



## Michael Collins

### Clarinet / Conductor

*"Brilliant playing in every sense."* Classic FM

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Michael Collins is one of the most complete musicians of his generation. With a continuing, distinguished career as a soloist, he has in recent years also become highly regarded as a conductor and in 2010 took the position of Principal Conductor of the City of London Sinfonia. Recent guest conducting and play-directing highlights have included engagements with the Philharmonia Orchestra, Academy of St Martin in the Fields, Ulster Orchestra, and the HPAC Orchestra in Kyoto, Japan.

Highlights this season include a return to the Philharmonia Orchestra as conductor for a regional tour; a Royal Festival Hall concert with violinist Alina Pogostkina; performances worldwide with orchestras including Kuopio Symphony Orchestra, Zurich Chamber Orchestra, and the Rheinische Philharmonie; and tours in South Africa, Melbourne (with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra), Tokyo (with the City of London Sinfonia), Mexico (with the Orquesta Sinfónica Nacional), and Hamamatsu.

This season Michael will also conduct and perform with the BBC Symphony Orchestra in a studio concert and work with the Kymi Sinfonietta and Franz Liszt Chamber Orchestra for play-direct programmes. He also makes his debut with the Orchestre Philharmonique de Strasbourg, playing and directing a programme of Mozart, Weber and Rossini. As a soloist, he will work with the Charlotte Symphony and the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. Future plans include OSESP Sao Paulo, as well as a return to the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra and Kuopio Symphony Orchestra.

Last season, his play-direct engagements included Adelaide, Tasmanian and Melbourne Symphony orchestras, the Hong Kong Sinfonietta, as well as Kuopio Symphony. As a conductor, he returned to the Swedish Chamber Orchestra, conducting Vaughan Williams' Symphony No 5 and Beethoven's Symphony No 3 and also conducted the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra in a programme of Mozart and Bartók.

Michael Collins has been committed to expanding the repertoire of the clarinet for many years. He has given premières of works such as John Adams' Gnarly Buttons, Elliott Carter's Clarinet Concerto - for which he won a Gramophone award for his recording on Deutsche Grammophon - Brett Dean's Ariel's Music and Turnage's Riffs and Refrains, which was commissioned by the Hallé Orchestra. Collins has gone on to perform Turnage's work with the Residentie Orkest, Royal Flanders and Helsinki Philharmonics, as well as the London Philharmonic Orchestra. Collins has received the Royal Philharmonic Society's Instrumentalist of the Year Award in 2007 in recognition of his pivotal role in premiering repertoire by some of today's most highly regarded composers.

In great demand as a chamber musician, Collins performs regularly with the Borodin, Heath and Takács quartets, András Schiff, Martha Argerich, Stephen Hough, Mikhail Pletnev, Lars Vogt, Joshua Bell and Steven Isserlis. His ensemble, London Winds, celebrates its thirtieth anniversary in 2018 and the group maintains a busy diary with high calibre engagements such as the BBC Proms, Aldeburgh Festival, Edinburgh Festival, City of London Festival, Cheltenham International Festival and Bath Mozartfest. He has a regular relationship with the Wigmore Hall and was one of their Artists in Residence in 2015/16, which includes concerts with London Winds and Christine Rice, Ailish Tynan and with the Borodin Quartet - with whom he will also work at the Cité de la Musique in Paris. Collins is also Artistic Director of the Liberation International Music Festival in Jersey. In 2018 he will host a series at LSO St Luke's called 'Michael Collins and Friends'.

Michael Collins records exclusively for Chandos and has covered a wide range of repertoire in his prolific recording career, which also includes releases on Deutsche Grammophon, Decca, EMI and Sony. Recent releases include a disc of British Clarinet Concertos with the BBC Symphony Orchestra which features Collins as soloist and conductor, and two discs with pianist Michael McHale: the first of Brahms and Reinicke Clarinet Sonatas and the second of Reger Clarinet Sonatas. Collins's 50th Birthday was celebrated with a Chandos release of Weber Concertos conducted and performed by himself with the City of London Sinfonia. He has also recorded concertos by Corigliano, Adams, Carter, as well as Spohr, Copland and of course Mozart. In the Queen's Birthday Honours of 2015, Michael Collins was awarded an MBE for his services to music. He plays exclusively on Yamaha clarinets.

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