

Julian Bliss

“It isn’t just his technique, though that is astonishing enough.
It’s the wit, poise and vivacity in his playing”

The Times



Julian Bliss

Biography

Julian Bliss is one of the world's finest clarinetists excelling as a concerto soloist, chamber musician, jazz artist, masterclass leader and tireless musical explorer. He has inspired a generation of young players as guest lecturer and creator of his Leblanc Bliss range of affordable clarinets, and introduced a substantial new audience to his instrument. Born in the U.K., Julian started playing the clarinet age 4, going on to study in the U.S. at the University of Indiana and in Germany under Sabine Meyer. The breadth and depth of his artistry are reflected in the diversity and distinction of his work. In recital and chamber music he has played at most of the world's leading festivals and venues including Gstaad, Mecklenburg Vorpommern, Verbier, Wigmore Hall (London) and Lincoln Center (New York). As soloist, current performances include concerts with the Sao Paulo Symphony, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra of Paris, BBC Philharmonic Orchestra, Auckland Philharmonia and London Philharmonic. In 2012 he established the Julian Bliss Septet, creating programmes inspired by King of Swing, Benny Goodman, and Latin music from Brazil and Cuba that have gone on to be performed to packed houses in festivals, Ronnie Scott's (London), the Concertgebouw (Amsterdam) and across the U.S. Recent album releases receiving rave reviews from critics, album of the week spots and media attention, include his recording of Mozart and Nielsen's Concertos with the Royal Northern Sinfonia. Recent chamber discs include a new piece for clarinet & string quartet by David Bruce – Gumboots – inspired by the gumboot dancing of miners in South Africa and a recital album of Russian and French composers with American pianist, Bradley Moore.

www.julianbliss.com



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Selected Discography

Mozart & Nielsen Clarinet Concertos

Royal Northern Sinfonia
Mario Venzago *Conductor*

Including the Mozart Clarinet Concerto in A Major and the Nielsen Clarinet Concerto, recorded at The Sage, Gateshead.

“Bliss does the works proud.” The Independent on Sunday

“All the works collected here showcase the attractive qualities of Bliss’s playing, rich and fruity in the showier passages, effortless in the demanding runs made by Nielsen in particular and, at the sublime moments, appropriately mellifluous and sonorous.” Classic FM

“Bliss responds to the work’s mercurial switches of mood with a wide range of colour and articulation, and meets its considerable technical challenges with seemingly offhand virtuosity.” BBC Music Magazine

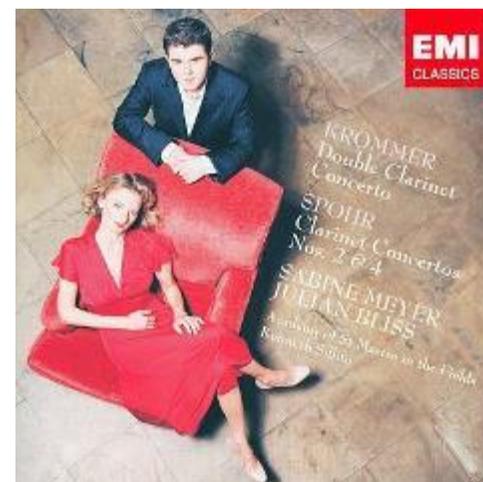
“Bliss, British-born and trained in London, America, and Germany (under Sabine Meyer), is at only 25 enormously accomplished. He has a supple, well-focused sound and an uncanny, crystalline technique. His playing in the Mozart Concerto is gorgeous, with an exquisite pianissimo at the reprise of the Adagio . His phrasing and articulations are unfailingly musical. Mario Venzago and the Royal Northern Sinfonia provide an alert accompaniment. Bliss’s arrangements of the two concert arias are imaginative and attractive; that of Der iebe himmlisches Gefühl is for the low-C clarinet.” Fanfare Magazine

Julian Bliss & Bradley Moore

Bradley Moore *Piano*

Including works by Debussy, Francaix, Glinka, Milhaud and Prokofiev.

“One of the most talented young musicians of our time, and an enthusiastic and prolific chamber player, Julian Bliss’ list of professional honours and accomplishments is already lengthy despite his youth.”
ClassicsOnline



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Concert Reviews

“It isn’t just his technique, though that is astonishing enough. It’s the wit, poise and vivacity in his playing. In short, it is the pure intuition leading him straight to the heart of what he plays”

The Times

“Clear technical mastery of the concerto [Mozart] left plenty of scope to create a fairly personal and engaging reading for such a familiar work. His own dynamics and phrasing were obvious throughout, and his physicality on stage served to highlight these. In the outer movements his playing was fluid and agile, even in the lower register, where the darker colours of the basset were shown.”

Mozart Clarinet Concerto

Bachtrack

“But the Queen did hear one top-class performance: Mozart’s clarinet concerto, played on the authentic basset clarinet (with its vital extra bass notes) by [Bliss]. Sinuous, immaculate and unfussy, he reserved his subtlest powers for the end of the sublime adagio, delivered so quietly that 6,000 people held their breath.”

The Times

“Julian then gave a most serene performance of the slow movement, and the finale had all the wit, grace and rhythmic bounce one could have wished for.”

Mozart Clarinet Concerto

Nottingham Post

“energy, wit and compassion”

Nielsen Clarinet Concerto

Irish Times

“Bliss, on top of his game, rose to the occasion with great skill and versatility, especially in the passages of gnawing conflict between clarinet and snare drum, finely played by Graham Johns.”

Nielsen Clarinet Concerto

The Journal



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Concerto Repertoire

Includes:

| | |
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| Mozart | Clarinet Concerto |
| Weber | Concerto 1 & 2, Concertino, Quintet arranged for string orchestra |
| Crusell | Concerto 1, 2 & 3 |
| Rossini | Introduction, Theme and Variations |
| Copland | Clarinet Concerto |
| Bernstein | Prelude, Fugues and Riffs (For Orchestra or for Jazz Band) |
| Stravinsky | Ebony Concerto |
| Lindberg | Concerto for Clarinet and Orchestra |
| Nielsen | Clarinet Concerto |
| Corigliano | Clarinet Concerto |
| Kromer | Concerto for Two Clarinets |
| Arnold | Concerto 1 & 2 |
| Hindemith | Clarinet Concerto |
| Rautavaara | Clarinet Concerto |
| Penderecki | Viola Concerto, Flute Concerto, Sinfonietta No. 2 (Arranged from quartet) |
| Finzi | Concerto for Clarinet and Strings, Five Bagatelles (Arranged for clarinet & strings) |
| Carter | Clarinet Concerto |
| Debussy | Première Rhapsodie |
| Francaix | Clarinet Concerto |
| Spohr | Concerto 1, 2, 3 & 4 |
| Busoni | Clarinet Concertino |
| Aho | Clarinet Concerto |
| Loverglio | Themes from La Traviata |
| Bassi | Themes from Rigoletto |
| Hillborg | Clarinet Concerto |

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