



ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

December 2005

Christian Forshaw: Sanctuary & Renouncement
Friday 10 February 2006

St Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square, London WC2N 4JJ

Featuring the **Sanctuary Voices** directed by **James Weeks** and Soprano
Grace Davidson

Saxophones: Christian Forshaw

Soprano: Grace Davidson

Organ: Benjamin Bayl

Percussion: Ian Cape

Tickets: £20 £16 £12 £9 £6

Voted into Classic FM's 2005 Hall of Fame, saxophonist Christian Forshaw presents a haunting sound-world of voices, church organ, saxophone and percussion. This concert marks the third performance of his 2006 UK Tour of churches and cathedrals and will feature his best-selling debut album **Sanctuary** and preview his forthcoming new release **Renouncement** on SONY BMG.

Alongside powerful choral settings of the Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis, Forshaw collaborates with the spine-tingling purity of soprano Grace Davidson's (The Sixteen) voice in arrangements of JS Bach, John Ireland, John Dowland, and Vaughan Williams. Regularly heard on Classic FM, the performances also feature his critically acclaimed setting of Mortal Flesh, short-listed for the 2005 Classical Brits.

This performance celebrates three London premières from Forshaw's new release **'Renouncement'** on Sony BMG including **Patrick Hawes** 'Cantate Domino', **Gary Carpenter's** 'Songs of Sadness and Piety' and Forshaw's own 'Renouncement'.

'...a rare treat...' The Times

'Simply Glorious!...I want to play it again and again...' Simon Bates Classic FM

'...[there is] a timelessness and otherworldliness to Forshaw's work. As likely to be featured on Classic FM as it is on the Late Junction.' Peter Quinn, Jazzwise

- more -

CHRISTIAN FORSHAW /PAGE TWO

Concert tickets can be bought online at www.smitf.org or via the Box Office on 020 7839 8362.

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For further information or photography, please contact Quintilla Hughes on quintilla.hughes@smitf.org or 020 7766 1130.

Notes to Editors

- St Martin-in-the-Fields, with over 350 concerts a year, is one of the busiest music venues in the country. St Martin's **Concerts by Candlelight** series is renowned, drawing visitors from all over the world who are attracted by St Martin's superb acoustics, intimate and yet impressive surroundings and outstanding musicians. Concerts take place on Tuesdays and every Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 7.30pm and include Early and Baroque Music, chamber and world music, song and piano recitals. For more information on St Martin-in-the-Fields go to www.smitf.org
- **CHRISTIAN FORSHAW** graduated from the Guildhall School of Music & Drama in 1995 and immediately began working with some of the world's finest ensembles including the London Sinfonietta, the Chamber Orchestra of Europe and the Philharmonia Orchestra. He has toured extensively with smaller ensembles including the Michael Nyman Band, Icebreaker, the Delta Saxophone Quartet, the Composers Ensemble, and Peter Wiegold's Note Inégale. As a soloist Christian has appeared with the (BT) Scottish Ensemble giving several critically acclaimed performances of Richard Rodney Bennett's Concerto for Alto Saxophone and Strings. He was also featured as soloist with the London Sinfonietta in 2002 performing Pedro Rebello's *Aguas Liberas* at the Queen Elizabeth Hall. This year Sanctuary reached number 1 in the Amazon Classical Music Charts and National Radio of New Zealand. Christian was appointed Professor of Saxophone at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama in 2002. For more information go to www.christianforshaw.com
- A graduate and postgraduate from the Royal Academy of Music, **GRACE DAVIDSON** now sings with The Sixteen, Tenebrae and the Monteverdi Choir and often appears with Polyphony, The English concert, The Gabrieli consort and Ex Cathedra.
- **BENJAMIN BAYL** was Organ Scholar at King's College, Cambridge, where he graduated in 2000 with first-class honours in Music. He has participated in a number of CD and DVD recordings, and regular BBC broadcasts of period instrument performances. He has since studied at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama, Schola Cantorum, Basel and the National Opera Studio. As an organist and harpsichordist, Ben has performed at The Proms; Lichfield, Bath and Aldeburgh Festivals; the Lincoln Center in New York and Winchester Cathedral. Ben is an active continuo player, performing with The Sixteen, The King's Consort, His Majesties Sagbutts & Cornetts, Ex Cathedra, Northern Sinfonia, Polyphony, Canzona, LSO and The CBSO
- The tour is supported by the PRS Foundation
- Christian Forshaw's UK Tour is produced by **SARAH ALLEN PROMOTIONS**.