

Programme biographies - short length versions

PHILIPPE GRAFFIN violin

1. c. 350 words

Violinist Philippe Graffin has an indisputable reputation for his interpretations of the French repertoire and special affection for the works of British composers. He has commissioned or been the dedicatee of many contemporary works.

One of the few pupils of Josef Gingold, Graffin was invited to make his first recording by Yehudi Menuhin. His rich discography now includes over thirty concertos including many world premières including the concerto of Frederick Cliffe and of the Afro/English composer Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, a work he performed at the BBC Proms. His recording of the Saint-Saëns concertos was the first volume of Hyperion's 'Romantic Violin' series.

He has performed with many of Europe's finest orchestras such as The Philharmonia, BBC Symphony, Gothenburg Symphony, Royal Flemish Philharmonic, George Enescu Philharmonic, St Petersburg Philharmonic and with chamber orchestras such as the English Chamber Orchestra, the Swedish Chamber Orchestra and Camerata Nordica and Orchestra di Padova et del Veneto. He works often in Lithuania where he played under the baton of Mstislav Rostropovich in 2001. He tours regularly to South Africa and has played with the orchestras of Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban.

Philippe has performed in prestigious venues such as Amsterdam's Concertgebouw, the Palazetto Bru-Zane in Venice and for series such as France's Concerts du Poche and Rive Gauche Musique. He was the founder of the 'Consonances' chamber music festival in Saint-Nazaire and its artistic director through its twenty-five year history. He has also been artistic director of several events at London's Wigmore Hall. In 2017 and 2019 Graffin curated 'Ysaÿe's Knokke', a festival in Knokke le Zout, where the great Belgian violinist Ysaÿe had his summer residence. Following the success of his event with Gerard Depardieu in Brussels in 2017, recorded by Belgian Television RTBF, Philippe has started a new multi-venue festival in the city, 'Traces', which had its first edition in January 2019.

In demand as a teacher, Philippe Graffin, gives masterclasses around the world and is a professor at the Paris Conservatoire National Supérieur and at the Brussels Conservatoire Royal.

2. c.200 words

Philippe Graffin has gained a reputation in the French violin repertoire and has special affection for the works of British composers. He has commissioned or been the dedicatee of many contemporary works.

Invited to make his first recording by Yehudi Menuhin, Philippe's discography now includes over thirty concertos including many world premières such as that of Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, a work he performed at the BBC Proms. His recording of the Saint-Saëns concertos was the first volume of Hyperion's 'Romantic Violin' series.

He has performed with many of Europe's finest symphony orchestras and has strong relationships with many chamber orchestras. He tours regularly in South Africa, with the orchestras of Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban.

In recital he has performed at Amsterdam's Concertgebouw, the Palazetto Bru-Zane in Venice and London's Wigmore Hall among others and for series such as France's Concerts du Poche and Rive Gauche Musique. He was the founding artistic director of the 'Consonances' festival in Saint-Nazaire throughout its 25-year history. Graffin curates 'Ysaÿe's Knokke', a bi-annual festival in the town in which Ysaÿe had his summer residence. Following the success of his project in with Gerard Depardieu in Brussels in 2017, in January 2019 Graffin started a new multi-venue festival in the city, 'Traces'.

A former pupil of Josef Gingold, Philippe now gives masterclasses throughout Europe himself and is a professor at the Paris and Brussels Conservatoires.

3. c. 150 words

Philippe Graffin has a strong reputation in the French violin repertoire and works of British composers. He has commissioned or been the dedicatee of many new works.

Since his first recording, conducted by Yehudi Menuhin, Philippe has recorded over thirty concertos including many world firsts, such as the concerto of Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, a work he performed at the BBC Proms.

He has performed with many of the UK and Europe's finest symphony orchestras and has strong relationships with many chamber orchestras; he has toured frequently in South Africa.

In recital and chamber music he has performed at Amsterdam's Concertgebouw, the Palazetto Bru-Zane in Venice and London's Wigmore Hall, among others. He was founder and artistic director of the 'Consonances' festival in Saint-Nazaire and has now started two new festivals: Ysaÿe's Knokke which had its 2nd edition in Sept 2019 and 'Traces' a multi-venue festival in Brussels which has its first edition in January 2019.

Philippe is Professor at the Paris and Brussels Conservatoires.

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