

PRESS RELEASE - 4 April 2017

Guy Johnston returns to Faust Chamber Orchestra in Schumann's Cello Concerto

Late and Early

LSO St Luke's, London
Friday 5 May 2017, 7.30pm

Faust Chamber Orchestra rediscovers its roots as acclaimed soloist **Guy Johnston** performs **Schumann's Cello Concerto** for its 2016-2017 season finale. Guy helped launch the orchestra, performing Haydn's C major Concerto at its first ever performance 6 years ago.

The performance will take place on **Friday 5 May 2017 at 7:30 pm at LSO St Luke's**, London featuring Faust Chamber Orchestra and cellist Guy Johnston under the baton of Mark Austin.

The programme 'Late and Early' explores the labels often applied to composers' works, placing the concerto, written at the end of Schumann's career, alongside **Brahms' Serenade No. 1**, an early attempt at symphonic style. Initially conceived as a nonet and then exquisitely orchestrated by the composer, the Serenade deserves more regular performances despite its 'early' label.

Schumann's rarely heard **Overture to Hermann und Dorothea** features a striking use of the Marseillaise which helps today's audiences appreciate its contemporary relevance. The work was inspired by Goethe's epic poem *Hermann und Dorothea* about the French Revolutionary period. Schumann originally planned to write an opera, but in the end only produced this overture.

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Notes for editors

Late and Early

LSO St Luke's, London
Friday 5 May 2017, 7.30pm

Schumann Overture: *Hermann und Dorothea*
Schumann Cello Concerto in A minor, Op. 129
Brahms Serenade No. 1 in D major, Op. 11

Guy Johnston cello

Faust Chamber Orchestra
Mark Austin conductor

Tickets (£18 - £25, £10 students)
available via LSO St Luke's box office lso.co.uk/whats-on or 020 7638 8891



Guy Johnston is one of the most exciting and versatile British cellists of his generation. Born into a musical family, Guy joined his brothers in the worldrenowned choir of King's College, Cambridge, where he recorded the famous carol Once in Royal David's City, under Stephen Cleobury. He went on to achieve important early successes through the BBC Young Musician of the Year title, the Guilhermina Suggia Gift, the Shell London

Symphony Orchestra Gerald MacDonald Award and receiving a Classical Brit Award at the Royal Albert Hall. His mentors have included Steven Doane, Ralph Kirshbaum, Bernard Greenhouse, Anner Bylisma as well as Steven Isserlis and David Waterman at IMS Prussia Cove. Guy has performed at chamber music festivals and with orchestras around the world and more recently with the NHK Symphony Orchestra in Japan, a premiere performance of the Howells concerto at the Cheltenham Festival, and a new cello concerto by Charlotte Bray commissioned for the BBC Proms. He is Artistic Director of the Hatfield House Chamber Music Festival and enjoys teaching a class of young cellists at the Royal Academy of Music as well as being a patron of the Pierre Fournier Award. Guy plays a 1714 David Tecchler cello, generously on loan from the GodleeTecchler Trust which is administered by The Royal Society of Musicians. He has recently commissioned a number of short new works to celebrate its tricentenary by composers including Charlotte Bray, David Matthews and Mark Simpson.

www.guy-johnston.com



Mark Austin is a rising conductor with a talent and passion for communication with audiences. He studied at Cambridge and the Royal Academy of Music, and has developed a reputation for brilliant musicianship and insightful programming, complemented by accessible spoken introductions to the music. He is founder and artistic director of Faust Chamber Orchestra. In 2016-17 he performs with the orchestra at LSO St Luke's and Kings Place. Mark has worked as assistant conductor for Marin Alsop, David Hill and the late Sir Colin Davis, with orchestras including BBC Symphony Orchestra (BBC Proms), Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra and the Hangzhou Philharmonic in China. Guest appearances include Orchestra of St John's,

Hertford Symphony Orchestra, and Southbank Centre's Voicelab Project. In opera, credits include *Il barbiere di Siviglia* (Musique Cordiale International Festival, France), *Hansel and Gretel* (Mercury Theatre, Colchester) and *La traviata* for Opera South, where he is music director. He is Musical Assistant to The Bach Choir, and was awarded a 2017 International Opera Awards Bursary.

www.mark-austin.net



Now in its 6th year, **Faust Chamber Orchestra** has emerged as the leading force making classical music fresh, comprehensible and inspirational in the concert hall. Under the artistic direction of conductor Mark Austin, it is the only orchestra which believes accessible spoken introductions and

musical demonstrations deserve a place at the heart of every performance. Following work with international artists including Guy Johnston and James Baillieu, and a 4-star review from The Times, 2016 saw Faust Chamber Orchestra perform at LSO St Luke's and Kings Place, make a debut recording and expand its educational programme.

Audiences are drawn to Faust Chamber Orchestra's distinctive programming which throws light on the hidden meanings of works using commentary and comparison, together with live musical illustrations and the chance for listeners to ask questions. Recent successes have included an eclectic mix of Haydn and Sally Beamish, as well as "Ways into Bach", an exploration of dance in the music of JS Bach alongside linked works by CPE Bach and Grieg. The orchestra is committed to new music and recently gave the world premiere of Oliver Rudland's new opera 'Pincher Martin' at the Britten Theatre in the Royal College of Music.

Faust Chamber Orchestra's approach to music is about ensuring its vitality now and for generations to come. The ensemble leads a wide range of educational projects, working in partnership with Chiltern Music Academy, at Chickenshed Theatre and in several primary and secondary schools. These include school workshops, side-by-side sessions and joint performances. Members of the orchestra are currently involved with a major research project at Warwick University focusing on Music of the Napoleonic Era.

www.faustchamberorchestra.org

For more information

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