



PRESS RELEASE

19 August 2015



City of London Sinfonia announce RE:Imagine: A series of re-imagined works and new interpretations for the 2015-16 season

Season highlights include:

- CLS Patron Dame Felicity Lott, Elin Manahan Thomas, Roderick Williams, Anna Huntley, Gwilym Bowen and Alex Potter present their own personal takes on established works.
- Bespoke immersive experiences to accompany each concert of the season.
- Newly commissioned Bach arrangements from Uģis Prauliņš, David & Colin Matthews, Roderick Williams, Gwilym Simcock, Luke Styles and Charlotte Bray.
- Some of London's most intimate venues to host re-imaginings of large orchestral works.

City of London Sinfonia (CLS) announces its **RE:Imagine 2015-2016 London season**, featuring re-imagined works, immersive musical experiences and premieres of new interpretations commissioned exclusively for the season.

CLS will be joined by an array of world class performers who present their own personal takes on established works, in venues ranging from the intimate setting of the Sam Wanamaker Playhouse to the grandeur of Southwark Cathedral. The Grand Salons of Venice, Paris, Vienna and the English Parlour will be visited through new musical perspectives provided by artists including CLS Patron Dame Felicity Lott, Roderick Williams and Gwilym Bowen, performing works by Mahler, Strauss, Pergolesi and Butterworth.

CLS's RE: Imagine 2015-16 season invites audiences to tailor their musical experience at each concert, through a variety of bespoke immersive events to evoke the sights, sound and tastes of the great cities from where the music originated.

Throughout the season CLS also present 'Bach RE:Imagined'; a collection of newly-commissioned Bach interpretations from composers David and Collin Matthews, Luke Styles, Gwilym Simcock, Uģis Prauliņš, Michael Collins, Charlotte Bray, and baritone and composer Roderick Williams.

Great Cities

The historic surroundings of Southwark Cathedral hosts **Venice: Darkness to Light on 14 October 2015**, a concert which brings to life the sounds of one of the most romantic cities in the world. After the audience walk in to the sound of Venice, the performance opens with Bach's own take on two of Venice's finest composers; soprano **Elin Manahan Thomas** and countertenor **Alex Potter** join the orchestra for a performance of Pergolesi's dark and mournful *Stabat Mater* and **Stephen Farr** performs Vivaldi's energetic *Keyboard Concerto*. A new arrangement of Bach's '*Sanctus*' *Mass in B Minor* from Latvian composer **Uģis Prauliņš** is presented as part of 'Bach RE:Imagined', and is book-ended by John Adams' interpretation of *The Black Gondola*; Liszt's tribute to Venice's waterways, and Stravinsky's light-hearted re-imagining of Pergolesi's comedy *Pulcinella*. The concert also features an add-on wine tasting experience, with wines carefully selected to compliment the evening's Venetian musical journey.



The intimate candlelit setting of the Sam Wanamaker Playhouse at Shakespeare's Globe hosts **The Viennese Salon** on **24 January 2016**, directed by **Michael Collins**. This unique and beautiful space plays host to an imaginary Viennese salon, featuring songs performed by **CLS Patron Dame Felicity Lott** and music from some of the city's most famous adopted sons. The programme opens with Hasenhohrl's arrangement of Richard Strauss's *Till Eulenspiegel*; some of his most dramatic and romantic music for full orchestra and opera, staged in small-scale form. Arrangements by two of the UK's leading composers, David and Collin Matthews, frame the performance; **Collin Matthews'** interpretation of Berg's *Four Pieces for Clarinet* is performed by conductor **Michael Collins**, and **David Matthew's** arrangement of Strauss' *Capriccio* closes the programme. A newly commissioned Bach arrangement by David Matthews provides this concert's instalment of 'Bach: RE:Imagined'; *Prelude and fugue for organ in C major*. This immersive evening in the imaginary Viennese Salon is completed by optional *Kafe und Kuchen* and a waltzing lesson.

On **20 April 2016** CLS and Principal Conductor **Stephen Layton** are joined by baritone **Roderick Williams**, mezzo soprano **Helen Charlston**, the **Holst Singers** and **Southwark Cathedral Girls' Choir** for **Paris Reflected** at Southwark Cathedral. The programme explores the sounds of Paris across the centuries with music by Debussy, Ravel, Faure, Duruflé and Bach. This atmospheric evening begins with quietly sung plainsong by candlelight on arrival into the cathedral, immersing the audience into the sound-world of the music that inspired these composers. The performance opens with Busser's arrangement of Debussy's *Le Petite Suite*, followed by Fauré's *Pavane*, with its ancient dance forms. Ravel's tribute to an earlier French composer, *Le tombeau de Couperin*, precedes the centrepiece to the programme; Duruflé's *Requiem*, based on ancient plainsong melodies. Composer Charlotte Bray provides the arrangement for the this concert's 'Bach RE:Imagined' work. An add-on wine tasting with French wines especially selected for programme provides an authentic Parisian experience.

