

SUMMER PIANO FESTIVAL: TOMOS BOYLES

TUESDAY 16 JUNE, 1PM
DUKE'S HALL



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The second of our Advanced Diploma recitals features the award-winning Welsh pianist **Tomos Boyles**. After gaining first prize at the 2025 Dudley International Piano Competition, Tomos' performances include Prokofiev's Piano Concerto No 3 with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. Making his recital debut at Wigmore Hall last year, Tomos was also selected as a Kirckman Concert Society artist for the 2026-27 season, which will see him play a recital at Kings Place London. This year he was awarded the Royal Academy's prestigious Bicentenary Scholarship, and his debut CD for Linn Records - featuring Beethoven's Op 111 and John Corigliano - will be released later this year. Tomos completed his undergraduate music degree at Oxford, and his Master's with Rustem Hayroudinoff. He currently studies with Professor Joanna MacGregor.

Tomos' recital opens with the late, elliptical style of Chopin – the *Barcarolle* of 1846 – and Debussy's fine-boned *Images* of 1907. The first two movements were inspired by Javanese musicians at the Paris Universal Exhibition, while the darting, elegant writing of *Poissons d'or* reflect two gold-coloured fish on a Japanese lacquer panel. Ligeti always called his etudes 'growing organisms,' and throughout the three books he draws on inspirations as diverse as Chopin and Debussy, Nancarrow's player piano, Bill Evans and Indonesian music. *Arc-en-ciel* unfolds with a sequence of jazzy chords, while *Galamb Borong* is music from an imaginary island. Finally, Prokofiev's final War Sonata – No 8 – received its premiere in Moscow on 30 December 1944, performed by Emil Gilels.

Prokofiev felt it embodied '*an expression of the greatness of the human spirit*': a metaphor for his country's history, the anguish of the war years, and the approach of victory.

Frédéric Chopin (1810-1849)
Barcarolle in F sharp, Op 60

Claude Debussy (1862-1918)
Images Book II, L111
Cloches à travers les feuilles (Bells through the leaves)
Et la lune descend sur le temple qui fut
(And the moon sets over the temple that was)
Poissons d'or (Goldfish)

György Ligeti (1923-2006)
Études Book I
Arc-en-ciel (Rainbow)
Études Book II
Galamb Borong

Sergei Prokofiev (1891-1953)
Piano Sonata No. 8 in B flat, Op 84
Andante dolce – Allegro moderato
Andante sognando
Vivace

Tomos Boyles piano

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Duke's Hall

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Piano, Multimedia, Film
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Piano Lab Premieres
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