

FRIDAY 8 SEPTEMBER

ISATA  
KANNINEH-  
MASON

**FRIDAY 8 SEPTEMBER at 7.30PM**

**Isata Kanneh-Mason  
Through the Ages**

**Joseph Hadyn  
Piano Sonata No. 60 in C major**

**Fanny Mendelssohn  
Easter Sonata**

Interval

**Robert Schumann  
Kinderszenen (Scenes from Childhood)**

**Frédéric Chopin  
Piano Sonata No. 3 in B minor**

“To send light into the darkness of  
Hearts - such is the duty of the artist.”

—Robert Schumann

“Sometimes I can only groan, and suffer,  
and pour out my despair at the piano!”

—Frédéric Chopin

On 8th August 2020, deep in the dark times of the COVID-19 pandemic, Isata Kanneh-Mason played the first in a series of live events that took place in the covered spaces at Bold Tendencies, joined by her brother Sheku. These were some of the only concerts with an audience that took place that summer in the UK; here - in this concrete concert hall. Three years and a month-to-the-date later, Isata returns, presenting a propulsive programme in succession to her solo concerts in 2020 and 2021 where she brought us memorable performances of music by Beethoven, Gershwin, Barber, Mozart, Chopin, and Gubaidulina.

Musicality is in Isata's blood. The oldest of the universally gifted seven Kanneh-Mason children, Isata began her musical education with their mother, Kadiatu, in their Nottingham home. She speaks fondly of the love of classical music that blossomed in her childhood; her first memory of playing the piano was on holiday in the Caribbean visiting her grandparents, at just five years old.

Isata earned a place to study at the Royal Academy of Music, London, on the prestigious Sir Elton John Scholarship. This education in the name of the legendary rock star would come full circle: in 2013, she performed with Sir Elton himself, in concert in Los Angeles.

The scholarship is far from her only accolade: for the 21/22 classical season she held the moniker of ECHO Rising Star; other awards include the coveted Leonard

Bernstein Award, and an Opus Klassic award for best young artist. No stranger to concert halls internationally, Isata is also more than comfortable in the recording studio; to date, she has released four albums, including “Romance - the Piano Music of Clara Schumann,” 2019 (which entered the UK classical charts at No.1); “Summertime,” 2021 - an album of 20th century American repertoire, including a world premiere of Samuel Coleridge-Taylor’s *Impromptu in B minor*; and “Muse” (November 2021) - her first duo album alongside her cellist brother, Sheku, and an astounding demonstration of the siblings’ profound musicality, artistic synergy and refined skill. On 26 May 2023, the day before her 27th birthday, Isata released “Childhood Tales” with Decca Classics - a touching selection of evocative music reframing the magic of childhood.

Isata’s return to Bold Tendencies rounds off her 22/23 season as Artist in Residence with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra - a role that entailed the performance of three concerti at London’s Cadogan Hall. Her programme tonight perfectly exemplifies the diversity and mastery inherent to her repertoire, traversing musical periods and moods, beginning with Joseph Haydn’s *Piano Sonata No. 60 in C major*. Few works capture the essence of spontaneous inspiration as this masterpiece, which Haydn composed towards the end of his life; of the work the composer himself wrote: “I would sit down at the piano and begin to improvise, whether my spirits were sad or happy, serious or playful. Once I had captured an idea, I strove

with all my might to develop and sustain it in conformity with the rules of art.”

The tenets of romanticism present in Hadyn are carried over into a rendition of Fanny Mendelssohn’s *Easter Sonata*. Lost for 150 years, and then falsely attributed to Mendelssohn’s brother Felix on its discovery, Isata’s inclusion of the Sonata in her programme speaks to the importance of revisionism within the classical canon. The profundity of the act mirrored in Fanny Mendelssohn’s own words - “It must be a sign of talent that I do not give up, though I can get nobody to take an interest in my efforts.”

Revisiting the theme of her latest album, Isata will also play Robert Schumann’s masterwork *Kinderszenen* (Scenes from Childhood). A delicate tribute to childhood memory, as seen through the lens of adult perception, the rich, and poetic collection of 13 short pieces speaks to Isata’s own relationship with music - the childlike wonder at creation, reflective of the time “when one’s love of music is at its most uncomplicated.”

Isata’s programme ends with Chopin’s third and final *Piano Sonata in B minor*. Widely considered to be the composer’s most difficult composition, both technically and musically the sonata is evidence of Chopin’s innovative approach to music structure and form, and his mastery - and thus Isata’s mastery - of the piano. It is a demon to perform, but spectacularly rewarding to hear in its massive virtuosity and heroic sweep.

Tackling a powerful programme of work, this evening's performance - though there was little doubt! - overwhelmingly demonstrates Isata's prowess and finesse, leaving no room for doubt as to why she is one of the world's most exciting and in demand young musicians today. We are delighted to have her back with us tonight.