Great Voices

Southwark Cathedral is reconfigured into an intimate auditorium for **The Great English Songbook** on **9 March 2016**. Baritone **Roderick Williams** joins CLS and Principal Conductor **Stephen Layton** for a celebration of English song from the early 20th century, when English composers set about creating a new language of English song, re-imagining earlier times of pastoral idyll as the First World War and clamour of industry irrevocably changed their lives and the cities around them. Vaughan Williams' *Five Variants on Dives and Lazarus* opens the programme, followed by Finzi's arrangement of Gurney's *Four Elizabethan Songs*, his *Let us Garlands Bring* and Arnold's arrangement of Walton's *Sonata for Strings*. Roderick Williams provides the arrangement for this concert's 'Bach RE:Imagined' instalment; *Bourée from the C major Cello Suite*, and for Butterworth's *Six Songs from a Shropshire Lad*, which closes the performance. An add-on wine tasting with wines especially paired to the evening's musical journey is also available.

CLoSer

As part of the RE:Imagine season, CLS presents the fifth season of its ground-breaking **CLoSer** informal concert series. On **17 February 2016** at Shoreditch's Village Underground, **CLoSer: Song of the Earth** sees CLS joined by two of the UK's most exciting young vocal talents: **Anne Huntley** and **Gwilym Bowen** for Mahler's *Das Lied Von der Erde*. This concert provides audiences with a rare opportunity to hear this epic symphony of song, originally conceived for vast orchestral forces, re-imagined for salon ensemble in one of London's most atmospheric spaces. The piece is preceded with a story-telling introduction through the Mahler's own letters. Schoenberg's arrangement of Johann Strauss's *Rosen Aus Dem Süden* sets the scene for the evening alongside an instalment of the 'Bach RE:Imagined' series by young Australian-British composer **Luke Styles**.

Music and more

Village Underground hosts **CLoSer: Debussy, Copland and Dance** on **22 September 2015**, a celebration of music written for dance. Each piece is accompanied by live classical contemporary / urban dance performance, in a programme which begins and ends with Debussy's *L'après midi d'un faune* in two different dance interpretations choreographed by Founder / Artistic Director of Avant Garde Dance Tony Adigun, who also provides an introduction to the dance pieces. The Bach RE:Imagining' for the evening is a unique take on Bach's solo cello suites transcribed for clarinet and performed by conductor **Michael Collins**. The programme is completed by Rameau's *Pygmalion Dance Suite*, an 18th century re-imagining of the classical Pygmalion myth, and Copland's *Appalachian Spring*, his musical story of the US pioneers who explored the Appalachian mountains in the 19th century. A pre-concert talk provides an introduction to the dance pieces.

CLS's hugely popular family concerts Crash Bang Wallop! continue throughout the season at Cadogan Hall. On **12 March 2016**, amateur Claire Henry and City of London Sinfonia present **Crash Bang Wallop: Reuse and Recycle** as part of the RE:Imagine series. Following creative activities from 10am, the young audience will then join Henry and the orchestra as they learn all about how you can recycle musical material and experience magical re-imagined sounds and crazy inventions along the way. The repertoire includes Roger Quilter's *Children's Overture*, and this family concert is most suitable for children aged three to eight years.

CLS's **CLoSer** series is transported to New York on **6 April 2016** for **CLoSer: Sketches of Miles**, which sees Village Underground transformed into a jazz club for the evening. This special event, directed by conductor / clarinetist **Michael Collins and jazz pianist Gwilym Simcock**, explores the musical marriage of legendary trumpeter Miles Davis and composer/arranger Gil Evans. Over the course of their four studio albums, they re-defined what jazz musicians could do with classical music, and excerpts from *Sketches of Spain*, *Porgy and Bess*, *Miles Ahead* and *Quiet Nights* form the first part of the programme. A jazz-tinged contribution to the 'Bach RE:Imagined' series arranged and performed by CLoSer series regular **Gwilym Simcock** rounds off this atmospheric evening.

