

Ashkenazy conducts world premiere of Berg's new Flute Concerto in London

Saturday February 7th, Vladimir Ashkenazy and the widely acknowledged Philharmonia Orchestra will perform the world premiere of the North-Norwegian composer Fred Jonny Berg's Flute Concerto No. 1 Op. 70. Flute soloist is Emily Beynon. The event will take place at St. John's Smith Square in London in connection with the release of Berg's new album consisting of orchestral music.



Vladimir Ashkenazy. Photo: Ben Symons

Ashkenazy conducts Berg

Vladimir Ashkenazy is one of world's most renowned pianists and conductors. He has enthused an extensive audience since the 1950s and continues to do so in every corner of the world. February 7th, he will conduct the Philharmonia Orchestra, and the sisters Emily and Catherine Beynon will perform solos on respectively flute and harp.

Esteemed musicians

Emily Beynon plays the solo flute in the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, Amsterdam, and she is universally recognised for her artistic virtuosity. Her sister Catherine Beynon is a highly sought after harpist. Since the Second World War, the world-known Philharmonia Orchestra has held a unique position in the international music life – both in concert and on records.

Norwegian Flute Mystery in London

Flute Mystery Op.66b, one of Berg's three works on the concert programme, is originally dedicated to and has been performed by Sir James Galway at a world premiere in Washington D.C, whereas the recently written *Flute Concerto No.1 Op.70* is dedicated to Emily Beynon. This piece will be performed for the first time at the concert February 7th 2009.

Sibelius and Berg

Additionally, Berg's symphonic poem *Heart Op.27 No.5* will be presented for the first time in England, while the rest of the concert's program comprises of the *Karelia Suite* and *Symphony No.7* by Jean Sibelius. The composer will introduce the material before the audience prior to the concert.

Humble composer

The composer himself is quite calm and collected when he comments on this event, saying that the most important aspect is to offer the audience a concert of high international standard: *To me, this event represents first-class artists performing classical music, and I am very happy that this concert marks the release of the next CD*, Berg says.

Flute Mystery – soon on CD

A new release featuring Berg's orchestral music will soon be out on SACD/Blu-ray, following the concert in London. This release will bear the same title as one of the works performed on the concert February 7th, *Flute Mystery*. The SACD will contain five orchestral works presented by Emily and Catherine Beynon as soloists, the Philharmonia Orchestra, and Vladimir Ashkenazy and Berg as conductors.

**Tickets to this unique event can be attained by contacting www.sjss.org.uk
Further information: www.composer.as**

Published January 11, 2009