**Isata Kanneh-Mason (b.1996)** is an internationally renowned pianist. Her eclectic repertoire encompasses music from Haydn and Mozart via Fanny Mendelssohn and Clara Schumann, Chopin and Brahms to Gershwin and beyond. She is equally at home in Felix Mendelssohn and Clara Schumann as in Prokofiev and Dohnányi. She is in great demand internationally performing all over the world. She appeared with orchestras including New World Symphony Miami, City of Birmingham Symphony, Barcelona Symphony, Geneva Chamber Orchestra and Los Angeles Philharmonic and was the Artist in Residence with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. Earlier this summer she made her BBC Proms solo debut, alongside Ryan Bancroft and the BBC National Orchestra of Wales. Isata was an ECHO Rising Star in 21/22 and she is also the recipient of the coveted Leonard Bernstein Award, an Opus Klassik award for best young artist and is one of the Konzerthaus Dortmund's Junge Wilde artists. She records exclusively for Decca Classics

**Final Live Events of the Season**

**Sunday 10 September at 6pm**

**Derek Jarman: Modern Nature**

Directed by James Dacre, Derek Jarman's Prospect Cottage diaries are read live by Giles Terera and Samuel Barnett alongside original audio recordings made specially by Tilda Swinton, Jessie Buckley and Valgeir Sigurðsson and music by Donna McKeivitt, Max Richter and Benjamin Britten, performed live by singer Jessica Walker, pianist Joseph Atkins and cellist Rosie Banks-Francis with sound design by David Gregory.

**Wednesday 13 September at 7.30pm**

**The Bittersweet Review**

Readings by Amelia Abraham, Jordan/Martin Hell, Donna Marcus Duke

**Saturday 16 September at 1pm**

**Backstage Pass: Philharmonia Orchestra**

An interactive workshop led by Philharmonia's musicians and Teddy Prout, the Orchestra's Learning & Participation Manager. This session will deep dive into Mahler's First Symphony through participatory activities, actions and performances. This session is aimed at senior groups based in Southwark.

**Saturday 16 September at 3pm**

**Public Rehearsal: Gustav Mahler: Symphony No.1**

An informal and relaxed opportunity to hear live the emotionally powerful work of Gustav Mahler, performed by the vast forces of the Philharmonia Orchestra. This session is open to anyone who faces barriers to

attending the evening performance and/or is curious to see, hear and experience an orchestra in action, at work.

**Saturday 16 September at 7.30pm**

**Gustav Mahler: Symphony No. 1 “Titan”**

Philharmonia Orchestra, conducted by Elena Schwarz

**Final Week of the Season to See**

**2023 Visual Arts Commissions**

Emory Douglas, *Some American History*

Jenny Holzer, *Bold Sign*

Kahlil Robert Irving, *Memorial to Labor [Through my wonder] My memory to your labor* **LOST**

Sandra Poulson, *How much for the coal?*

Abbas Zahedi, *Best Before End*

**Permanent Works On-Site**

Adel Abdessemed, *Bristow*, 2016

Sophie Collins & Sam Riviere, *FLOURISHED*, 2016

The Derek Jarman Garden, 2013

Rene Matic, *no more quick, quick, slow*, 2021

Richard Wentworth, *Agora*, 2015

Simon Whybray, *hi boo i love you*, 2016

**Architecture**

Frank's Cafe and Straw Auditorium by Practice Architecture, 2009 & 2010

Peckham Observatory and Concert Wall by Cooke Fawcett, 2017-2018

Remastering by Feilden Fowles, 2020-2025



# **BOLD TENDENCIES**

## **We need your help!**

Every year we fundraise to keep our programme thriving and to keep tickets affordable. This means ticket sales only cover about 5% of our costs. Every donation, however big or small, has a major impact and helps us to do more and better. Donations can be made on-site and on-line on our website.

## **Huge thanks to our 2023 Supporters**

Southwark Council, Art Fund, Selfridges, Bloomberg Philanthropies, Phillips, The Mila Charitable Organisation, Genesis Kickstart Fund, Outset Partners, Steinway & Sons, Southby Productions, Vanguardia, Big Issue Access Invest, CMS-CMNO, Hallett Independent Art Insurance, Think Smart Accounts, and all those individuals who have generously donated.

## **About Bold Tendencies**

Bold Tendencies is a non-profit arts organisation started in 2007 in Peckham, London. Bold Tendencies supports artists to develop their ideas and to realise site-specific projects and present live performances from its rooftop home, Peckham's Multi-Storey Car Park. Bold Tendencies celebrates the free enjoyment of public space in the city, welcoming participation in its rich, experimental programme and preserving open access to this special, spectacular place.

## **Bold Tendencies Team**

Hannah Barry - Artistic Director & Chief Executive

Diana Córdoba Barrios - Managing Director

Tom Kelly - Site & Production Manager

Charlie Mills - Visual Arts Curator & Producer

Misty Ingham - Creative Learning Producer

Toby Taylor - Visitor Engagement Manager & Live Events

Katrina Nzegwu - Visitor Engagement Manager & Artist Research

Esme Wedderburn - Creative Learning Facilitator

Akhera Williams - Creative Learning Facilitator

Molly Burrows - Visitor Engagement Assistant

Margot Dower - Visitor Engagement Assistant

Maya King-Dabbs - Visitor Engagement Assistant

Luca Pokorny - Visitor Engagement Assistant

Mitzi Clarke - Back of House Assistant

Riccardo Pillon - Special Projects

Simon Whybray - Graphic Design

Oscar Maguire - Visualisation

## **Bold Tendencies Board**

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# **BOLD TENDENCIES**

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