www.cls.co.uk/reimagine

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LISTINGS

CLoSer: Debussy, Copland and Dance

Tuesday 22 September 2015, 7.30pm, Village Underground, 54 Holywell Lane, EC2A 3PQ

Debussy arr. Schoenberg	<i>Prelude à "L'après midi d'un faune"</i>
Rameau	<i>Pygmalion Dance suite</i>
Bach trans. Michael Collins	Solo cello suite transcribed for clarinet
Copland	<i>Appalachian Spring</i>
Debussy arr. Schoenberg	<i>Prelude à "L'après midi d'un faune"</i>

Michael Collins	Conductor / Clarinet
Tony Adigun	Choreography
City of London Sinfonia	
Dancers	



Tickets: £15 (includes a free drink)

Book from July at: www.spitalfieldsmusic.org.uk / 020 7377 1362

Book from September at: www.cls.co.uk / 020 7621 2800

In association with Village Underground

Venice: Darkness to Light

Wednesday 14 October 2015, 7.30pm, Southwark Cathedral, London Bridge, London, SE1 9DA

Pergolesi arr. Bach	<i>Stabat Mater</i>
Vivaldi arr. Bach	Keyboard Concerto
Busoni arr. John Adams	<i>Berceuse Elegiaque</i>
Liszt arr. John Adams	<i>The Black Gondola</i>
Bach arr. Uģis Prauliņš	Commission
Stravinsky	<i>Pulcinella</i>

Stephen Layton	Conductor
Stephen Farr	Harpsichord
Elin Manahan Thomas	Soprano
Alex Potter	Countertenor
City of London Sinfonia	

Tickets: £25, £15, £5* (*restricted view)

Book from July at: www.spitalfieldsmusic.org.uk / 020 7377 1362

Book from September at: www.cls.co.uk / 020 7621 2800

The Viennese Salon

Sunday 24 January 2016, 2.00pm, Sam Wanamaker Playhouse, Shakespeare's Globe, Bankside, SE1 9DT

R. Strauss arr. Hasenohrl	<i>Till Eulenspiegel</i>
Schoenberg arr. Webern	<i>Chamber Symphony</i>
Bach arr. David Matthews	Commission
Berg arr. Collin Matthews	<i>Four Pieces for Clarinet</i>
Bach arr. David Matthews	Commission
Strauss arr. David Matthews	<i>Capriccio</i>

Dame Felicity Lott	Soprano
Michael Collins	Clarinet / Conductor
City of London Sinfonia	

Tickets: £62 (premium) £15 - £48, £10 (standing)

Book at: www.shakespearesglobe.com / 020 7401 9919

In association with Shakespeare's Globe

CLOser: Song of the Earth

Wednesday 17 February 2016, 7.30pm, Village Underground, 54 Holywell Lane, EC2A 3PQ

J. Strauss arr. Schoenberg	<i>Rosen Aus Dem Süden</i>
Bach arr. Luke Styles	Commission
Mahler arr. Schoenberg/Rainer	<i>Das Lied Von der Erde</i>

Anna Huntley	Mezzo Soprano
Gwilym Bowen	Tenor
Michael Collins	Clarinet / Conductor
City of London Sinfonia	

Tickets: £15 (includes a free drink)



Book at: www.cls.co.uk / 020 7621 2800 (booking opens September)
In association with Village Underground

The Great English Songbook

Wednesday 9 March 2016, 7.30pm, Southwark Cathedral, London Bridge, London, SE1 9DA

Vaughan Williams	<i>5 Variants on Dives and Lazarus</i>
Gurney arr. Finzi	<i>Four Elizabethan Songs</i>
Finzi	<i>Let us Garlands Bring</i>
Walton arr. Arnold	<i>Sonata for Strings</i>
Bach arr. Roderick Williams	<i>Commission</i>
Butterworth Arr. Roderick Williams	<i>Six Songs from a Shropshire Lad</i>

Stephen Layton	Conductor
Roderick Williams	Baritone
City of London Sinfonia	

Tickets: £25, £15, £5* (*restricted view)

Book at: www.cls.co.uk / 020 7621 2800 (booking opens September)

Crash Bang Wallop: Reuse and Recycle

Saturday 12 March 2016, 12-1pm, Cadogan Hall, 5 Sloane Terrace, SW1X 9DQ

Creative activities from 11am.

Claire Henry	Animateur
City of London Sinfonia	

Family concert most suitable for children aged 3 to 8 years.

