



63rd ALDEBURGH FESTIVAL
PIERRE-LAURENT AIMARD, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
John Woolrich, Associate Director
Friday 11th – Sunday 27th June 2010

Next summer marks the 63rd Aldeburgh Festival and Pierre-Laurent Aimard's second as Artistic Director. Whilst celebrating Aldeburgh's traditions and heritage, the programme for 2010 reflects Aimard's musical passions, his alliances and collaborations, and celebrates Festival directors past and present: Britten, Knussen, Adès and Woolrich, as well as the centenary of Peter Pears' birth. In addition to his role as artistic director, recitalist, concerto soloist, conductor, and chamber musician, Aimard will interview Pierre Boulez, with whom he has collaborated for many years, as a founding member and pianist to Ensemble Intercontemporain.

The Festival is opened by George Benjamin's brilliant theatrical reworking of the Pied Piper tale, *Into the Little Hill*, in a double bill with Berio's *Recital I*, a co-production with London Sinfonietta and The Opera Group, directed by John Fulljames. Other major works by Benjamin to be performed at this year's Festival include *Dance Figures* (conducted by Oliver Knussen), and *Palimpsests* (in a programme of Boulez and Stravinsky devised by Jonathan Nott in his Aldeburgh debut, conducting the CBSO). Aimard, who has collaborated with Benjamin for more than 20 years, will conduct the Britten Sinfonia in *At First Light*, and perform two works for piano *Shadowlines* and *Piano Figures*.

Towering over the Festival, are visits from two of the giants of today's musical landscape: Pierre Boulez, who brings Ensemble Intercontemporain (EIC) for two concerts; and, John Eliot Gardiner who marks his return to Aldeburgh after a 10 year absence with a performance of Bach's B minor Mass, with the Monteverdi Choir and English Baroque Soloists.

Pierre Boulez - who is visiting Aldeburgh for the first time - will begin his visit with an open discussion with Aimard, following which the Ensemble Intercontemporain will perform chamber music by Boulez and Carter. Boulez will also conduct the EIC in the world premiere of Elliott Carter's *What are Years* (an Aldeburgh, Tanglewood and Lucerne Festival co-commission), in a programme that also features Boulez' own *Dérive II*, Ligeti's Piano Concerto with Aimard as soloist, and Donatoni's *Tema*. Earlier in the Festival, the Britten Sinfonia will perform Boulez' *Dérive I*, and the CBSO a selection of *Improvisations sur Mallarmé*.

Aimard, who will be directing Bach concerti from the keyboard in his concert with the Britten Sinfonia, will also appear in recital with two trusted and long-time collaborators, soprano Christiane Oelze (Messiaen's *Harawi*), and violinist Thomas Zehetmair (Mozart, Schubert and Schumann). Further guests to the 2010 Aldeburgh Festival include festival favourites, Ian Bostridge and Alfred Brendel, as well as the Arcanto Quartet.

And finally, to mark the centenary of Thorpeness, the Edwardian holiday model-village just 2 miles north of Aldeburgh on the Suffolk coast, Aldeburgh have commissioned a mixed-media event. *The Way to the Sea* takes the Britten-scored GPO film of the same name as its inspiration and - using the composer's youthful *Holiday Diary* for solo piano, the Britten-Auden cycle *On This Island*, alongside new film - creates art installations that are on display in prominent locations around Thorpeness.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION/PHOTOGRAPHS:

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