

LLŶR WILLIAMS

Piano

...One of the truly great musicians of our time... Those with ears to hear will have followed Williams's playing as it has grown ever more secure and expansive. The hallmark of his Schumann Fantasy was its rare ability to take us deep into a very private world of dream, while at the same time creating a generously projected and truly virtuoso performance. The Times, 4 April 2007, Hilary Finch (Wigmore Hall recital)

One of the most outstanding pianists of his generation, Llŷr Williams brings an extraordinary musical intelligence to all his work, as soloist, chamber musician and accompanist. In 2005 he made his Proms début with the BBC Symphony Orchestra conducted by Jiri Belohlavek, opened the Queen's Hall series at the Edinburgh Festival and appeared with the Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields at the Barbican's Mostly Mozart Festival. Last season he returned to the Edinburgh International Festival for the fourth time, appearing with the Minnesota Orchestra conducted by Osmo Vänskä as well as giving an extraordinary performance of Beethoven's 'Hammerklavier' Sonata and Schubert's 'Trout' Quintet with the Hebrides Ensemble.

Llŷr Williams has also recently appeared with the BBC National Orchestra of Wales, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, Royal Scottish National Orchestra, London Mozart Players and the Hallé Orchestra. He performs regularly with Sinfonia Cymru and last autumn directed two Mozart Concerti from the keyboard as well as continuing the complete Beethoven Concerti series, culminating in a 10th Anniversary Concert with Bryn Terfel. In the winter of 2006, he completed a very successful tour of the United States with the BBC National Orchestra of Wales and conductor Thierry Fischer.

This season brings a busy mix of recitals and orchestra engagements. Llŷr Williams will give recitals throughout the UK, and makes his début in Hannover's prestigious Pro Musica series. He will perform a series of concerts with other Borletti-Buitoni Trust award winners in the US at venues including the Kimmel Center, Philadelphia and Carnegie Hall. He will then make his US recital début at Carnegie Hall in March 2009. He also gives a series of three recitals at Perth Concert Hall with violinist Alexander Janiczek; they are exploring Beethoven's early sonatas for violin and piano. He will work with BBC National Orchestra of Wales and the Welsh National Opera Orchestra. He also goes to Milan to work with I Pomeriggi Musicali, performing Elliott Carter's *Dialogues* and Beethoven's *Choral Fantasy*.

In 2005 Llŷr Williams was awarded the MIDEM Classique 'Outstanding Young Artist Award' in partnership with the International Artist Managers' Association. His first commercial CD featuring Chopin's *Préludes* was released in March 2006 on the Quartz label. He is also the subject of a film, *Y Pianydd - Llŷr Williams*, by Opus TF for S4C (the Welsh language broadcaster) which recently won a Welsh BAFTA for Best Music Programme. The programme also won an award at the Celtic Media Festival, held on the Isle of Skye, for Best Entertainment Programme.

Born in 1976 in Pentrebychan, North Wales, Llŷr Williams read music at The Queen's College, Oxford, graduating in 1998 with a first class alpha degree. He went on to take up a postgraduate scholarship at the Royal Academy of Music where he won every prize and award. From 2000-02 he was a 'Shinn' Fellow at the Academy, coaching singers and studying conducting. He was also an active member of the Live Music Now! scheme for several years. In 2002, Llŷr Williams was selected for the Young Concert Artists Trust scheme and received a *Borletti-Buitoni Trust Award* in 2004.

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