

# intermusica **artist news**



## Richard Goode resident again at the Edinburgh Festival

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Percussionist **Colin Currie** on a recent visit to Mozambique, where he visited communities supported by World Vision's Child Sponsorship programme.



## Intermusica welcomes Jun Märkl

In January, Intermusica was delighted to announce the world-wide signing of German conductor **Jun Märkl**, who took up his appointment as Music Director of the Orchestre National de Lyon in September of 2005.

Within two months Märkl had been offered a second Music Directorship, this time of the MDR Sinfonie-Orchester in Leipzig, starting in the 2007/8 season.



In accepting the challenge of leading both orchestras in parallel, Märkl looks forward to finding imaginative ways to complement his activities in both cities.

His new position in Leipzig is a fitting reflection of this conductor's position at the heart of German musical life. He has long been known for his searching interpretations of the core 19th century repertoire coupled with a growing interest in the 20th century masters including Messiaen, around which he is constructing his 2006/7 season in Lyon. Märkl has regularly conducted the leading radio orchestras in Germany and continues to be sought after by the Munich, Dresden, Berlin and Vienna State operas. He will also spend a number of

weeks each season in North America, where he has conducted at the Metropolitan Opera, Chicago and Boston symphonies, among many others. In Japan he continues to spend several weeks each season with the NHK Symphony and will tour there with the Orchestre National de Lyon in autumn 2007.

## Sinaisky appointed Principal Conductor of Malmö SO

**Vassily Sinaisky** has been confirmed as the next Principal Conductor of the Malmö Symphony Orchestra, Sweden. He will take up this position in January 2007, spending eight weeks per year with the orchestra.



This appointment coincides with the next stage of Malmö SO's ambitious development plan which includes the expansion of the ensemble to a full scale symphony orchestra and a new enhanced commitment to recording and touring activity. Sinaisky commented: *"With our joint commitment, I am sure that our shared vision of the orchestra as a major factor in the cultural life of Northern Europe will be realised."*

Meanwhile, Sinaisky has received huge acclaim for his concerts in Manchester's 'Shostakovich and his Heroes' festival, which he spearheaded. THE INDEPENDENT commented *"...the real hero of the cycle was Vassily Sinaisky, for whom the BBC Philharmonic played with splendid precision and imagination in five of the twelve concerts."* THE DAILY TELEGRAPH added *"The Shostakovich centenary year will be very remarkable indeed if it produces another performance of the Fourth Symphony to match Saturday night's penetrating one by the BBC Philharmonic under Vassily Sinaisky. Taut, tense and terrifying..."*

## Skrowaczewski to head Yomiuri Nippon Symphony Orchestra

**Stanislaw Skrowaczewski's** appointment as Principal Conductor of the Yomiuri Nippon Symphony Orchestra, starting in April 2007, confirms his status as one of today's most respected maestros.

He will hold the position until 2009 and during this time will focus on the symphonies of Bruckner, for which he is renowned, alongside masterpieces of the early twentieth century with particular emphasis on those from France and Eastern Europe. Much loved in Japan by orchestras and audiences alike, he returns to NHK in the spring for mixed programmes of Bruckner, Mozart, Schubert, Strauss and Prokofiev and visits later in the year as Principal Guest Conductor of the Saarbrücken Radio Symphony Orchestra.



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Portrait of the Pavel Haas Quartet



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HK Gruber in residence at Lucerne Festival



## Major European recital debuts for pianist Jonathan Biss

Building on the success of **Jonathan Biss's** EMI Debut disc and supported by his outstanding performances in the US, Biss visits Europe in April 2006 for a series of major recital debuts.

He performs a variety of programmes that includes works by Janáček, Beethoven's *Appassionata* Sonata, Schoenberg's *Sechs Kleine Klavierstücke* and *Wonderer*, a new work commissioned especially for Biss by American composer Lewis Spratlan. Biss will be performing in the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, Paris, Brussels and Milan. Later in the summer, he will make his recital debut at the Salzburg Festival and will return to the Concertgebouw to open the Master Piano Series in September.



