchestras amongst others. Conductors with whom he has worked include Nézet-Séguin, Skrowaczewski, Sir Neville Marriner, Shani, Gabel, Graf, Prieto. An avid chamber musician, Beilman performs regularly with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center both in New York and on tour and is a frequent guest artist at chamber music festivals including Music@Menlo, the Marlboro, Santa Fe, Seattle Chamber Music, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern and Verbier Festivals and at the Kronberg Academy in Frankfurt. In recital he has played in many of the major series in the US including at Boston's Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum and Weill Recital Hall, Carnegie Hall, at the YCA Festivals in Tokyo and Beijing and in Europe looks forward to performances at the Louvre Paris, Tonhalle Zürich and Wigmore Hall.

Highlights of Beilman's 2014/15 season include performances of the Jennifer Higdon Concerto with the Philadelphia Orchestra/Spano, the Barber Concerto with the New York Youth Symphony at Carnegie Hall, his debut with the Orchestra of St. Luke's/Schwarz at Alice Tully Hall playing the Sibelius Concerto and at the Berlin Philharmonie in recital with Louis Schwizgebel.

Beilman studied with Almita and Roland Vamos at the Music Institute of Chicago, Ida Kavafian and Pamela Frank at the Curtis Institute of Music, and Christian Tetzlaff at the Kronberg Academy. He plays a Peter Greiner violin (2004).

## Edmund Finnis



His music is performed internationally. He has enjoyed particularly close associations with both the London Sinfonietta – who have performed six of his works, including three that they commissioned (*Veneer*, *Unfolds* and *Seeing is Flux*) – and the London Contemporary Orchestra, with whom he is currently Composer-in-Association.

He has received commissions from the London Symphony Orchestra, BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, Birmingham Contemporary Music Group, Spitalfields Festival, Cross Linx Festival (Netherlands), New College Choir Oxford, the Mercury Quartet, and the British Film Institute (to co-compose with Max de Wardener and Elysian Quartet an original score for the 1929 Eisenstein film, *The General Line*). Other performers of his work include such leading young instrumentalists as Mark Simpson, Aisha Orazbayeva, Oliver Coates, Liam Byrne, Víkingur Ólafsson and the conductors Sian Edwards, Diego Masson, Francois-Xavier Roth, Vasily Petrenko, Baldur Brönnimann, Nicholas Collon and Ken-David Masur. In March 2012 he conducted the premiere of his string septet, *Relative Colour*, at Carnegie Zankel Hall in New York. His quartet *Unfolds* (2011) has been performed across Europe, at Tanglewood Festival, and in Chicago Symphony Orchestra's 2012 MusicNOW series.

Finnis received a Leonard Bernstein Fellowship to study at Tanglewood and his previous teachers have included Julian Anderson and Rozalie Hirs. He has taken part in courses and schemes led or mentored by George Benjamin, Kaija Saariaho, Oliver Knussen, John Harbison, Simon Holt and others. He worked as an amanuensis for the late Jonathan Harvey, and holds a doctorate from the Guildhall School of Music.

Finnis received a Paul Hamlyn Foundation Award for Artists in 2012. He was Composer-in-Residence at the 2013 Chelsea Music Festival in New York City.



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

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