

# Clare Hammond

Piano



*"Hammond keeps us enthralled to the last bar"*  
**The Telegraph**

Acclaimed as a "pianist of extraordinary gifts" (*Gramophone*) and "immense power" (*The Times*), **Clare Hammond** is recognised for the virtuosity and authority of her performances and won the Royal Philharmonic Society's Young Artist Award in 2016.

Last year 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. Clare recorded a disc of concertos by Britten, Tippett and Walton with the BBC Symphony Orchestra and George Vass, performed Rachmaninov with the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra and Tom Fetherstonhaugh, and Hesketh with the Ulster Orchestra and Anna Rakitina. She 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 2025, Clare makes her debut at the Royal Albert Hall, performing Rachmaninov's Second Piano Concerto with the London Philharmonic Orchestra and Christopher Warren-Green, and premieres a new concerto by Ninfea Cruttwell-Reade with the BBC National Orchestra of Wales and Emilia Hoving.

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 and Michael Berkeley, and her discography includes world premiere recordings of over twenty works. In 2019, she gave the world premiere of Kenneth Hesketh's *Uncoiling the River* with Martyn Brabbins and the BBC National Orchestra of Wales, and a further performance with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic and Vasily Petrenko. In 2022, she premiered Graham Fitkin's new piano quartet 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 has recorded six discs for BIS, most recently releasing an album of Etudes by visionary French composer Hélène de Montgeroult, launched in a special concert at London's National Gallery and featured extensively on BBC Radio 3's Composer of the Week and Essential Classics. The disc was selected as Editor's Choice in Gramophone. Reviewers noted the historical importance of the etudes and the ideal match with Hammond's virtuosic and lyrical abilities. She previously recorded a disc of 20<sup>th</sup>- and 21<sup>st</sup>- century variations which received extensive critical approval, and a disc of etudes by Unsuk Chin, Nikolai Kapustin, Sergei Lyapunov and Karol Szymanowski which won her an Opus d'Or from Opus HD magazine and 5 diapasons from Diapason. *Youth*, an album of music written for Clare by Edmund Finnis won an Edison Klassiek Award and Presto Classical's 'EP of the Year' Award in 2024. In December 2025, Clare will record repertoire by Ravel, Tailleferre, Bonis,

Barraine and Chaminade for BIS Records.

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 3,000 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 20<sup>th</sup>-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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Find Clare on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube (@clarehammondpiano) and Twitter (@clare\_pianist).

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