## James Ehnes' New York Philharmonic success

**James Ehnes'** latest visit to the New York Philharmonic saw him work for the first time with Lorin Maazel.

Ehnes played the Walton Violin Concerto in four concerts and received an immediate reinvitation from the orchestra to perform the Glasunov Violin Concerto with Maazel in 2007/8. April sees his debut with the Chicago Symphony and David Robertson. In July 2008 he works with the Philadelphia and Cleveland Orchestras.

This spring he returns to the UK for concerts with the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra under

**Marin Alsop.** Ehnes' set of the complete Mozart violin concertos, recorded with an orchestra assembled and directed by Ehnes himself, is out now on CBC Records.



## Richard Goode's Edinburgh Festival residency

**Richard Goode** is to be featured in six concerts at the Edinburgh International Festival this summer. Goode, widely recognized as one of today's most important pianists, embarks upon his residency with Mozart's Piano Concerto No.25 with fellow New Yorkers the Orchestra of St Luke's. He also appears with the Budapest Festival Orchestra and Ivan Fischer, one of Goode's most rewarding long-term partnerships, performing Brahms' first and Bartók's third piano concertos. Goode will also perform three

recital events: an Usher Hall recital including Schubert's B-flat major Sonata, a lecture recital on Beethoven's late Sonata Op.110 and recital at Canongate Church of Bach, Berg and Byrd.



## Mikhail Agrest to make ENO debut

Following a trip to St Petersburg by John Berry, Artistic Director of the English National Opera, **Mikhail Agrest** was confirmed to conduct the new **David Alden** production of Janáček's opera *Jenufa* which will open at the Coliseum on 9 October 2006, marking the young conductor's ENO debut.



## Portrait of the Pavel Haas Quartet

Intermusica's first string quartet signing in over a dozen years, the **Pavel Haas Quartet**, joined in November for worldwide management, having come to international attention following their First Prize in the 2005 Paolo Borciani competition. Since then, they have rapidly established a reputation as one of today's most exciting young string quartets.

The Quartet have spent the past years travelling throughout Europe to study with some of the masters of the quartet world, including members of Quartetto Italiano, Quatuor Mosaiques and the Borodin and Amadeus Quartets. They continue to have a close association with Milan Skampa (Smetana Quartet) in Prague and Walter Levin (LaSalle Quartet) in Basel.

Last autumn, the Pavel Haas Quartet embarked on their debut European tour, which included performances at the Palais des Beaux Arts (Brussels), Teatro alla Pergola (Florence), Teatro La Fenice (Venice), and concerts for the Societa del Quartetto in Milan and the NDR in Hamburg. In March 2006 they performed once again across Germany, Switzerland and Italy before travelling to the USA for a three week tour.

Upcoming highlights include concerts at the Wigmore Hall (London), Musée du Louvre (Paris), L'Auditori (Barcelona) and the City of London and Prague Spring Festivals. They visit Japan this summer and return to Italy for a major tour in the autumn.



## McCreesh appointed Artistic Director of leading Polish festival, Wroclaw Cantans

At the end of 2005, **Paul McCreesh** was appointed Artistic Director of the Wroclaw Cantans.

This significant festival in Wroclaw is one of the country's most prestigious and vital cultural events. McCreesh's background positions him perfectly to develop the festival's traditional focus on oratorio and associated sacred repertoire. His first festival will be this September (8-16) and, as with every future year of his directorship, the Gabrieli Consort and Players will be in residence, providing the backbone of the oratorio programming.

## Andrew Manze named new Principal Conductor of Helsingborg SO

**Andrew Manze** has been announced as the next Principal Conductor of the Helsingborg Symphony Orchestra, Sweden, a role he begins in August 2006. This represents a significant development in Manze's career and reflects the reputation he has quickly established for his work with 'modern instrument' orchestras such as the Deutsches Symphonie Orchester Berlin.



**Andrew Kennedy** has received a Borletti-Buitoni Trust Award (founded by Mitsuko Ushida) to the value of £20,000. The award goes to outstanding young musicians and will be used by the British tenor to back a number of solo recordings of song and orchestral repertory. Other Intermusica artists to have received this award include the percussionist **Colin Currie** and pianist **Jonathan Biss**.

## A prolific season of premieres for Colin Currie

**Colin Currie** continued his extraordinary run of success with the premiere of a new concerto by Jennifer Higdon with the Philadelphia Orchestra and Christoph Eschenbach in Philadelphia, Washington and New York's Carnegie Hall.

