

Sarah Beth Briggs

Lyricism and dance are the watchwords of Briggs' beautifully prepared performances... a player at the height of her powers

Musical Opinion ★★★★★ (January 2021)

Pianist Sarah Beth Briggs – *an artist of extraordinary magnetism* (Michael Kennedy, Daily Telegraph) – is a leading recitalist, concerto soloist, and chamber musician. A long-standing pupil of the late Denis Matthews, she gained a Hindemith Scholarship to study chamber music in Switzerland with celebrated violist, Bruno Giuranna, and remained in Lausanne for further studies with renowned Arrau pupil, Chilean pianist Edith Fischer.

Her professional career was launched at the age of eleven when she became the then youngest-ever finalist in the BBC Young Musician of the Year and a recipient of a Dame Myra Hess Award. Four years later she gained international recognition as joint winner of the International Mozart Competition in Salzburg.

Sarah's musical interpretations have been broadcast internationally on radio and television, while recital and concerto performances have taken her to Austria, Germany, Switzerland, France, Italy and the USA. UK orchestral collaborations include concerts with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Royal Northern Sinfonia, the Hallé, London Mozart Players, London Philharmonic Orchestra, English Chamber Orchestra, Scottish Chamber Orchestra, Ulster Orchestra, Manchester Camerata, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic and BBC Concert Orchestra. She has been the featured soloist at major British venues including Manchester's Bridgewater Hall, London's South Bank Centre, and the Barbican Centre.

Sarah is a celebrated artist at societies and festivals throughout the UK, acclaimed by promoters and critics for her performances and for her engaging and informative introductions to recital programmes.

She gave the world premiere (at the Chester Festival) of Britten's Three Character Pieces, which feature on one of her warmly-reviewed releases for Semaphore. Her discography to date also includes music by Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Brahms, Schubert, Schumann, Chopin, Debussy, Bartók and Rawsthorne. Her first concerto disc on the AVIE label (a Gramophone Critics' Choice in 2016) features the world premiere of Hans Gál's Piano Concerto coupled with Mozart Concerto K482 with the Royal Northern Sinfonia conducted by Kenneth Woods. In her latest 2020 disc for AVIE, *The Austrian Connection*, she was described as... *a player at the height of her powers* by Musical Opinion who awarded the disc five stars.

Sarah enjoys balancing a successful solo career with numerous chamber music engagements and has worked with many acclaimed

soloists. Her first chamber music CD was released in April 2018 on Toccata Classics, featuring Gál's Piano Quartet and Violin and Piano Sonatinas with Hungarian violinist, Katalin Kertész and her ensemble. She followed this with a disc of Gál and Shostakovich Piano Trios with her new Briggs Piano Trio (with David Juritz and Kenneth Woods) released in August 2018 on AVIE. This was awarded a Gramophone Editor's Choice and MusicWeb International Recording of the Month.

The Briggs Piano Trio is the successor to Trio Melzi (2000–2016) of which Sarah was a founder member. Sarah has a longstanding duo partnership with clarinettist Janet Hilton and in addition they are joined by Robin Ireland in the Anton Stadler Trio and Laurence Perkins in Clarion³. She has a successful piano duet partnership with James Lisney, while her latest chamber music venture is a violin and piano duo with David Juritz.



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Sarah taught keyboard for many years at the University of York. She gives regular masterclasses and chamber music tuition in the UK and has also taught in Switzerland and the USA. Away from the concert platform, she loves the theatre, good food and wine and walking in the countryside with her cocker spaniels.

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www.sarahbethbriggs.co.uk

Further Information

Sarah Beth Briggs ♦ 07717 496506
Kevin Ormond ♦ 07793 030855