

OCCUPY

THE PIANOS



FRI 20 – SUN 22 APRIL 2018

**STUDED WITH FRESHLY WRITTEN WORKS
AND RADICAL TAKES ON MUSIC**



ST JOHN'S SMITH SQUARE

Box Office 020 7222 1061 | sjss.org.uk

OCCUPY THE PIANOS

This is our third full festival, and an ambitious landmark in its development. We are thrilled to have been given substantial support to develop events, studded with many freshly written works, and radical takes on music and concert-giving, with new and innovative piano music at its core.

St John's Smith Square is only a stone's throw from Parliament Square, site of protest and agitation for hundreds of years. In keeping with the festival's name, this year's programming considers politics and protest. At the same time – reflecting the beautiful, serene space in which we find ourselves in this former church – the festival's final day will move towards spirituality and the journey within, offering new ways for the audience to encounter music and their experience of it.

At the festival's heart is an ever-growing team of brilliant musicians whose approach is outward looking, unconventional and curious. The collegiate communal spirit of that group has made **Occupy The Pianos** such an adventure.

An adventure that continues...

Rolf Hind
Festival Director

#OccupyThePianos

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RĂDULESCU ICONS IN THE CRYPT

Zoë Martlew CELLO
Joe Bates PIANO
Ben Smith PIANO

Throughout the weekend, two of Horațiu Rădulescu's sound icons will be living in the crypt of St John's Smith Square. There will be performances of works by Rădulescu, composer Joe Bates and other new work.

The icons – eviscerated grand pianos laid on their sides – were developed by Rădulescu for a number of his own luminous and ferociously spiritual works. More solo Rădulescu music will be performed on Sunday.

Fri 20 April 2.00pm
Free Admission

CALL FOR SCORES!

SESSION LEADERS
Zoë Martlew
Rolf Hind
Andrew Zolinsky

New scores from a call put out last year will be played and discussed by some of the weekend's participants. A friendly and welcoming session designed for those interested in playing the piano, writing for it, and listening to it.

All welcome!

Fri 20 April 3.00pm
Free Admission (Ticketed)

FESTIVAL PASS

Access all concerts in
Occupy The Pianos for £40 (YF £25)



Eliza McCarthy © Jonathan Shenoy

WE COME TOGETHER

Loré Lixenberg VOICE
Elaine Mitchener VOICE
Nancy Ruffer FLUTE
Stuart King CLARINET
David Alberman VIOLIN
Zoë Martlew CELLO
Craig Apps PERCUSSION
Siwan Rhys PIANO
Ben Smith PIANO
George Barton CONDUCTOR

Frederic Rzewski Coming Together
Martland Mr Anderson's Pavan
Maxwell Davies Miss Donnithorne's Maggot

Two of the country's most fascinating vocalists in very different repertoire: Rzewski's blistering shout-out for political action launches the night, and Maxwell Davies' incendiary portrait of a woman on the edge rounds it off. Sandwiched between, a cool but acerbic piece from the much-missed and always politically engaged British composer, Steve Martland.

Fri 20 April 7.30pm
£10, YF

OTHER AVATARS

Rolf Hind PIANO & MAGNETIC RESONATOR PIANO

Julia Adolphe *Magnetic études*
(I. Swirl II. Spike III. Shine)
Messiaen *Regard du Père*
Scelsi *Quattro Illustrazioni (I and II)*
Ligeti *Étude No. 8 Galamb Borong*
Edward Nesbit *Bell Song (world premiere)*
Scelsi *Quattro Illustrazioni (III and IV)*
Messiaen *Regard des prophètes, des bergers
et des Mages*
Rolf Hind *Next Avatar (world premiere)*

A late-night sequence from festival director, Rolf Hind. Messiaen's heady Catholicism, interwoven with Scelsi's exquisite Hindu-inspired improvisations inspired by avatars of Vishnu and a new piece from Edward Nesbit. Bookending the programme are the extraordinary possibilities of the magnetic resonator piano, giving the piano new forms, new life.

The magnetic resonator piano is from Andrew McPherson and Queen Mary University, London.