*"The performance elicited a cheering ovation for the extraordinary percussion soloist, Colin Currie, and for the composer... Mr Eschenbach and the orchestra played it to the hilt. And it certainly provided a vehicle for the brilliant Mr. Currie, a limber, young virtuoso born in Edinburgh. The jazzy and vehement cadenza, played on the drum set, certainly gave Mr. Currie his Max Roach moment."*  
THE NEW YORK TIMES, December 2005



This season Currie has also performed with the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra in Amsterdam, giving the European premiere of a marimba concerto by Bright Sheng. He also premiered *Time Release* for percussion and chamber orchestra by Steven Mackey with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra and Residentie Orkest - further performances are planned with the Ensemble Orchestral de Paris and Swedish Chamber Orchestra.

Currie's next major premiere will be in Copenhagen with a new concerto by Michael Nyman at the Tivoli festival this summer, with additional performances planned with the Netherlands Philharmonic and the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic. He also has future engagements with the London Philharmonic, Dallas Symphony, St Louis Symphony and Baltimore Symphony Orchestra at Carnegie Hall.

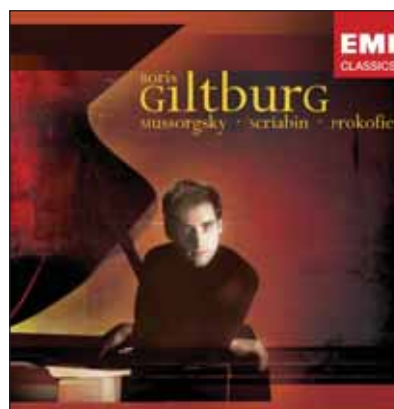
Future commissioning plans include a concerto by British composer Simon Holt and recital works by Lukas Ligeti and Dave Maric for the Verbier Festival, supported by the Borletti-Buitoni Trust.



## Leonidas Kavakos in demand with both violin and baton

In April, **Leonidas Kavakos** returns to the Orchestre National de Lyon, on this occasion to conduct and play an all-Mozart programme. In his subscription concerts with the Camerata Salzburg in May, he picks up the Schumann thread introduced earlier in the season and will conduct the second symphony coupled with Stravinsky and the Bach Concerto for Two Violins. During April and May, Sony Classical will release Kavakos' recording of the Mozart Violin Concerti with the Camerata Salzburg, recorded in February in live concerts at The Athens Megaron Concert Hall.

As soloist, Kavakos returns to the Musikverein with the Vienna Symphony Orchestra in two consecutive weeks and joins the BBC Symphony Orchestra and Sir Andrew Davis at the Barbican followed by an extensive tour of Spain. In June, he reunites with Gergiev at the White Nights Festival in St Petersburg. Kavakos will also give recitals in Hamburg, at the Wigmore Hall and in a series of concerts at the Verbier Festival. His recent performance of the Brahms concerto with the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra received stupendous notices.



## Boris Giltburg debut on EMI

**Boris Giltburg** will appear in recital at the Brighton Festival this May to coincide with the launch of his EMI Debut disc featuring Scriabin's Sonata No.2, Prokofiev's Sonata No.8 and Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition*. In the same month he returns to the prestigious Miami International Piano Festival. His acclaimed performance of the Prokofiev sonata at the 2005 Cheltenham Festival led to an immediate reinvitation this summer, to be broadcast by the BBC. Future recital appearances in Europe also include the Piano aux Jacobins in Toulouse, the Louvre and Wigmore Hall.



## Andreas Haefliger in London

In April, **Andreas Haefliger** performs Mozart with the London Symphony Orchestra and Runnicles at the Barbican, followed by a short German tour. In February, Haefliger celebrated the release of *Perspectives 2* - the next in his series of recital discs on the Avie label - which includes Beethoven, Bartók's *Out of Doors* suite, and Brahms' Sonata in F minor Op.5.

## Gilbert Varga back in the USA

Following his debut with the Philadelphia Orchestra last October, **Gilbert Varga** continues to extend his guest conducting activities in North America, returning to the Minnesota Symphony for the fourth time in five years and to the St Louis Symphony Orchestra where he has appeared every season since 2002. Further appearances in the US this season include Milwaukee and Indianapolis.

