

biography



PAUL McCREESH – CONDUCTOR

“Paul McCreesh was always bold, but taking Haydn’s Creation by the scruff of the neck was an exploit that takes some beating... the opening was magical, with clarinet, flute and horn making brief solo appearances in a world where everything was in a hushed state of becoming: its explosion into life, as the word “light” was sung, was the first of many spine-tingling moments”

The Independent, 5 stars, 22 July 2009 (BBC Proms)

Paul McCreesh has established himself at the highest levels in both the period instrument and modern orchestral fields and is recognised for his authoritative and innovative performances on the concert platform and in the opera house. Together with the Gabrieli Consort and Players, of which he is the founder and Artistic Director and which celebrated its 25th anniversary in the 2006/7 season, he has performed in major concert halls and festivals across the world and built a large and distinguished discography for Deutsche Grammophon.

McCreesh works regularly with the major European orchestras and choirs; recent projects have included Britten’s *War Requiem* with both the National Symphony Orchestra and Choir of Spain and the National Polish Radio Symphony and Wroclaw Choir, Brahms’s *German Requiem* with the Danish Radio Symphony Orchestra and Choir, Haydn’s *The Seasons* with the Netherlands Chamber Orchestra and Choir and Haydn’s *The Creation* with the Iceland Symphony Orchestra and Choir. He has worked with orchestras such as the Budapest Festival Orchestra, Zurich Tonhalle, MDR Leipzig, Orchestra of Santa Cecilia di Rome, Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France and the Basel Chamber Orchestra, with whom he continues to tour regularly. The 09-10 season includes return engagements to the Monte Carlo Philharmonic with a programme of English string music, the Basque National Symphony Orchestra to conduct Elgar 1, the Stavanger Symphony and to the Bergen Philharmonic with Mendelssohn’s third symphony.

McCreesh has established a strong reputation in the field of opera; in 07-8 he conducted Handel’s *Tamerlano* at the Teatro Real in Madrid with a cast that included Placido Domingo, returning in 08-9 with Handel’s *Il trionfo del Tempo e del Disinganno*. For Welsh National Opera, he has conducted Gluck’s *Orphée et Eurydice* and Handel’s *Jephtha* to considerable critical praise, and he has also conducted Mozart and Handel at the Royal Danish Opera and Komische Oper, Berlin.

McCreesh’s recent recordings for Deutsche Grammophon include Haydn’s *Creation*, which received a 2008 Gramophone Award for Best Choral Recording¹. Rave reviews described the disc as *“thrilling, marvellously sung and characterised”* (The Telegraph) and *“awe-inspiring... exceptional”* (BBC Music Magazine). Earlier recordings include Mozart’s C Minor Mass, Gluck’s rarely performed opera *Paride ed Elena* with Magdalena Kozena, *The Road to Paradise*, a collection of sacred choral music from the renaissance to the present day, Handel arias with Rolando Villazon and Handel’s *Saul*, described in The Times as *“one of the most roundly satisfying Handel oratorio performances for some time”*.

Paul McCreesh has been Director of Brinkburn Music (in Northumberland, UK) for many years, and in 2006 was appointed Artistic Director of the Wratislavia Cantans Festival in Wroclaw, Poland, one of Eastern Europe’s most prestigious and vital cultural events. McCreesh is also passionate about working with young musicians, and works regularly with Chetham’s School of Music in Manchester and many international youth orchestras and choirs.

Paul McCreesh is represented by Intermusica.

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Crystal Wharf, 36 Graham Street, London N1 8GJ
Tel: 020 7608 9900 Fax: 020 7490 3263
mail@intermusica.co.uk www.intermusica.co.uk