



Piers Lane – Piano

“...No praise could be high enough for Piers Lane whose playing throughout is of a superb musical intelligence, sensitivity, and scintillating brilliance...” (Bryce Morrison, *Gramophone*)

London-based Australian pianist Piers Lane has a flourishing international career, which has taken him to more than forty countries. Highlights of the past few years have included a sold-out performance with the London Philharmonic Orchestra and Alexander Verdernikov at London's Royal Festival Hall, concerto performances at Lincoln Center's Avery Fisher Hall, a three-recital series entitled *Metamorphoses* and other performances for the London Pianoforte series at Wigmore Hall and five concerts for the opening of the Recital Centre in Melbourne.

Five times soloist at the BBC Proms in London's Royal Albert Hall, Piers Lane's wide-ranging concerto repertoire exceeds eighty works and has led to engagements with many of the world's great orchestras including the BBC and ABC orchestras; the Aarhus, American, Bournemouth and Gothenburg Symphony Orchestras; the Australian Chamber Orchestra, Kanazawa Ensemble, Orchestre National de France, City of London Sinfonia, and the Royal Philharmonic, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic and Warsaw Philharmonic orchestras among others. Leading conductors with whom he has worked include Andrey Boreyko, Sir Andrew Davis, Richard Hickox, Andrew Litton, Sir Charles Mackerras, Jerzy Maxymiuk, Maxim Shostakovich, Vassily Sinaisky, Yan Pascal Tortelier and Antoni Wit. His 2007 performance of Beethoven's *Emperor Concerto* with the Queensland Symphony Orchestra and Pietari Inkinen received the *Limelight Magazine Award for Best Orchestral Performance* in Australia.

Festival appearances have included, among others, Aldeburgh, Bard, Bergen, Cheltenham, Como Autumn Music, *Consonances*, La Roque d'Anthéron, Newport, Prague Spring, Ruhr Klavierfestival, Schloss vor Husum and the Chopin festivals in Warsaw, Duszniki-Zdroj, Mallorca and Paris.

In 2007, Piers Lane was appointed Artistic Director of the Australian Festival of Chamber Music. In 2009 and 2010, the Festival received the *Limelight Magazine Award for Best Event/Festival* in Australia. He is also Artistic Director of the annual Myra Hess Day at the National Gallery in London. In 2009, he collaborated with actress Patricia Routledge on a theatre piece devised by Nigel Hess, exploring Dame Myra's work throughout World War II. This performance is being repeated at many festivals and theatres during the next couple of years.

Highlights of 2011 include three performances at the Wigmore Hall, tours throughout the UK, four concert trips to Australia, and to France, Germany, the USA, Korea, Portugal and New Zealand. In 2010, Piers Lane gave several performances of Chopin's complete *Nocturnes* in London, Manchester's Bridgewater Hall and in Canada. These will continue in 2011 in Sydney's Angel Place Recital Hall and in Melbourne's Recital Hall. On December 11th, he will perform the monumental *Piano Concerto* by Busoni at Carnegie Hall.

His extensive discography includes, on the Hyperion label, much admired recordings of rare Romantic piano concertos, the complete *Preludes* and *Etudes* by Scriabin, transcriptions of Bach and Strauss, along with complete collections of concert etudes by Saint-Saens, Moscheles and Henselt, and transcriptions by Grainger. His recordings of Eugen d'Albert's solo piano music and Delius's violin sonatas with Tasmin Little were both nominated for *Gramophone Awards*. Recent releases include the *Piano Quintets* by Bloch, Bridge and Dvorak, all with the Goldner String Quartet. The *Piano Quintet* and the premieres of four solo salon pieces by Elgar are due for release. 2010 saw releases of d'Albert's transcriptions of Bach organ works and a disc with clarinettist Michael Collins for Chandos. He has also recorded for the ABC Classics, BMG, Classics for Pleasure, Decca, EMI Eminence, Lyrita and Unicorn-Khanchana labels.

Piers Lane is in great demand as a collaborative artist. He continues his longstanding partnership with violinist Tasmin Little and with clarinettist Michael Collins. Tours in recent years have included performances with singers Cheryl Barker, Peter Coleman-Wright, Yvonne Kenny, Markus Schafer and Anne Sofie von Otter with Bengt Forsberg, violist/composer Brett Dean, the Australian, Doric, Goldner, Medici, New Zealand, Prazak and RTE Vanbrugh String Quartets, and pianists Marc-André Hamelin, Hamish Milne, Kathryn Stott and Kathron Sturrock.

Piers Lane has written and presented over 100 programmes for BBC Radio 3, including the popular 54-part series, *The Piano*. In 2007 he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from Griffith University in Australia. He was recently presented with the first medal from the Laza Kostic fund for promoting Serbian culture during difficult political times in the late 90s.

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In 1994, he was made an Honorary Member of the Royal Academy of Music, where he has been a Professor since 1989. He is Piano Ambassador for the Australian National Academy of Music, Patron of the European Piano Teachers' Association UK, the Old Granary Studio in Norfolk, the Tait Memorial Trust, the Youth Music Foundation of Australia and the Music Teachers' Association and the Accompanists' Guild in Queensland. He is a Trustee of the Hattori Foundation in London; Vice-President of Putney Music Club; Artistic Director of the Myra Hess Day held annually at the National Gallery in London and of various one-off festivals.

For more information, please see www.pierslane.co.uk

This biography is valid for use until July 2011. We update our biographies regularly and ask that they are not altered without permission.
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