



HOWARD SHELLEY – Programme biography c.500 words [valid 2018/19]

Since winning the premier prize at the Royal College of Music at the end of his first year, making his recital debut in 1971 and giving a televised Prom the same season with the London Symphony Orchestra, Howard Shelley has enjoyed a distinguished career, regularly touring on all continents including over 30 consecutive years to Australia.

As pianist he has performed with leading orchestras and conductors including Ashkenazy, Boulez, Boult, Davis, Jansons, Rozhdestvensky and Sanderling. In 1983 he gave a unique series of five London recitals, broadcast by the BBC, of Rachmaninov's complete solo piano music.

Since his conducting debut with the London Symphony Orchestra in 1985, Shelley has conducted all four London symphony orchestras, the BBC National Orchestra of Wales, Royal Scottish National Orchestra and the Ulster Orchestra, as well as the RTE National Symphony in Dublin. His engagements are now mostly in the dual role of conductor/soloist with particularly close relationships with a number of chamber orchestras around the world.

He is Conductor Laureate of the London Mozart Players and has toured with them in Europe and Asia. Their many recordings together have received critical acclaim. Shelley has also been Principal Conductor of Sweden's Uppsala Chamber Orchestra. In addition to other close relationships with the English Chamber Orchestra, Västerås Sinfonietta, Poland's Sinfonia Varsovia, the Sinfonieorchester St Gallen and the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra with most of whom he also records, other orchestras with whom he has worked include the Adelaide Symphony, Camerata Salzburg, Ensemble Orchestral de Paris, Filarmonica de la Ciudad de Mexico, Hong Kong Sinfonietta, Melbourne Symphony, Muencher Symphoniker, Naples Philharmonic, Netherlands Chamber Orchestra, Northern Sinfonia, Nuernberger Symphoniker, Orchestra della Svizzera Italiana, Orchestra di Padova et del Veneto, Orchestre de Picardie, Seattle Symphony, Singapore Symphony, Swedish Chamber Orchestra and Zürcher Kammerorchester.

Television highlights include the 100th anniversary of the BBC Proms, a broadcast on Swiss-Italian television of Vaughan Williams's London Symphony and a documentary on Ravel made in 1998 by the ABC which won the Gold Medal for the best arts biography of the year at the New York Festivals Awards.

Shelley's discography now exceeds well over 160 CDs in the Chandos, Hyperion and EMI catalogues and includes the complete Rachmaninov piano music and concertos, series of Mozart, Hummel, and Mendelssohn concertos, Gershwin's works for piano & orchestra and many British concertos for Chandos. World première contributions to Hyperion's Romantic Piano series include concertos by Moscheles, Herz, Hiller, Kalkbrenner and many others. Recent issues feature boxed sets of Haydn's 'London' symphonies and a 14-CD survey of Clementi for Hyperion, and Beethoven's complete works for piano and orchestra for Chandos as well as discs of Chopin's sonatas and piano concertos by Dobryznski and Lessel for the Chopin Institute in Warsaw. He is currently recording a survey of Mendelssohn solo piano music for Hyperion.

Howard Shelley is married to Hilary Macnamara and they have two sons. An Honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Music, he was awarded an OBE for services to classical music in 2009.

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