## Tokyo String Quartet's City of London Festival residency

The **Tokyo String Quartet** will be in residence at the City of London Festival in July. Their four concerts will be made up of quartets and quintets by Mozart and Brahms, alongside contemporary Japanese works. Meanwhile, the Tokyo's recent two-CD set of Beethoven's three *Rasumovsky* quartets for Harmonia Mundi has been wonderfully received and marks the first instalment in a Beethoven cycle that the Quartet will complete for the label over the next few years.

**toursprojects**

Discover more about Intermusica's touring activities and special projects online at [www.intermusica.co.uk/projects](http://www.intermusica.co.uk/projects)

### vocalopera

## Looking West!

Intermusica's Vocal & Opera department is expanding its activities by taking on the UK and North American representation of two new leading singers



**Malin Hartelius**, the Swedish soprano, is a Member of the Zurich Opera. She is a regular guest at leading European theatres including Vienna, Munich, Berlin State Opera, Hamburg, Paris,

as well as the Salzburg and Aix festivals. Her concert appearances include the Bach *Cantata Pilgrimage* with John Eliot Gardiner and concerts with the Vienna Philharmonic, Philharmonia, London Symphony, Santa Cecilia, Bavarian Radio, Zurich Tonhalle as well as the Cleveland Orchestra. She has a strong working relationship with Franz Welser-Möst and also collaborates with Harnoncourt, Mackerras, Sawallisch, Mehta, Minkowski, William Christie and Ivor Bolton.



**Alexander Marco-Buhrmester**, the Swiss-born baritone, made his debut at the Bastille as Kurwenal (*Tristan*) with Gergiev and he will shortly make his Frankfurt premiere as Amfortas

(*Parsifal*). He has sung at Bayreuth since 2001 including Amfortas with Boulez and will sing Gunther there in this year's new *Ring* production with Thielemann. Repertory includes Count Almaviva, Guglielmo, Marcello, Sharpless, Posa, Giorgio Germont and Onegin. He was a member of the opera companies in Essen, Dortmund and the Komische Oper Berlin and now sings as a guest in major houses including all three Berlin houses.

## Marek Janowski: A rare breed

Few conductors take on the artistic directorship of three prominent orchestras. **Marek Janowski** is one of a rare breed who has done so and manages to combine a daunting schedule with a clear sense of the differing requirements of each post.



With the RSB Berlin, he has concentrated on the German repertoire - Bruckner, Wagner, Strauss, Hartmann, and a series of the great 20th century violin concerti. As a radio orchestra too, there is a strong commitment to contemporary repertoire both in their concert and recording programming. In Monte Carlo, he recently presented a Beethoven cycle but also introduced 20th century French repertoire long neglected on the Cote D'Azur - Messaien and, in particular, Dutilleux, a relationship Janowski has nurtured carefully. In Geneva, his new relationship with the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande contrasts mainstream French tradition with German repertoire.

To each orchestra he brings the same qualities - a deep knowledge of the repertoire, a need for focus and musical discipline to achieve the flexibility of response and suppleness of texture which distinguishes Janowski's performance style. He is a conductor with three thriving orchestras, each different, and each bearing his distinguished hallmark.

**Marek Janowski steps in to lead the Boston Symphony Orchestra at Carnegie Hall** At just a few hours' notice, Marek Janowski was invited to step in for an indisposed James Levine conducting the Boston Symphony Orchestra in Beethoven's Symphony No.9 at New York's Carnegie Hall in March. THE NEW YORK TIMES said, "...this Ninth exploded into the hall at full force... a study in earthy exuberance rather than lofty sentiment... it's hard to imagine anyone preferring a cautious but note-perfect reading to one this electrifying."



## Hickox continues to shine in Sydney

**Richard Hickox** continues to impress in his second season as Music Director of Opera Australia, most recently with a production of Stravinsky's *The Rake's Progress*. THE AUSTRALIAN noted a performance that established "...shape and flow in the music with brisk tempos and alert rhythms... (with) the chorus in splendid form, this production has much to commend it ...". It is a similar story back in the UK, where reinventions from both the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden and English National Opera (after last season's successes) will keep Hickox firmly at the centre of British operatic life.