Tickets: Adults £10, Children £8, Family £30 for 4 tickets

Book at: www.cadoganhall.com / 020 7730 4500

In association with Cadogan Hall

CLoSer: Sketches of Miles

Wednesday 6 April 2016, 7.30pm, Village Underground, 54 Holywell Lane, EC2A 3PQ

Davis arr. Evans	Excerpts from: <i>Sketches of Spain; Porgy and Bess; Miles Ahead; Quiet Nights</i>
Bach arr. Gwilym Simcock	<i>Commission</i>

Michael Collins	Clarinet / Conductor
Gwilym Simcock	Piano
City of London Sinfonia	

Tickets: £15 (includes a free drink)

Book at: www.cls.co.uk / 020 7621 2800 (booking opens September)

In association with Village Underground

Paris Reflected

Wednesday 20 April 2016, 7.30pm, Southwark Cathedral, London Bridge, London, SE1 9DA

Concert introduction from Stephen Layton and the Holst Singers exploring Durufé's use of plainsong melodies in his Requiem, including extracts from the plainsong Requiem Mass in a surround setting

Debussy arr. Busser	<i>Le Petite Suite</i>
Fauré	<i>Pavane</i>
Bach arr. Charlotte Bray	<i>Commission</i>
Ravel	<i>Le tombeau de Couperin</i>
Durufé	<i>Requiem</i>



Helen Charlston
Roderick Williams
Stephen Layton
Holst Singers
Southwark Cathedral Girls Choir
City of London Sinfonia

Mezzo-soprano
Baritone
Conductor



Tickets: £25, £15, £5* (*restricted view)
Book at: www.cls.co.uk / 020 7621 2800 (booking opens September)

Notes to Editors

City of London Sinfonia (CLS) believes that music unites people across all ages and backgrounds. CLS's mission is to bring surprising and moving musical experiences to people of all ages and backgrounds, building a harmonious future together. The Orchestra is led by Stephen Layton (Artistic Director & Principal Conductor) and Michael Collins (Principal Conductor.) In 2014, CLS were proud to announce the appointment of soprano Dame Felicity Lott as Patron.

CLS makes regular appearances at all the major London concert halls and venues, as well as St Paul's Cathedral and other venues in the City of London and on its fringes. It has been resident orchestra at the capital's popular Opera Holland Park since 2004, and is a regular guest at major UK festivals. The Orchestra has an extensive discography, including a series of award winning operas by Benjamin Britten on the CHANDOS label. The Orchestra's latest release is a recording of Weber's Clarinet and Horn Concertos on the CHANDOS label.

The **Meet the Music** education and outreach programme, founded in 1988, was one of the first established by a UK orchestra. Musicians spend nearly 200 days a year performing and reaching over 10,000 people throughout London. The programme includes regular visits to Great Ormond Street and Evelina Children's Hospital, and ongoing work with more than 400 Key Stage One (aged 5-7) children in Tower Hamlets, which has one of the highest ethnic minority populations in the capital. In partnership with L'Chaim and Jewish Care in North London, CLS also work with those suffering from dementia and Alzheimer's who have personal narratives as exiles from central Europe before and during the Second World War.

CLoSer is the ground-breaking and hugely popular informal concert series from CLS, which is now entering its fifth season. **CLoSer** concerts are shorter in length and more relaxed in style than a traditional concert setting. Moving away from large concert halls and churches, this series takes place in Shoreditch warehouse venue, Village Underground. The experience is designed to appeal to those who like live music experiences to be intimate and informal, and allows the audience to get much closer to the music and the musicians than a traditional set-up. **CLoSer** is supported by Arts Council England and M&G investments and in association with Village Underground.

Crash Bang Wallop! is CLS's family concert series which take place at London's Cadogan Hall. These concerts are designed to appeal to children (big and small) and are seen as an informal, easy and enjoyable introduction to the Orchestra and classical music with plenty of participation and interaction. Prior to each concert, there are musical and craft activities related to the theme of the concert. The concerts are for all the family and are especially suited to children aged 3 to 6 years old. Information and for Crash Bang Wallop! audiences can be found at: <http://www.cityoflondonsinfonia.co.uk/CBW---FAQs> Crash Bang Wallop! is a partnership between City of London Sinfonia and Cadogan Hall.

The CLS RE:Imagine 2015-16 London season is supported by Arts Council England, Garfield and Weston Foundation, M&G Investments, and City of London Sinfonia Friends and supporters.



Supported using public funding by
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