

Piers Lane

London-based Australian pianist Piers Lane has a worldwide reputation as an engaging, searching and highly versatile performer, at home equally in solo, chamber and concerto repertoire. Five times soloist at the BBC Proms, Piers Lane's wide-ranging concerto repertoire exceeds one hundred works and has led to engagements with many of the world's great orchestras, working with conductors like Sir Andrew Davis, Brett Dean, Andrew Litton, Vassily Sinaisky and Yan Pascal Tortelier. Festival appearances have included Aldeburgh, Australian Chamber Music, Bard, Bath Mostly Mozart, Bergen, Cheltenham, Como Autumn Music, El Paso Pro Musica, La Roque d'Anthéron, NW Bach Spokane, Prague Spring, Rockport, Ruhr Klavierfestival, Schloss vor Husum, Seattle, Sitka Summer Music, and the Chopin festivals in Warsaw, Duszniki-Zdrój, Mallorca and Paris.

Highlights of the 2020/21 season include engagements with the Melbourne and Queensland Symphony Orchestras, a Musica Viva national tour of Australia with the Goldner String Quartet, an Australian tour with the Maltese tenor Josef Calleja, appearances at several US festivals, including Bard Music, a January 2nd recital at Wigmore Hall, duo performances with violinist Tasmin Little and further performances with actress Dame Patricia Routledge.

In recent seasons, Piers Lane has performed three concerti at Carnegie Hall, including the monumental Concerto by Busoni under Leon Botstein. He has also given world premieres of Carl Vine's second Piano Concerto and Double Piano Concerto *Implacable Gifts*, both written for him, with the London Philharmonic and the Sydney, Tasmanian and West Australian Symphony Orchestras.

His extensive discography of over sixty cds, primarily for Hyperion Records, includes much admired recordings of rare romantic piano concertos (the latest a 2020 release of Bliss, Rubbra and Bax concertos with The Orchestra Now), the complete Malcolm Williamson piano concertos, the complete Preludes and Etudes by Scriabin, transcriptions of Bach and Strauss, along with complete collections of Concert Etudes by Saint-Saëns, Moscheles and Henselt, and transcriptions by Grainger. He has recorded eleven volumes of piano quintets with the Goldner String Quartet for Hyperion and many cds with Tasmin Little for Chandos. Other recording partners include clarinettist Michael Collins and soprano Yvonne Kenny.

Piers Lane is the Artistic Director of the Sydney International Piano Competition of Australia. He was the Artistic Director of the Australian Festival of Chamber Music from 2007 until 2017 and also directed the annual Myra Hess Day at the National Gallery in London from its inception in 2006 until 2013. From this sprang his collaboration with actress Patricia Routledge on a theatre piece devised by Nigel Hess, exploring Dame Myra's work throughout the Second World War. This show, entitled "Admission: One Shilling", has been performed over 90 times, throughout the UK and Australia and in Belgium.

Piers Lane is in great demand as a collaborative artist. He continues his longstanding partnerships with violinist Tasmin Little, the Goldner String Quartet and cellist Zuill Bailey. He has performed extensively with singers Cheryl Barker, Peter Coleman-Wright, Yvonne Kenny, and Markus Schäfer and has collaborated with Anne Sofie von Otter and Bengt Forsberg, Jiri Barta, Brett Dean, the Australian, Coull, Doric, Ebène, Jasper, Jupiter, Kodály, Medici, New Budapest, New Zealand, Prazak, St Lawrence, Tinalley, RTE Vanbrugh and Vellinger String Quartets, and pianists Marc-André Hamelin, Hamish Milne, Kathryn Stott and Kathron Sturrock.

He has given the first performances in modern times of many works, including Parry's Piano Concerto and has made many first recordings, including Elgar's Impromptu, John Ireland's Ballerina, Malcolm Williamson's fourth Piano Concerto, quintets by Harty, d'Erlanger, Dunhill. He gave the centenary performance at the Proms of Sir Arthur Bliss's Piano Concerto and, with the American Symphony and Leon Botstein, New York performances of Bliss and Czerny at Avery Fisher Hall in the Lincoln Center and Frank Bridge's Phantasm at Carnegie Hall.

Many composers have written for him and he has premiered works by Brett Dean, Dave Heath, Colin Matthews, Richard Mills, Carl Vine, Benjamin Wallfisch and Malcolm Williamson. He has written and presented over 100 programs for BBC Radio 3, including the popular 54-part series *The Piano*.

Piers holds Honorary Doctorates from Griffith University and James Cook University and in 1994 was made an Honorary Member of the Royal Academy of Music, where he was a professor from 1989 to 2007. He received the first medal from the Laza Kostic Fund, for promoting Serbian culture during difficult political times in the late 90s. He was Fleck Fellow at the Banff Centre in Canada, is President of the European Piano Teachers' Association UK, Patron of the Australasian Piano Pedagogy Conference, the Old Granary Studio in Norfolk, the Player Piano Group, the Tait Memorial Trust in London, the Youth Music Foundation of Australia and the Music Teachers' Association and the Accompanists' Guild in Queensland. He is a Trustee of the Hattori Foundation in London and Vice-President of the Delius Society and Putney Music Club in London.

In the Queens Diamond Jubilee Birthday Honours, he was made an Officer in the Order of Australia (AO) for distinguished services to the arts as pianist, mentor and director.

Please visit www.pierslane.com for more information.
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