

ELIZABETH BURGESS - *Piano*

Elizabeth Burgess is an accompanist and chamber musician based in London and active throughout the UK. She appeared last year at Wigmore Hall, St John's Smith Square and the new King's Place; she took part in Graham Johnson's *Young Songmakers' Almanac* and also the *Britten-Pears Young Artist* scheme at Snape Maltings. Together with baritone Marcus Farnsworth in 2009 she won the Wigmore Hall Kohn Foundation International Song Competition and the Chelsea Schubert Festival Song Competition and broadcast live on BBC Radio 3.

Born in Sussex, Elizabeth was educated at Uppingham School and spent her Gap Year as Assistant Organist at Winchester College. She then became cathedral Organ Scholar at Christ Church, Oxford – the first time a woman has been appointed to this position – where she read for a music degree, graduating with First Class Honours in June 2005. During her time at Christ Church, Elizabeth gave organ recitals in cathedrals and colleges across the UK, broadcast on national TV and live on BBC Radio 3 and 4, appeared on commercial CD recordings and toured in Europe, USA and New Zealand.

Whilst at Oxford, Elizabeth also performed extensively as a piano recitalist and concerto soloist, playing Rachmaninov's *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini* and Beethoven's *Third Concerto* to acclaim. Finding the dynamic of working with others on music more rewarding, however, she now focuses on chamber music, and is currently working with a range of singers and instrumentalists. In 2007 Elizabeth took up a postgraduate scholarship at the Royal Academy of Music, where she studied piano accompaniment with Michael Dussek, solo piano with Tessa Nicholson, and Lied interpretation with Richard Stokes.

Elizabeth's particular interest, developed during several years working for the Oxford Lieder Festival, lies in the accompaniment of song, and with singers she has participated in masterclasses given by Rudolph Jansen, Jan Philip Schulze, Barbara Bonney, Julius Drake, Robin Bowman, Sarah Walker, Petra Lang, and others. At the Academy, Elizabeth performed with RAM's prestigious Song Circle, won the accompaniment prizes in both the Major van Someren-Godfrey English song competition and the Elena Gerhardt Lieder competition, and was awarded the coveted DipRAM for a particularly high distinction mark in her final recital.

Elizabeth has been privileged to work with a number of the country's leading singing teachers and vocal coaches, and is increasingly in demand as a coach to singers in her own right. She has also acted extensively as a répétiteur and rehearsal pianist, has performed as a continuo player with such orchestras as the Britten Sinfonia, London Mozart Players and London Musici, and is frequently in demand as an official accompanist for competitions and festivals.

Elizabeth continues to be busy as both organist and conductor, and teaches piano part-time at Eton College. She has forthcoming performances at the Wigmore Hall, in the Aldeburgh Festival and for the Countess of Munster recital scheme, and has been elected a Samling Scholar for 2010.

For further details see www.elizabethburgess.com.

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