



Richard Jenkinson & Benjamin Frith duo

An early concert

The Kirckman Concert Society

Richard Jenkinson
violoncello

Benjamin Frith
piano



From First Concert

Tuesday 3 June 1997 at 7.30 pm
Purcell Room RFH

Royal Festival Hall
at the South Bank



Richard and Ben have been playing duos together since they were invited to give a concert in Derby by the late Jeffrey Tillet in 1993. Since this time they have played much of the cello and piano repertoire together and also made several recordings. The latest of these will appear on the Somm label in the autumn of 2020. The duo have played at many of the U.K.'s leading venues and festivals. Their repertoire includes the complete works of Beethoven, Brahms and Schumann and the duo have presented several discovery days of this repertoire with the academic Richard Wigmore during 2019 and 2020. The duo's repertoire also represent an interest in contemporary music and have given premieres of works by Ian Venables, Martin Ellerby, Buxton Orr, Charles Camilleri, Paul Da Vinci and Richard Roderick Jones. Ben and Richard have a passion for unjustly neglected repertoire and they were involved in the first recordings of works by Cyril Scott and Ivor Gurney.

Richard Jenkinson



Dr. Richard Jenkinson is Musical Director of the British Police Symphony Orchestra and the Orchestra of St John, Bromsgrove. From 2016-19 he was Music Director of the orchestra and choir of the G.K.T. Music Society at King's College, London and, since September 2017, has been conductor of the Worcestershire Youth Orchestra. He has conducted complete cycles of the Beethoven Symphonies and Piano Concertos with the O.S.J. which culminated with performances of the Choral Symphony in Worcester Cathedral. Concerts with the B.P.S.O. have included performances at Gloucester, Hereford and Worcester Cathedrals and regular concerts to the massed audiences at Beacon Park, Lichfield and Symphony Hall in Birmingham. In May 2019 Richard conducted the B.P.S.O. at the Royal Albert Hall, London celebrating

the orchestra's 30th anniversary involving fanfare trumpets, troupes of bagpipers and massed choirs from around the United Kingdom which involved over 600 performers.

Richard's musical education started with cello and piano lessons in Derbyshire and progressed to studies with Florence Hooton and William Pleeth. . In 1990 he won a scholarship to the Guildhall where he won the Gold Medal after a performance of the Dvořák 'Cello Concerto in the Barbican. In 1995 he was awarded a top prize at the Vittorio Gui Chamber Music Competition in Italy. Richard has been principal 'cello with the Irish Chamber Orchestra and from 1998-2016 with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. He is the cellist of Dante String Quartet with whom he has given live Radio broadcasts and performed in France, Ireland and Japan. Richard has also appeared as soloist internationally with performances in Australia, China, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Republic of Ireland, Italy, Malta, United States and Venezuela. He has made numerous recordings for amongst others Em, Hyperion, Koch, Naxos and Somm labels.

In 2019 Richard successfully defended his Ph.D. on the music of Zoltán Kodály from the University of Birmingham where he was also a Bramall scholar.

Benjamin Frith



Life student of Dame Fanny Waterman, Benjamin Frith embarked on his career by winning the Dudley National Concerto Competition, aged fourteen, performing Saint-Saens 2nd Piano Concerto, subsequently making his Young Musician's recital debut at the Harrogate International Festival. His many awards culminated in joint top prize at the Busoni International Piano Competition in Bolzano, then in 1989, the Gold Medal at the Artur Schnabel Piano Master's Competition, where he was also awarded the Chamber Music Prize. Many engagements with world renowned orchestras followed, such as IPO (Mehta), Warsaw Philharmonic (Atzmon), the Halle under John Wilson and Sir Mark Elder with

recital tours from India, Kazakhstan, Israel and Egypt to the Far East and North America. He soon made recording contracts with ASV, then with Naxos, for whom he made a best-selling John Field Concerto Cycle with the Royal Northern Sinfonia, recently reissued with the complete Nocturnes and Sonatas. His solo recording of Schumann's highly personal Davidsbundler op. 6 received the top recommendation on Radio Three's programme, "CD Review". During the latter half of his career there has been a concentration on the chamber repertoire, principally as pianist in the Gould Piano Trio, which has made regular tours to N. America being described recently in the Washington Post as 'near musical perfection'. The trio has performed the complete cycles of Schubert, Beethoven and Dvorak at London's Wigmore Hall. He has also formed the enterprising Frith Piano Quartet and recently been guest pianist of the Nash Ensemble together with previous appearances alongside the Lindsay, Elias, Emperor, Endellion, Chilingarian, Wihan and Dante quartets. Frith's recording of C.V. Stanford's 2nd Piano Concerto with BBCNOW coupled with his Dante Rhapsodies for solo piano was warmly received by BBC Music Magazine and chosen by the Gramophone's critic, Jeremy Dibble, as his 'Disc of the Year 2016'. In 2019 Frith returned to China and Japan for recital tours, giving Masterclasses in this emerging and exciting pianistic environment. Recent Concerto appearances included The Emperor with Manchester Camerata at Selby Abbey and Rachmaninoff's 2nd Piano Concerto at Symphony Hall, Birmingham. In 2020 he will take the cycle of Mendelssohn's Songs Without Words to Japan. Benjamin Frith is an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama.