



PRESS RELEASE

2 December 2015

## City of London Sinfonia Artistic Director Stephen Layton and Principal Conductor Michael Collins extending their contracts for a further year

City of London Sinfonia (CLS) announce that Artistic Director **Stephen Layton** and Principal Conductor **Michael Collins** are extending their contracts for the 2016-17 season.

First details of CLS's 2016-17 season will be announced in the New Year. A delighted **Matthew Swann, CLS Chief Executive**, comments on the continuing artistic partnership with Layton and Collins: "Stephen and Michael have been the driving artistic forces behind the CLS family for the past six years, and we are thrilled that they are able to extend their relationship with us for a further year. We are very excited about our plans for the 2016-17 season that will see Stephen and Michael perform to their strengths with surprising and moving choral, chamber and orchestral performances with the Orchestra."

### RE:Imagine 2015-16 season continues

CLS's **RE:Imagine** season continues until April 2016, featuring re-imagined works, immersive musical experiences and premieres of new interpretations commissioned exclusively for the season. **Friday 11 December** sees the launch of the brand new **CLS box office** for booking of spring's concerts directly via the CLS website.

CLS is joined by an array of world class performers throughout the RE:Imagine season 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 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.

Throughout the season CLS also present '**Bach RE:Imagined**'; a collection of newly-commissioned Bach interpretations from composers **David Matthews, Luke Styles, Gwilym Simcock, Charlotte Bray**, and baritone and composer **Roderick Williams**, to be performed at each concert. Stephen Layton will take a break in the spring of 2016 to focus on projects in Europe, and will therefore be replaced for the previously announced concerts at Southwark Cathedral on 9 March and 20 April, before returning for the 2016-17 season. Up-and-coming conductor **Benjamin Nicholas**, who is fast gaining a reputation as an outstanding choral director, will now take up the baton on 20 April, with Baritone / Composer **Roderick Williams** and CLS leader **Alexandra Wood** co-directing the concert on 9 March.

On **9 March 2016**, Southwark Cathedral is reconfigured into an intimate auditorium for **The Great English Songbook**, where **Roderick Williams** joins CLS for a celebration of English song from the early 20<sup>th</sup> 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.

On **20 April 2016** CLS are joined by **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 this concert's 'Bach RE:Imagined' work. An add-on wine tasting with French wines especially selected for programme provides an authentic Parisian experience.

### **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 - **Anna 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**.

**CloSer** 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 / clarinettist **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](http://www.cls.co.uk/reimagine)

### **For further press information please contact:**

Rebecca Driver Media Relations

Tel: 020 7247 1894

Email: [rebecca@rdmr.co.uk](mailto:rebecca@rdmr.co.uk) | [nasarene@rdmr.co.uk](mailto:nasarene@rdmr.co.uk) | [emily@rdmr.co.uk](mailto:emily@rdmr.co.uk) | [ruth@rdmr.co.uk](mailto:ruth@rdmr.co.uk)

[www.rdmr.co.uk](http://www.rdmr.co.uk)

## LISTINGS

### **The Viennese Salon**

**Sunday 24 January 2016, 2:00pm, Sam Wanamaker Playhouse, Shakespeare's Globe, Bankside, SE1 9DT**

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

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

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

**Book at:** [www.cls.co.uk/](http://www.cls.co.uk/) 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**

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

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

**Tickets:** £15 (includes a free drink)

**Book at:** [www.cls.co.uk /](http://www.cls.co.uk/) 020 7621 2800

*In association with Village Underground*

### The Great English Songbook

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

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

<b>Roderick Williams</b>	Baritone
<b>Roderick Williams / Alexandra Wood</b>	Directors
<b>City of London Sinfonia</b>	

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

**Book at:** [www.cls.co.uk /](http://www.cls.co.uk/) 020 7621 2800



**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**

Presenter

**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.cls.co.uk](http://www.cls.co.uk) / 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: *Sketches of Spain; Porgy and Bess;*  
*Miles Ahead; Quiet Nights*

**Bach arr. Gwilym Simcock**

*Commission*

**Michael Collins**

Clarinet / Conductor

**Gwilym Simcock**

Piano

**City of London Sinfonia**

**Tickets:** £15 (includes a free drink)

**Book at:** [www.cls.co.uk](http://www.cls.co.uk) / 020 7621 2800

*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**

*Le Petite Suite*

**Fauré**

*Pavane*

**Bach arr. Charlotte Bray**

*Commission*

**Ravel**

*Le tombeau de Couperin*

**Durufé**

*Requiem*

**Helen Charlston**

Mezzo-soprano

**Roderick Williams**

Baritone

**Benjamin Nicholas**

Conductor

**Holst Singers**

**Southwark Cathedral Girls Choir**

**City of London Sinfonia**

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

**Book at:** [www.cls.co.uk](http://www.cls.co.uk) / 020 7621 2800

**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 partition 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.*

