

Clare Hammond

Piano



" what the British pianist Clare Hammond has to say and play... fundamentally shakes our image of the early nineteenth century"
Allgemeine Zeitung

Acclaimed as a "pianist of extraordinary gifts" (*Gramophone*) and "immense power" (*The Times*), **Clare Hammond** is recognised for her imaginative playing, visionary programming, and communicative performance style. She won the Royal Philharmonic Society's Young Artist Award in 2016 and an Edison Klassiek Award in 2024.

2024 saw her debuts at the BBC Proms, Konzerthaus Berlin, and Salle Bourgie in Montreal, and return visits to the Wigmore Hall, London's National Gallery, and *Raritäten der Klaviermusik* in Husum. In 2025/26, Clare makes her debuts at the Royal Albert Hall with the Philharmonia and at the Klavier-Festival Ruhr, premieres concertos by Ninfea Cruttwell-Reade and George Stevenson with the BBC National Orchestra of Wales and Britten Sinfonia, and returns to give recitals at the Wigmore Hall and Fundación Juan March in Madrid. She performs Rachmaninov with the London Philharmonic Orchestra at the Barbican, Clara Schumann with the BBC Philharmonic, and Mozart with the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra.

Contemporary music is at the core of Clare's work. She has given over 50 world premieres, including those of major works by Arlene Sierra, Robert Saxton, Jeffrey Mumford and Michael Berkeley, and her discography includes world premiere recordings of over twenty pieces. In 2019, she premiered Kenneth Hesketh's *Uncoiling the River* with Martyn Brabbins and the BBC National Orchestra of Wales, and gave further performances with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic and Vasily Petrenko, and the Ulster Orchestra with Anna Rakitina. She premiered Graham Fitkin's piano quartet *Touch* with Fitkin, Ruth Wall and Kathryn Stott at the Aldeburgh Festival, and opened the Southbank Centre's 22/23 season at the Queen Elizabeth Hall with the work. Clare gave the second ever performance of the recently revived *Fantasia* by Andrzej Panufnik, more than sixty years after its premiere, with the Filharmonia Poznańska and Łukasz Borowicz in 2024.

Clare has recorded eight discs for BIS, most recently releasing an album of concertos by Walton, Britten and Tippett with the BBC Symphony Orchestra and George Vass. *The Times* praised her "crisp artistry" while *Gramophone* described her "exquisitely variegated tonal palette, deft touch and quiet authority" as "truly things of wonder". She previously recorded a disc of etudes by visionary composer Hélène de Montgeroult, featured extensively on Radio 3's *Composer of the Week*, while her album of etudes by Unsuk Chin, Nikolai Kapustin, Sergei Lyapunov and Karol Szymanowski won her an Opus d'Or from *Opus HD magazine* and 5 diapasons from *Diapason*. *Youth*, a collection of music written for Clare by Edmund Finniss won an Edison Klassiek Award and Presto Classical's 'EP of the Year' Award in 2024. Clare's next disc for BIS, of music by Ravel, Tailleferre, Bonis, Barraine and Chaminade, will be released in June 2027.

Community engagement forms an increasingly important part of Clare's work. She recently founded the Gloucestershire Piano Trust to support her ongoing work in schools and prisons, which reaches around 4,000 schoolchildren and 300 prisoners each year.

Clare completed a BA at Cambridge University, where she obtained a double first in music, and undertook postgraduate study with Ronan O'Hora at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama and with Professor Rhian Samuel at City University London. She completed a doctorate on 20th-century left-hand piano concertos in 2012. In 2014 Clare was paired with French pianist Anne Queffélec on the Philip Langridge Mentoring Scheme run by the RPS.

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