

*"A thoroughbred who possesses the enviable gift to turn almost anything he plays into pure gold"* Gramophone Magazine



Pianist Ashley Wass is firmly established as one of the leading performers of his generation.

Ashley's watershed moment came in 1997 when he won the London International Piano Competition (the only British winner this far), a victory that led to a recording contract with Naxos, making him the first solo artist to obtain an exclusive deal with the label. He has also been a prizewinner at the Leeds Piano Competition, and is a former BBC Radio 3 New Generation Artist.

Ashley has performed at many of the world's finest concert halls including the Wigmore Hall, Carnegie Hall and the Vienna Konzerthaus. He has performed as soloist with numerous leading ensembles, including all of the BBC orchestras, the Philharmonia, Orchestre National de Lille, Vienna Chamber Orchestra, Hong Kong Philharmonic, RLPO, and under the baton of conductors such as Simon Rattle, Osmo Vanska, Donald Runnicles, Ilan Volkov and Vassily Sinaisky.

In June 2002 he appeared in a gala concert at Buckingham Palace to mark the Golden Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II, a performance broadcast live to millions of viewers around the world. He made his BBC Proms debut in 2008 with Vaughan Williams' Piano Concerto, and returned in following seasons to perform works by Foulds, Stravinsky, Antheil, and McCabe.

Much in demand as a chamber musician, Ashley is a frequent guest of many international festivals, and he is the Artistic Director of the Lincolnshire International Chamber Music Festival. In 2012 Ashley formed the Trio Apaches, together with Matthew Trusler and Thomas Carroll, which rapidly established itself as one of the most in demand British ensembles of today. There are plans for them to premiere a major new addition to the Triple Concerto repertoire.

Ashley played an integral part in the BBC's Sound of Shakespeare celebratory event in Stratford earlier this year, and will also embark on an extensive solo recital tour with a Shakespeare programme this autumn. Other highlights include a debut at the Melbourne Recital Centre, as well as an acclaimed performance of the Foulds Dynamic Triptych with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, debut with the Slovak Philharmonic and a performance of Beethoven Triple Concerto with the BBC National Orchestra of Wales.

Ashley has also been invited to Guangzhou, China as part of the Xinghai Music Conservatory's partnership with the Royal College of Music, undertaking a series of master classes for students. In 2017 he has performed as head judge for the Gulf Young Musician of the Year competition, taking place in Bahrain.

Ashley is currently a Professor of Piano at the Royal College of Music, London, and is an Associate of the Royal Academy of Music.

# Ashley Wass

Piano

## SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY



### Wonderland

Featuring new music from composers including Roxanna Panufnik, Mark-Anthony Turnage and Stephen Hough

Orchid Classics, 2016



### Bach to the Future

A musical biography, featuring music by Berg, Barber and Busoni

Orchid Classics, 2013



### Beethoven arr. Liszt: Symphony no. 6 (Pastoral)

'It is difficult to point to an orchestral 'Pastoral' more moving than this...'

Orchid Classics, 2012



### Trio Apaches: The Seafarer

Orchid Classics, 2014

## SELECTED PRESS

"This is a wonderful release revealing Wass to be eminently **at one with the composer** and **passionately in love with the instrument.**"

"Even had these works been recorded more often, **Wass's interpretations would no doubt dwarf the competition...** Quite apart from his taste and discernment as a Liszt interpreter, Wass's new recording may be appreciated as **simply exquisite piano playing.**"

"Thursday night's BBC SSO performances of a mind-blowing programme **had me clawing for a non-existent sixth star and superlatives beyond even my most hyperbolic expression.**"

## RECITAL PROGRAMMES

### Programme 1

BEETHOVEN: Sonata in D minor, Op. 31/2 'Tempest'  
SMETANA: Macbeth and the Witches  
LISZT: Concert Paraphrase on Mendelssohn's 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'  
PROKOFIEV: 10 Pieces from Romeo and Juliet, Op. 75

### Programme 2

MOZART: Sonata for Two Pianos in D Major K. 488  
BRAHMS: Variations on a theme by Haydn for two pianos, Op. 56b  
RAVEL: La Valse, Poème Chorégraphique – Transcription pour deux pianos

### Programme 3

ROSSINI: William Tell Overture (transcribed by Trio Apaches)  
MENDELSSOHN: Trio No. 2 in C minor, Op. 66  
BEETHOVEN: Allegretto for Piano Trio WoO. 39

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RAVEL:

Piano Trio in A minor