



PRESS RELEASE

26 January 2016

Murray Perahia to play-direct complete Beethoven Piano Concertos cycle with the Academy of St Martin the Fields at the Barbican

The **Academy of St Martin in the Fields** and the **Barbican** celebrate the 70th birthday season of renowned pianist **Murray Perahia** with a complete cycle of Beethoven's Piano Concertos in the 2016-17 season. The concertos form the centrepiece of *Perahia Plays Beethoven*, a Barbican Presents series of four all-Beethoven programmes to be performed at the Barbican between November 2016 and June 2017.

Perahia has been Principal Guest Conductor of the Academy since 2000 and has developed a celebrated partnership with the orchestra, producing many acclaimed recordings and performances in five decades of collaboration. The cycle, which Murray Perahia will direct from the keyboard, follows a sold out, critically acclaimed Beethoven cycle in Munich in December 2015, with future performances around Europe to follow.

Murray Perahia said: *"Beethoven's Piano Concertos are some of the greatest works in the piano repertoire - the vast range of emotions and inexhaustible wealth of musical ideas they display is extraordinary. It will be wonderful to explore these iconic concertos once again and I'm delighted to be doing so with an ensemble as close to my heart as the Academy of St Martin in the Fields."*

The series starts on **Monday 21 November 2016** and features Piano Concertos No. 1 in C major and No. 3 in C minor. The concert opens with Beethoven's *The Creatures of Prometheus Overture Op. 43*. On **Monday 20 February 2017** the series continues with performances of Piano Concerto No. 2 in B flat major and No. 4 in G major. The concert opens with the *Coriolan Overture*.

The concertos cycle culminates on **Thursday 7 April 2017** with Piano Concerto No. 5 or the 'Emperor' and is a work full of expression, majesty and heroism. This is set alongside Beethoven's Romance No. 2 in F major, performed by newly appointed Academy Leader Tomo Keller, and his Symphony No. 1 in C major.

The series concludes on **11 June 2017** with a recital by Murray Perahia in the Barbican Hall. The repertoire for this will be announced at a later date.

Over his 40-year career Perahia has become one of the most sought after and cherished pianists of our time. Born in New York, Murray Perahia started playing piano at the age of four, and later attended Mannes College where he majored in conducting and composition. His summers were spent at the Marlboro Festival, where he collaborated with such musicians as Rudolf Serkin, Pablo Casals, and the members of the Budapest String Quartet. He also studied at the time with Mieczyslaw Horszowski. In subsequent years, he developed a close friendship with Vladimir Horowitz, whose perspective and personality were an abiding inspiration. In 1972 Perahia won the Leeds International Piano Competition, and in 1973 he gave his first concert at the Aldeburgh Festival, where he worked closely with Benjamin Britten and Peter Pears, accompanying the latter in many lieder recitals. Murray was co-artistic director of the Festival from 1981 to 1989.



Perahia has a wide and varied discography, including six recordings with the Academy. His first recording with the orchestra was in 1974, of Mendelssohn's Piano Concertos No. 1 and No. 2, conducted by Sir Neville Marriner. Recordings have followed of Piano Concertos by Beethoven and Bach, as well as the Bach Triple Concerto in A minor with Kenneth Sillito and Jaime Martin. Murray Perahia is the recipient of two Grammy awards, for his recordings of Chopin's complete Etudes and Bach's English Suites Nos. 1, 3, and 6, and numerous Grammy nominations. He has also won several Gramophone Awards.

www.asmf.org

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Listings

Monday 21 November 2016, Barbican Hall

Beethoven *The Creatures of Prometheus Overture Op. 43*

Beethoven *Piano Concerto No. 1 in C major Op. 15*

Beethoven *Piano Concerto No. 3 in C minor Op. 37*

Murray Perahia piano/conductor

Tomo Keller leader

Academy of St Martin in the Fields

<http://www.asmf.org/whats-on/perahia-plays-beethoven-barbican-i>

Monday 20 February 2017, Barbican Hall

Beethoven *Coriolan Overture, Op. 62*

Beethoven *Piano Concerto No. 2 in B flat major Op. 19*

Beethoven *Piano Concerto No. 4 in G major Op. 58*

Murray Perahia piano/conductor

Tomo Keller leader

Academy of St Martin in the Fields

<http://www.asmf.org/whats-on/perahia-plays-beethoven-barbican-ii>

Thursday 7 April 2017, Barbican Hall

Beethoven *Romance No. 2 in F major, Op. 50*

Beethoven *Symphony No. 1 in C major, Op. 21*

Beethoven *Piano Concerto No. 5 Op. 73 'Emperor'*

Murray Perahia piano/conductor

Tomo Keller leader/violin

Academy of St Martin in the Fields

<http://www.asmf.org/whats-on/perahia-plays-beethoven-barbican-iii>

11 June 2017, Barbican Hall

Murray Perahia piano

Repertoire to be announced



Tickets

£10-45

www.asmf.org

Barbican Box Office: 0845 120 7550

www.barbican.org.uk