Fri 20 April 9.30pm

£10, YF



Loré Lixenberg © Stephen Von Der Decken

POLYMORPHOUS POLYMATHS

Loré Lixenberg VOICE
Zoë Martlew CELLO
Craig Apps PERCUSSION
George Barton PERCUSSION
Rolf Hind PIANO
Siwan Rhys PIANO
Ben Smith PIANO

Zoë Martlew *#skincare (world premiere)* (A brief moral apocalypse for two pianos, two percussionists and voice. Bathroom selfie meets existential philosophy)
Luke Bedford *New piece for piano and percussion*
Loré Lixenberg *b3:(r)d IV (world premiere)*

Three major figures in British musical life – between them cellist, two singers, director, two comediennes and three composers – present short new works on the theme of protest and politics.

A chance to hear some of our most radical and individual voices unleashed!

Sat 21 April 2.00pm

£10, YF



Zoë Martlew © Krisztián Sipos Photography

ON A QUEER DAY

Nick Bonadies PIANO
Rolf Hind PIANO
Ben Smith PIANO
Andrew Zolinsky PIANO

Nick Bonadies *talk and demonstrations*
Ben Smith *Burn Me*
Michael Finnissy *Really living (world premiere)*
Rob Allan *Four Songs from an interview with Peter Maxwell Davies*
Kate Honey *Defiance*

In this event, Occupy The Pianos returns to re-examine the queer angle in contemporary music-making, with solo piano works from three engaged and politically queer composers, as well as Ben Smith's setting of haunting fragments of Sappho. Before this, PhD student Nick Bonadies will discuss and play his research into the performance of Bach refracted through the lens of queer theory.

Sat 21 April 4.00pm

£10, YF



George Barton © Daisy Dickenson

EASTERN COW THEATRE

Loré Lixenberg SOPRANO & DIRECTOR
Stefan Baur SAXOPHONES
George Barton PERCUSSION
Siwan Rhys PIANO
CoMA and amateur musicians

Rolf Hind *'Varanasi Haiku' and 'This Is The Cow' from Way Out East (UK premiere)*
Kagel *Scenes from Staatstheater*

Featured performer Lixenberg directs sections from Kagel's groundbreaking work with amateur performers from CoMA in a version tailored to St John's Smith Square's space. Unmissable! This is preceded by Rolf Hind's *Way Out East*, written for Lixenberg. A cautiously loving tribute to India, it comprises settings of a fever-induced Haiku penned by the composer, and an online essay that seems to have been through Google Translate and back, yet still glows with love for the country's most revered animal, while the music resonates with the violence enacted upon it.

Sat 21 April 7.30pm

£10, YF

THE PEOPLE UNITED WILL NEVER BE DEFEATED

Robin Green PIANO

Frederic Rzewski *The People United Will Never be Defeated*

Robin Green takes on Rzewski's mighty set of variations, a tribute to the struggles of the Socialists in Chile in the 1960s and 1970s and, by extension, to the various Socialist movements of the 20th century. A rousing reminder and call to arms to end the day's music.

Sat 21 April 9.30pm

£10, YF

TRUMPETS OF THE ETERNAL

Rolf Hind PIANO
Joseph Houston PIANO
Andrew Zolinsky PIANO

Christian Mason *Remembered Radiance* (world premiere)
Rădulescu *Sonata No. 4 "like a well... older than God."*
Rolf Hind *The Paths of the Knife*
Feldman *Vertical Thoughts 1*
Scelsi *Rotativa*

Alongside the other activities in the crypt, today we give a focus on the extraordinary mystical compositions of Rădulescu. Here, his intense work is set against a new piece by brilliant British composer, Christian Mason; lapidary abstractions from Feldman; and a very early piece from Scelsi – a true mystical trailblazer of the 20th century.

Sun 22 April 11.00am
£10, YF

YOU WILL ENDURE FOREVER

Thomas Ang PIANO
Joseph Havlat PIANO
Eliza McCarthy PIANO
Siwan Rhys PIANO

Harvey *Tombeau de Messiaen* (with electronics)
Rădulescu *Sonata No. 3*
Vivier *Shiraz*
John Adams *Hallelujah Junction*

More composers whose work charts a journey of the spirit. For Vivier, the objective correlative of this journey is the near-mythic destination; Harvey was a curious and sympathetic student of the East and brings his wonderfully imaginative ear to his tribute to Messiaen. And finally Adams' exciting, and a bit more earthly *Hallelujah Junction*.