## Martyn Brabbins across Europe

**Martyn Brabbins** spent March at the Hamburg Opera performing Peter Eotvos' *Tri Sestri*. In June he shuttles across the North Sea with opera projects either side of the water: he conducts the Philharmonia in a new production of *The Rake's Progress*

at the Aldeburgh Festival, then three early Shostakovich operas in concert at the Amsterdam Concertgebouw as part of the Holland Festival with the Residentie Orchestra (The Hague).

Other engagements in Europe this season have included concerts with the Deutsches Symphonie Orchester Berlin and Berlin Symphony, Netherlands Philharmonic, Flemish Radio Symphony and Royal Flanders Philharmonic. His UK appearances have included a recording with the London Symphony and concerts with the BBC Scottish Symphony, BBC Philharmonic, Royal Scottish National Orchestra and the Philharmonia Orchestra.

## Thierry Fischer & BBC National Orchestra of Wales



In anticipation of his taking up the position of Principal Conductor in September 2006, **Thierry Fischer** conducted the BBC National Orchestra of Wales in Haydn's *Creation* at the opening concert of the 2005/6 season.

"There are too few occasions when proper homage is paid to Joseph Haydn, but this performance

of the *Creation* felt just that. In a work in which Haydn's representation of the radiant outburst of light on earth is such a symbolic moment, it was auspicious that Thierry Fischer, principal conductor designate of the BBC National Orchestra of Wales, was intent on illuminating the score's highly imaginative and original aspects. What emerged most strongly was the rich fabric of the orchestral writing." THE GUARDIAN, October 2005



## Mischa Maisky and the English Chamber Orchestra

Acclaimed cellist **Mischa Maisky** has developed a new relationship with the English Chamber Orchestra, with whom he collaborated for the first time this season. In May 2007 he will return for a concert in their Cadogan Hall series to play Tchaikovsky's *Rococo Variations*. He recently recorded the string trio version of Bach's *Goldberg Variations* with Julian Rachlin and Nobuko Imai. Maisky's

touring calendar this spring has included prestigious venues such as the Théâtre du Châtelet in Paris and Rome's Parco della Musica with a recital programme based on his latest release of Russian songs transcribed for cello and piano.

## Composers' Notes



### HK Gruber in residence at Lucerne Festival

**HK Gruber** is Composer in Residence at the Lucerne Festival this summer, with an outstanding presentation of his works and unique artistic personality. He conducts the Vienna Philharmonic in a programme of Antheil, Bernstein, Weill and his own *Dancing in the Dark*. He also conducts the BBC Symphony Orchestra in an all-Gruber programme including the world premiere of a new commission, *Hidden Agenda*, and an eclectic programme with Ensemble Modern featuring works by Eisler, Weill and

Gruber's *Zeitfluren*. The festival also presents Gruber in discussion, alongside films about Kurt Weill, and vocal workshops as part of Abbado's prestigious Luzern Festival Academy.



### Brett Dean's stellar Berlin Philharmonic premiere

The Berlin Philharmonic and Sir Simon Rattle premiere a new work by **Brett Dean** this spring. *Komarov's Fall* is part of the Berlin Philharmonic's Ad Astra project, a concert featuring four special commissions as 'asteroids' to complement Holst's *The Planets*. Dean writes "My work is written in memory of Soviet Cosmonaut, Vladimir Mikhailovich Komarov, who died upon re-entry to the earth's atmosphere in his Soyuz I spacecraft in 1967. He was the first person to die in space and, significantly, a major casualty of the political mongering that so characterized the international space race in the 1960s."



### James MacMillan's deepening BBC Philharmonic commitment

The BBC Philharmonic have extended **James MacMillan's** Composer-Conductor position for a further three years, continuing this excellent relationship which includes concerts in Manchester and at the BBC Proms alongside recordings for Chandos. MacMillan also conducts their Resonances series of Composer-Portrait concerts which in the past has included Birtwistle, Lindberg, Kancheli and Ruders. Away from Manchester, MacMillan has future conducting engagements with orchestras including the City of Birmingham Symphony, Rotterdam Philharmonic, Netherlands Chamber Orchestra & Choir, Madrid Radio Orchestra, New Zealand Symphony, Baltimore Symphony, Detroit Symphony and Toronto Symphony.

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