

# DUO Janet Hilton Sarah Beth Briggs

## CLARINET AND PIANO



Janet Hilton's recitals with pianist Sarah Beth Briggs have been critically acclaimed. Her wide-ranging repertoire encompasses much loved favourites, including works by Brahms, Weber, Poulenc, Debussy and Schumann and lesser played masterpieces ranging from Burgmuller to Bernstein. In addition, Janet's phenomenal technique and sensuous tone have inspired numerous living composers to write music for her. Sarah is a virtuoso solo performer and a sensitive interpreter of chamber music. Duo recitals always feature some solo piano items to add variety and balance to the programme.

In addition to their very popular duo recitals, Janet and Sarah form part of two exceptional trios. In Clarion<sup>3</sup> they are joined by internationally renowned bassoonist, Laurence Perkins, offering delightful repertoire for this striking and unusual combination of instruments whilst the more orthodox but splendidly balanced Anton Stadler Trio, sees Janet and Sarah combining their talents with Robin Ireland (ex-violist of the world renowned Lindsay Quartet, and one of the UK's most sought after chamber musicians).

### Sample Programme A

**Weber** Seven Variations on a theme from Silvana, op. 33  
**Bartok** Suite op. 14  
**Brahms** Sonata no. 1 in F minor, op. 120

#### *Interval*

**Martinu** Sonatina  
**Brahms** Intermezzos and Rhapsody, op. 119  
**Debussy** Première Rhapsodie

### Sample Programme B

**Lutoslawski** Dance Preludes  
**Debussy** Two Preludes from Book 1  
**Weber** Grand Duo Concertante, op. 48

#### *Interval*

**Chopin** Ballade no 3 in A flat major, op 47  
**Horowitz** Sonatine (1981)

### Further information

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## BIOGRAPHIES

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JANET HILTON Clarinet

*"...an artist of extraordinary magnetism"*  
Daily Telegraph

A long-standing pupil of the late Denis Matthews and subsequently a pupil of Arrau student Edith Fischer, Sarah Beth Briggs rose to international attention when she became the joint winner of the International Mozart Competition in Salzburg. This followed her success in the BBC Young Musician of the Year at 11, in which she was the then youngest ever finalist.

She has performed with many of Britain's major orchestras and at numerous prestigious UK venues, as well as giving concerts in Europe and the U.S.A. and making international radio and television recordings. A popular soloist at music clubs and festivals, her musical interpretations have been highly acclaimed by promoters and critics alike.

Her warmly reviewed recordings for Semaphore showcase her talents across a wide range of repertoire, including Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert, Chopin, Brahms, Bartók, Rawsthorne, Britten and Debussy. Her first concerto disc on the AVIE label, a Gramophone Critics' Choice, features the world premiere of Hans Gál's Piano Concerto coupled with Mozart Concerto K482 with the Royal Northern Sinfonia conducted by Kenneth Woods. January 2019 sees the release of a solo disc of Schumann and Brahms for AVIE.

Sarah enjoys balancing a successful solo career with numerous chamber music engagements and has worked with many acclaimed soloists. April 2018 saw the release of Sarah's first chamber music disc on Toccata Classics with Hungarian violinist Katalin Kertész and her ensemble. This was followed in August 2018 by a Gramophone Editor's Choice disc of Hans Gál and Shostakovich Trios on AVIE with Sarah's recently formed Briggs Piano Trio with violinist, David Juritz and cellist Kenneth Woods.

In addition to this longstanding duo partnership with Janet, they are joined by violist Robin Ireland (formerly of the Lindsay String Quartet) in the Anton Stadler Trio and by bassoonist, Laurence Perkins in Clarion 3. She also has a successful piano duet partnership with James Lisney and a newly formed violin and piano duo with David Juritz. As a chamber musician, Sarah has featured on BBC2 and Radio 3.

[www.sarahbethbriggs.co.uk](http://www.sarahbethbriggs.co.uk)

*"Rare lightness and grace, shaped with the quiet freedom of a great singer."* Financial Times

Janet is recognised as one of the leading clarinetists in the UK. She has performed with many of Britain's finest orchestras, and has also become renowned for her superb chamber music interpretations with such well known ensembles as the Lindsay, Endellion and Chillingirian String Quartets. Her many overseas engagements have included concerts in Holland, Canada and the USA, (where she has regularly worked with the Michigan based chamber group, Fontana) a recital tour of the major European Opera houses with Margaret Price, concerts in Italy (at the Incontri in Terra di Siena festival and with the Alessandro Scarlatti Orchestra in Naples) and work for the Gstaad Festival in Switzerland. In Britain, she has appeared at many festivals, including Aldeburgh, Bath, Cheltenham, City of London, Edinburgh, Harrogate, and the BBC Proms.

Her extensive list of recordings for the Chandos label includes the chamber music of Brahms and Weber, trios by Mozart, Bruch and Schumann, and Concertos by Weber, Stanford, Nielsen and Copland. She has recorded Malcolm Arnold's first Clarinet Concerto for EMI, and the Mozart Clarinet Quintet for ASV. Her most recent recording of solo clarinet music on the Clarinet Classics label was released in 2016. Five years previously, she released four concertos written for her by Alun Hoddinott, John McCabe, Edward Harper and Dame Elizabeth Maconchy on the same label.

Alongside her solo career, Janet has been Principal Clarinet of the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, the Welsh National Opera and Kent Opera Orchestras and the Manchester Camerata. She is a Professor of Clarinet at the Royal College of Music, where she was Head of Woodwind from 1998-2010. She also gives regular high profile international masterclasses.

[www.impulse-music.co.uk/hilton.htm](http://www.impulse-music.co.uk/hilton.htm)



SARAH BETH BRIGGS Piano



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