Sun 22 April 2.00pm
£10, YF

STILL MUSIC

Eliza McCarthy MEDITATION LEADER
George Barton PERCUSSION
Rolf Hind PIANO

Rob Burbea *Amara Vigil*
Lucier *Silver streetcar for the orchestra* (solo triangle)
Rolf Hind *Walking music from Lost in Thought*

Pianist and meditation teacher Eliza McCarthy will lead the audience in an inquiry into the nature of sound. Rob Burbea is a composer who gave up his career to be a Buddhist teacher and his passionate colourful piece opens the concert. Two further pieces act as focuses for meditation – firstly on sound and then in a walking meditation in which the audience will be invited to take part.

Sun 22 April 4.00pm
£10, YF



INFINITE ACCEPTANCE

Loré Lixenberg VOICE
Elaine Mitchener VOICE
Zoë Martlew CELLO
Joseph Houston PIANO
Eliza McCarthy PIANO
Rolf Hind PIANO

Per Nørgård *Unendlicher Empfang*
Eastman *Buddha for voice and piano*
Vivier *Piece, for Cello and Piano*
Oliveros *Listening/performance exercises* (with audience)
Feldman *Voices and cello*
Harvey *Four Images After Yeats* (No. 1, 2, 3: vers; ff; haiku) interwoven with Scelsi *Canti del Capricorno*

Taking its title from Rilke, Per Nørgård's astonishing two-piano piece opens into a chaotic and joyous embrace of wild, colourful and rhythmic sounds. After this, the concert becomes more contemplative and the audience shares in the music-making with Pauline Oliveros' work. After the interval a coda of luminous delicacy in pieces by Feldman, Harvey and Scelsi, leading the audience and the players towards the final event of the night...

Sun 22 April 7.30pm
£10, YF

UNIVERSAL MUSIC

Deep listening to sound icons, with instruction from Pauline Oliveros' writing. Audience, players and passers-by are invited to meet, drink, play, sing and talk in St John's Smith Square's crypt.

Sun 22 April 9.30pm
Free Admission

BOOKING INFORMATION

BOX OFFICE 020 7222 1061
(Monday to Saturday 10.00am–5.00pm)
sjss.org.uk

Booking fees per transaction:
£2.75 phone / £1.75 online

IN PERSON

The Box Office opens one hour before the start of Sunday and Bank Holiday concerts. No booking fee when booking in person.

POST

Box Office, St John's Smith Square, London SW1P 3HA

Please enclose a stamped addressed envelope. Cheques should be made payable to St John's Smith Square.

YOUNG FRIENDS

If you're aged 30 or under, make sure you sign up for our **FREE** Young Friends Scheme!

Young Friends (YF) get £5 tickets to concerts in Occupy The Pianos or £25 Festival Pass.

Our Young Friends also receive:

- ◆ £5 tickets for selected concerts throughout the season – you'll find these marked alongside the ticket information in the brochure with the code 'YF'
- ◆ Exclusive invitations to special events
- ◆ Young Friends newsletter
- ◆ Targeted discounts

sjss.org.uk/youngfriends

YOUR VISIT

St John's Smith Square is just off Millbank between Westminster and Lambeth Bridges, close to the Houses of Parliament and Westminster Abbey.

🚇 TUBE

Westminster, St James's Park & Victoria

🚌 BUS

3 and 87 to Horseferry Road
C10 and 507 (limited hours) to Millbank
88 to Horseferry Road
11, 211, 148 and 24 to Westminster Abbey

🚆 RAIL

Victoria, Waterloo, Vauxhall & Charing Cross

🅑 CAR PARKING

St John's Smith Square is within the congestion charging zone. Parking meters are in operation during the day Monday – Friday until 6.30pm. In the evenings and at weekends there are usually ample spaces locally. There is Westminster City Council car parking on Great College Street and Arneway Street.



St John's Smith Square Charitable Trust

St John's Smith Square
London SW1P 3HA

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