

## Biography:

After studying music at Cambridge and piano with Joan Havill at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, Jessica Duchen worked as an editor in music publishing and magazines for ten years, then went freelance to concentrate on writing.

Her journalism has appeared in *The Independent*, *The Guardian* and *The Sunday Times*, as well as *BBC Music Magazine*, *Opera News* and numerous other journals.

Jessica's first books were biographies of the composers Erich Wolfgang Korngold and Gabriel Fauré (see **Books**). She wrote the text for **Inside London**, Dorothy Bohm's photographic portrait of the city, and has published several short stories, including **Too Much Mozart**, commissioned by Graffin for the booklet of his CD with Nobuko Imai of the Mozart Sinfonia Concertante.

Her latest novel, ***Ghost Variations***, is inspired by the true story of how the Schumann Violin Concerto was rediscovered in the 1930s. Others focus on the tensions and cross-currents between family generations, ranging from a painful exploration of the effects of anorexia (***Rites of Spring***) and the rearing of a child prodigy (***Alicia's Gift***) to the long-term effects of displacement and cultural clashes (***Hungarian Dances*** and ***Songs of Triumphant Love***). Music is a recurring theme and in 2009 the celebrated violin and piano duo Philippe Graffin and Claire Désert recorded a CD inspired by ***Hungarian Dances***, designed as a companion to the novel (on Onyx Classics).

Jessica frequently appears as narrator in concert versions of her novels ***Ghost Variations***, ***Hungarian Dances*** (both with violin and piano) and ***Alicia's Gift*** (with solo piano). *Alicia's Gift* and *Hungarian Dances* have been performed at the Buxton Festival, Ulverston Festival, Wimbledon International Music Festival, The Chopin Society, Darlington Concert Society, Fishguard Festival, Potton Hall, PenFRO Literary Festival, Clapham Omnibus, Wensleydale Concert Series, Helmsley Arts Centre, The Sage Gateshead, and the Wigmore Hall where *Alicia's Gift* was attended by a near-capacity audience aged from 3 to 93.

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