



Fenella Humphreys

violin

"Impressive, both in the quality of the playing and the variety of music... she yields nothing to the finest recordings in her accuracy and passion. ...immaculately delivered."

BBC Music Magazine: Five Stars and Instrumental Choice CD

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Fenella Humphreys, winner of the 2018 BBC Music Magazine Instrumental Award, has won critical admiration and audience acclaim with the lyrical grace and intensity of her playing.

Described in the press as "alluring", "unforgettable" and "a wonder", Fenella is one of the UK's most established and versatile violinists. She enjoys a busy career combining chamber music and solo work, performing in prestigious venues around the world. She is frequently broadcast on the BBC, Classic FM, DeutschlandRadio Berlin, West-Deutsche-Rundfunk, ABC Classic FM (Australia) and Korean radio.

Fenella performs widely as a soloist. Her first concerto recording, of Christopher Wright's Violin Concerto with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra and Martin Yates (Dutton Epoch) was released in 2012 to great critical acclaim ("Fenella Humphreys' performance is a wonder" – International Record Review), and was selected as Orchestral CD of the Month in a 5 star review in BBC Music Magazine.

Over the past decade Fenella has captured international attention by applying spellbinding virtuosity to a strikingly broad range of compositions. Her *Bach 2 the Future* albums, the second of which won the coveted BBC Music Magazine Instrumental Award, combined newly commissioned works with two of Bach's solo sonatas and partitas and other repertoire landmarks. She has given the first performances of scores by, among others, Sir Peter Maxwell Davies, Sally Beamish, Gordon Crosse, Cheryl Frances-Hoad, Adrian Sutton and Piers Hellawell, and made the world premiere recording of Christopher Wright's elegiac Violin Concerto.

Fenella's most recent disc, *Four Seasons Recomposed* with Covent Garden Sinfonia and Ben Palmer (Rubicon), was released in June 2019. The album unites Max Richter's iconic *Recomposed: The Four Seasons* with Pēteris Vasks' *Lonely Angel* and Arvo Pärt's *Fratres* to produce a compelling meditation on the profound power of melody. The disc was launched with a performance of *Recomposed* at Proms at St Jude's, and was placed at No. 6 in the Classical Charts. It was chosen as one of BBC Radio 3's pick of new releases on Essential Classics; chosen for Apple Music's Classical A-List; was Scala Radio's Album of the Week, and was been described by Radio 3's Record Review as "...a delight. The whole thing is gently expressive, meditative, touching and very effective."

Fenella's previous disc, *So Many Stars* with acclaimed pianist Nicola Eimer, was released on Stone Records in February 2019. It was described as "hugely rewarding" by The Observer; "an absolutely exquisite album" by BBC Radio 3's Record Review, and was The Strad's Recommended Recording that month.

Fenella is a passionate chamber musician, enjoying performances with Ensemble Perpetuo, Counterpoise and I Musicanti as well as collaborations with artists including Alexander Baillie, Adrian Brendel, Pekka Kuusisto, Alec Frank-Gemmill and Martin Lovett, and is regularly invited by Steven Isserlis to take part in the prestigious Open Chamber Music at the International Musicians' Seminar, Prussia Cove. Concertmaster of the Deutsche Kammerakademie, Fenella also enjoys guest leading and directing various ensembles in Europe.

Fenella's teachers have included Sidney Griller CBE, Itzhak Rashkovsky, Ida Bieler and David Takeno at the Purcell School, Guildhall School of Music and Drama, and the Robert-Schumann-Hochschule in Düsseldorf where she was awarded the highest attainable marks both for the 'Diplom' exam and the 'Konzertexamen' soloists' diploma.

Fenella plays a beautiful violin from the circle of Peter Guarneri of Venice, kindly on loan from Jonathan Sparey.

July 2019 Please do not use this biography if it is more than three months old.