

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

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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 creator of his Conn-Selmer range of affordable clarinets, and introduced a substantial new audience to his instrument. Julian started playing the clarinet aged four, going on to study at the University of Indiana and in Germany under Sabine Meyer, turning professional aged twelve.

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 a soloist, he has appeared with a wide range of international orchestras, including the Sao Paulo Symphony, Chamber Orchestra of Paris, Auckland Philharmonia, the London Philharmonic and Royal Philharmonic Orchestras.

In 2010 he established the Julian Bliss Septet creating programmes inspired by King of Swing Benny Goodman and Gershwin and his contemporaries. A new programme, 'Hooray for Hollywood', showcases some of the greatest music from the movies. The Septet has performed to packed houses in festivals, Ronnie Scott's (London), the Concertgebouw (Amsterdam) and across the U.S. For the Beethoven anniversary in 2020 he has formed a new ensemble of top wind players, Bliss Wind Soloists, featuring arrangements of Beethoven's seventh and eighth symphonies.

Album releases receive rave reviews from critics, record of the week spots and media attention. Recent projects include Mozart & Weber Quintets with the Carducci String Quartet; Schubert's Shepherd on the Rock with Christopher Glynn (piano) and Sophie Bevan (soprano); Steve Reich's New York Counterpoint; Mozart and Nielsen's concertos with the Royal Northern Sinfonia; a new piece for clarinet & string quartet by David Bruce, Gumboots, and a recital album of Russian and French composers with American pianist, Bradley Moore.

Julian has also arranged pieces for clarinet and piano, notably Rachmaninoff's Cello Sonata Op. 19, the third movement of which has been set as a grade 6 piece on the new London College of Music clarinet syllabus.

www.julianbliss.com



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Selected Discography

Mozart & Nielsen Clarinet Concertos

Royal Northern Sinfonia
Mario Venzago *Conductor*

“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](#)

“He has a supple, well-focused sound and an uncanny, crystalline technique... His phrasing and articulations are unfailingly musical.”

[Fanfare Magazine](#)

Julian Bliss & Bradley Moore

Bradley Moore *Piano*
Including works by Debussy, Francais, 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](#)

Mozart & Weber: Clarinet Quintets

Carducci Quartet

“Bliss tackles the score with a piercingly pure, vibrato-less tone.”

[BBC Music Magazine](#)



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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

“Bliss gave a beautifully judged reading: civilised, intimate, with nothing forced, yet so bubbly, and with some suspense-filled drops to pianissimo”

Mozart Clarinet Concerto

Classical Source

“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

Arnold	Concerto No. 1, Op. 20 & No. 2 Op. 115
Aho	Clarinet Concerto
Bernstein	Prelude, Fugues and Riffs (For Orchestra or for Jazz Band)
Carter	Clarinet Concerto
Copland	Clarinet Concerto
Corigliano	Concerto for Clarinet and Orchestra
Crusell	Concerto No. 1, Op. 1, No. 2, Op. 5 & No. 3, Op. 11
Debussy	Première Rhapsodie
Finzi	Concerto for Clarinet and Strings, Five Bagatelles (arranged for clarinet & strings)
Francaix	Clarinet Concerto
Hakola	Clarinet Concerto
Hillborg	Peacock Tales, Clarinet Concerto
Hindemith	Clarinet Concerto
Krommer	Concerto for Two Clarinets
Lindberg	Concerto for Clarinet and Orchestra
Martinsson	Concert Fantastique, Clarinet Concerto No. 1, Op. 86
Mozart	Clarinet Concerto in A, K622
Nielsen	Concerto for Clarinet and Orchestra, Op. 57
Penderecki	Arrangements of the Viola Concerto & Flute Concerto, Sinfonietta No. 2
Rautavaara	Clarinet Concerto
Rossini	Introduction, Theme and Variations
Shorter	Sherwood, Clarinet Concerto
Spohr	Concerto No. 1 in C Minor, No. 2 in E flat, No. 3 in F & No. 4 in E minor
Stravinsky	Ebony Concerto
Takemitsu	Fantasma/Cantos for Clarinet & Orchestra
Trojahn	Rhapsody for Clarinet & Orchestra
Tüür	Peregrinus Ecstaticus, Clarinet Concerto
Weber	Concerto No. 1 in F Minor, No. 2 in E flat, Concertino Op. 26, Clarinet Quintet Op. 34 (arranged for string orchestra)

Commissions for concertos are currently in progress with **David Bruce** and **John Mackey**, and a double concerto with **Guy Barker** (clarinet and piano).



Useful Links

www.julianbliss.com/resources

<https://www.facebook.com/jblissclarinet/>

https://www.instagram.com/julian_bliss/

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