

**Hungarian violinist Barnabás Kelemen gives the UK
première of Bartók's *Rhapsody No 2 for Violin and
Orchestra* (1929) with the BBC Scottish Symphony
Orchestra in Glasgow**



Thursday 22 Feb 2018, 14:00
Afternoon Performance: Kelemen Plays Bartók
Grand Hall, Glasgow

Zoltán Kodály
Summer Evening
Béla Bartók
Violin Concerto No.1
Rhapsody No 2 for Violin and Orchestra (1929)
The Miraculous Mandarin

BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra
Royal Conservatoire of Scotland Voices
(Timothy Dean: chorus master)
Barnabás Kelemen violin
Thomas Dausgaard conductor

"They don't come any better than Kelemen"
- Rob Cowan, Gramophone, July 2013

Multi award-winning Hungarian violinist **Barnabás Kelemen** gives the **UK première** of Hungarian composer **Béla Bartók's** first edition of his ***Rhapsody No 2 for Violin and Orchestra*** at **Grand Hall, Glasgow** on **Thursday 22 February** with the **BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra** and **Thomas Dausgaard**. This concert forms part of the BBC SSO's Bartók 'Composer' Roots series and will be recorded for future broadcast on BBC Radio 3.

In 2010, the violinist won a prestigious BBC Music Magazine Award in the Orchestral category for his powerful recording of **Béla Bartók's *Violin Concerto No. 2 & Rhapsodies for Violin & Orchestra***, with the **Hungarian National Philharmonic Orchestra** and **Zoltán Kocsis** on piano. Praised by Gramophone magazine, ***"Kelemen lunges at both [Rhapsodies] like a man possessed:***

his bow knows no fear and his orchestral collaborators are with him all the way. An exceptional disc", and winning editor's choice, Kelemen's Bartok marries raw emotion with a flair for his native music.

"Not only does Kelemen possess all the necessary technical brilliance to master every aspect of Bartok's fiendishly difficult writing but he also has an instinctive and idiomatic understanding of the musical language."

- BBC Music Magazine



Béla Bartók's *Rhapsody No. 2* is the second of two virtuoso works for violin and piano (1928), subsequently arranged with orchestra accompaniment in 1929. The orchestral version was revised in 1935, and the version with piano in 1945. Bartók composed both of his rhapsodies purely as a personal gesture, rather than on commission: the second for violinist and composer Zoltán Székely, the other for Szigeti. Zoltán Székely premiered the first orchestral edition in Amsterdam in 1932.

Both of Bartók's Rhapsodies exemplify a mode of composition using peasant-music sources. The *Rhapsody No 2 for Violin and Orchestra* uses the same slow-fast paired movements of the popular Hungarian verbunkos (recruiting dance) found in the earlier Rhapsody for Piano of 1904. The title, 'Rhapsody', is a reference to the dramatic contrasts between the movements, specified by Bartók, that they can be performed separately.

Aside from his solo work, Kelemen is a distinguished chamber musician. In 2010, he founded the Kelemen Quartet, which has gained a reputation as one of the most exciting and aspiring young international string quartets. In July 2014 the Kelemen Quartet won first prize at the prestigious **Premio Paolo Borciani Competition** in Reggio Emilia, Italy. The Kelemen Quartet's debut CD of works by Bartók and Mozart was released in 2012 on the Hunnia label. They are resident ensemble of the Liszt Academy.



Barnabás Kelemen and **Katalin Kokas** founded the **Festival Academy Budapest**. It's 3rd edition will be on Monday 23 to Sunday 29 July 2018 at some of the capital's most alluring venues including the newly re-opened **Pesti Vigado** and the **Szechenyi Spa**. Revolving around the Liszt Academy, which was founded in 1875, Kelemen and Kokas have devised a festival that is inclusive to all – professionals, aspiring professionals, children and amateurs – for a week of chamber and choral music, master classes and fun.

<http://fesztivalakademia.hu/en>

Praise for Barnabás Kelemen

"Combining ethereal purity and gutsy commitment"

- The Guardian

“Barnabás Kelemen met the composer’s demands unflappably, stirring a rousing ovation.”

- New York Times

“Kelemen’s playing is perfectly poised between fastidiousness and a winning ink-still-wet spontaneity ... A fantastic violinist.”

- Classical Source

Barnabás Kelemen

An artist of “innate musicality” with a technical execution that belongs “only to the greatest” -The Guardian

He has captured the interest of the music world with premiers of works by Kurtág, Ligeti, Schnittke, Gubajdulina, Steve Reich and Ryan Wigglesworth and also with his complete recordings of works for violin by Bartók. His 17 solo recordings won major awards in England, France, Belgium, Germany and Hungary.

Barnabás Kelemen is a returning soloist in major venues like in the Carnegie Hall, Royal Festival Hall, The Concertgebouw, Suntory Hall, Bozar, Berlin Philharmony and worked with conductors such as: L. Maazel, Sir N. Marriner, V. Jurowski, M. Janowski, M. Stern, K. Urbanski, P. Eötvös, I. Fischer and Z. Kocsis.

He got the Kossuth Prize, the Gramophone Award, and won top prizes at competitions from Salzburg through Brussels to Indianapolis.

Founding leader of the Kelemen Quartet, they won the Melbourne, the Beijing and the Paolo Borciani competitions and they play at top festivals and concert halls from Australia through the US to Europe.

His biggest musical influence apart from his mother were his teachers: Eszter Perényi, Isaac Stern, Ferenc Rados and Zoltán Kocsis and his grandfather, one of the most famous gypsy ‘prímás’s of the 20th century, Pali Pertis.

He is a professor at universities like the F. Liszt Academy in Budapest and at the Cologne University and he plays on the 1742 “Ex-Dénes Kovács” Guarneri violin on loan from the state of Hungary.

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

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