



## Richard Jenkinson

Richard Jenkinson began to play the 'cello at the age of five with a local teacher in Derbyshire. He was awarded a scholarship by the local county council and subsequently studied with Florence Hooton until her death in 1988 when he continued his studies with William Pleeth. Richard gave his first concerto performance (Haydn C major) at the age of 13 and since this time has played most of the major concerto repertoire with orchestra. During his teen years he was a national finalist in several competitions including the Audi Junior Musician competition. In 1990 he won a scholarship to the Guildhall School of Music & Drama, studying 'cello with Raphael Wallfisch and William Pleeth and conducting with Alan Hazeldine. During his time at the Guildhall he won all the 'cello and chamber music prizes and played the solo part in the Elgar Concerto and Lutoslawski Grave with the Guildhall orchestras. It was during this time that he developed an interest in contemporary music working with the composer Witold Lutoslawski on his cello pieces and was the cello soloist in the British premiere of Gilbert Amy's *Shin'AnimSha'Ananim* at the Barbican which was conducted by the composer. Richard graduated from the Guildhall School with Distinction in 1994 and was also awarded the Guildhall's coveted Gold Medal for a performance of the Dvořák Concerto in the Barbican. After awards from the Maisie Lewis, Countess of Munster and the Martin Trust he studied abroad in the U.S.A. with Aldo Parisot and Josef Feigelson.

In 1995 Richard was awarded a top prize at the Vittorio Gui Chamber Music Competition in Italy and was also invited to be part of the Countess of Munster recital scheme. This has led to a very productive partnership with the pianist Benjamin Frith, including recitals at London's Wigmore Hall, King's Place and South Bank Centre. The duo has given many recitals together which recently have included performances of Beethoven's complete works for piano and cello with the academic Richard Wigmore. Further study days are scheduled on the cello and piano works of Brahms and Schumann. Richard and Ben have made several recordings including Stanford for the Somm label (released in autumn 2020) and works by Ivor Gurney, Cyril Scott and Ian Venables for the Emm label.

Richard Jenkinson has given many concerto performances including with the BBC Concert Orchestra, C.B.S.O., Irish Chamber Orchestra and Venezuelan Symphony and has performed the Elgar Concerto in the Queen Elizabeth Hall in London and the Dvořák Concerto in the Dvořák Hall of the Rudolfinum in Prague. He has recorded concertos and works for solo cello and orchestra by Boccherini, Robert Farnon and Paul da Vinci's Hope Concerto (which was written for him) with the Innovation Chamber Ensemble. Other solo performances with this group have included performances at the Wigmore Hall, CBSO Centre and a series of performances of Colin Twigg's Echoes of Eternity (written for Richard Jenkinson and I.C.E.) around the U.K. Richard has also premiered concertos written for him by David Stoll and Paul da Vinci. Other recent concerto performances have included the Barber, Dohnányi and Korngold concertos with performances of the Beethoven Triple, Haydn, Lalo and Stanford concertos planned for future seasons.



1 - Wigmore Hall with the Innovation Chamber Ensemble.

*'Richard Jenkinson was the soloist in Haydn's cello Concerto in D major and he met this music's musical and technical challenges head on, his playing was always impressive'* **The Irish Times**

*'My Oscar winner of the afternoon was Richard Jenkinson, the vibrato-rich, emotionally driven soloist in Korngold's Cello Concerto in C (from the 1946 film Deception). This one-movement work covered all the bases, with a rewarding solo part executed in quietly virtuosic style and a sparkling score that repaid close listening. Why don't we hear it more often?'* **David Hart, Birmingham Post**

*'Richard Jenkinson was soloist in an infinitely moving account of the Elgar Concerto. His bowing technique a role-model, fleet in the brief scherzo and almost supernatural controlled in long-breathed subdued dynamics which reach into the soul of this regrettable farewell to a lost world.'* **Chris Morley, Birmingham Post 2019**

Richard has played many cycles of the complete Bach Solo Suites. These have included cycles in Birmingham's Ikon Gallery (also filmed for BBC 4), in London (St Johns Smith Square and St James

Piccadilly), Gloucestershire, Shropshire (also featuring the Britten Solo Suites), Worcestershire, Wales and the Scottish Highlands.

*'Jenkinson's Bach was fluent and appropriately improvisatory in effect, delivered by a baroque bow, every repeat constantly alive, and with an ebb and flow of dynamics.'* **Birmingham Post July 2018**

The poster for the Wigmore Hall Debut Recital features the hall's name in a large, elegant serif font at the top. Below it, the event details are listed: 'Debut Recital', 'Monday 29th April 1996', and '7.30 pm'. The performers, 'Richard Jenkinson cello' and 'Robert Kulek piano', are listed in a bold, sans-serif font. A black and white photograph of Richard Jenkinson playing the cello is positioned to the right of the text. A quote from 'The Strad' is included, praising Jenkinson's performance of Kodály's Solo Sonata. The program is listed as including Brahms, Schumann, Debussy, and 'A German Fantasy' and the world premiere of 'Epitaph IV' by Martin Ellerby. Ticket prices and contact information are provided at the bottom.

2 - Wigmore Hall debut.

*'Richard Jenkinson's big toned account of Bach's 4th cello suite, without being in any way unstylish, purged the music of any cerebral quality, and created an overall air of geniality. Notes were placed cleanly even at fast speed: rhythms and double stops were utterly secure.'* **Yorkshire Post**

He has also played solo recitals in Malta (including giving the premiere and recording Charles Camilleri's Fantasia Concertante). Other key repertoire has been the music of the Hungarian composer Zoltán Kodály. Richard has performed Kodály's Solo Sonata at the Wigmore Hall, South Bank Centre, St John's Smith Square, Southwark Cathedral, CBSO Centre, Bromsgrove, Dante (Cornwall) and Spitalfields Festivals as well as internationally in France and Malta (Solo Sonata and Capriccio). He is scheduled to give recital lecture on the music of Kodály in Hungary. Richard successfully defended his thesis on the Kodály's Sonata for Solo cello and Hungarian Nationalism from the University of Birmingham in 2019.

*'It was obvious from the first majestic flourish that Richard Jenkinson had made this piece (Kodály's Sonata for Solo cello) his own. Playing from memory and throwing caution to the wind Jenkinson brought this music to life with amazing vibrancy.'* **The Strad**

*'And his Kodály was simply miraculous. This is a compendium of every cello technique imagined'* **Birmingham Post July 2018**