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Jonathan Oshry

PIANIST



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Biography

Born in Durban, South Africa in 1975, Jonathan Oshry began his music studies aged 10 with Janet Rubin and continued thereafter at the University of Natal under Isabella Stengel, graduating in 1996 with a BMus degree Summa Cum Laude. He entered the Royal Northern College of Music in 1997 to study under Ronan O'Hora where he obtained a postgraduate diploma, a Masters' degree with distinction, and the Professional Performance Diploma. He rounded off his music education with a second Masters' degree with distinction from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

Jonathan has won numerous scholarships including two SAMRO bursaries for undergraduate study, the PJ Lemmer Music Scholarship, the Du Toit van Tonder Music Scholarship, an Associated Board Music Scholarship for postgraduate study at the RNCM, the Jim Joel Music Scholarship as well as a scholarship from the Marc Raubenheimer Trust. He was also a recipient of a major scholarship award from the Countess of Munster Musical Trust and was a Wingate Scholar in 2000.

Jonathan's numerous prizes in South African competitions include first prize in the 1995 Oude Meester Music Competition, first prize (piano and overall categories) in the 1996 ATKV Forte Competition, third prize in the 1996 Adolph Hallis Competition and second prize in the 1998 UNISA National Piano Competition. Prizes in UK and international competitions include second prize in the 2001 Karic International Piano Competition, first prize in the Yamaha Music Foundation of Europe Competition, as well as the Spencer Boney prize and the Sheriff's prize at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. He was an overseas finalist in the 2003 Royal Overseas-League Music Competition where he received the Philip Crawshaw Memorial Prize and twice a finalist in the 2001 and 2003 Dudley Piano Competitions.

Jonathan has participated in masterclasses with renowned pianists such as Bela Siki, Andrzej Jasinski, Peter Donohoe, Pascal Roge, Tamas Vasary, Howard Shelley, Imogen Cooper, Barry Douglas and Angela Hewitt. His performances in England, Germany, France, Italy, Switzerland and South Africa include venues such as Wigmore Hall and St John's Smith Square in London, the Bridgewater Hall in Manchester, the Nico Malan Theatre in Cape Town and the Conservatoire Supérieur de Paris. In addition to many performances with British concert societies over the past few years, Jonathan performs regularly as soloist with the major South African Orchestras, having worked with such conductors as Sidney Harth, En Shao, Paul Mann and David Tidboald. His recordings are broadcast frequently on South African radio and BBC Radio 3.

As a result of his interest in business and finance, Jonathan completed a Bachelor of Commerce degree through the University of South Africa in February 2000.

Critical Acclaim

“Oshry produced one of his best performances in the solo part of Beethoven’s Piano Concerto No 3 in C Minor... The playing was masculine without transgressing a sense of Classical scale, the interpretation nicely balanced between exuberance and repose; the articulation in scale and arpeggio passages was always clean.” – The Citizen

“Saint-Saëns Piano Concerto No 2 ... Without doubt, this was the best performance of this difficult concerto I have ever heard.” – Sunday Tribune

“The best performance of the evening was undoubtedly Ravel’s Gaspard de la nuit in which Oshry captured most effectively the variety of textures and wonderful atmosphere in the music, particularly in Le Gibet, as well as the demanding technical virtuosity of Scarbo.” - Natal Mercury

“Liszt Mephisto Waltz No 1 and the encore, Prokofiev’s Toccata, were solidly exuberant.” – The Star

“Oshry’s performance of the demanding Rhapsody on a Theme by Paganini was nothing short of dazzling.” – Saturday Paper

“Violin/Piano duo performance – What sets these two apart is a precocious sensitivity and musicality, an ability to interpret what lies behind the notes on the page and a maturity of understanding far beyond their years. Technical virtuosity goes without saying, of course.” – Sunday Times

and reviews from some music societies:

"Faversham Music Club supporters were treated to a breathtaking performance from young South African pianist Jonathan Oshry. He romped through Bach’s ‘English’ Suite, displaying a truly dazzling range of technique. This was followed by a deeply expressive treatment of Beethoven’s ‘Waldstein’ Sonata. These were followed by Chopin: the Ballade in F minor, and a set of Etudes. The latter were composed to test and develop a pianist’s technical skill. Mr Oshry polished them off with consummate mastery. ‘Brilliant’, ‘marvellous’, ‘tremendous’ ‘best for years’, were some of the comments from audience members after the performance. The concert was sponsored by the Countess of Munster Musical Trust." - Faversham Music Club

"*Key player with plenty of talent:* Music lovers who did not come to the Horsham Music Circle concert at the Drill Hall missed a most enjoyable concert. It was given earlier last month by Jonathan Oshrey, a 27-year-old South African pianist, who obtained post-graduate diplomas at the Royal Northern College of Music and degrees at the Guildhall School of Music. Referring to the lack of programme notes, he gave an excellent lucid explanation of the works he was playing... He followed this with Gaspard de la Nuit by Ravel, giving an imaginative and compelling performance. It consists of three sections: Ondine, where his delicate fingerwork came to the fore; Le Gibet, with lovely gradation of tone with the bell tolling; Scarbo where his technical ability in a very difficult work with its quirky rhythms and double-thirds produced a brilliant performance. After the interval, Jonathan Oshrey played the 24 Preludes of Chopin... To bring the whole set off in a public concert requires a good technique and good touch with a real understanding of Chopin's music. Here we had them all." - West Sussex County Times

Curriculum Vitae

Vital stats

Birth date : 21 March 1975
Nationality: South African
Email : joshry@hotmail.com
Tel : +44 (0) 7776 220 240

Education

1993-1996 **B. Mus** (*summa cum laude*) (University of
1995 Natal)
1996 **UPLM** (University of South Africa)
1997-2000 **LTCL** (Trinity College of Music, London)
1997-1998 **B. Compt** (University of South Africa)
1998-1999 **PGRNCM** (Royal Northern College of Music)
1999-2000 **M. Mus** (*distinction*) (RNCM)
2000-2002 **PPRNCM**
M. Mus (*distinction*) (Guildhall School of
Music & Drama)

Teachers

1985-1987 Janet Rubin
1987-1996 Isabella Stengel
1997-2003 Ronan O'Hora

Scholarships

1993-1994 SAMRO undergraduate music bursary
1994 Du Toit van Tonder Music Scholarship
1996 PJ Lemmer Overseas Music Scholarship
1997 Associated Board of Royal Schools of Music
Scholarship
Marc Raubenheimer Trust Scholarship
1998 Jim Joel Music Scholarship
1999 Countess of Munster Scholarship
Royal Northern College of Music Scholarship
2000 Wingate Scholar
2001 Guildhall School of Music & Drama
Scholarship

Prizes

1990 1st prize piano - National Youth Music Comp.
1992 4th prize - Hennie Joubert Piano Competition
1994 1st prize - University of Natal Competition
1995 1st prize - Oude Meester Music Competition
1996 3rd prize - Adolph Hallis Piano Competiton
1st prize - ATKV Forte (piano + overall)
1997 Finalist - SAMRO Overseas Competition
1998 2nd prize - UNISA National Piano Competition
1998 2nd prize - RNCM Recital Prize
1999 1st prize - Yamaha Music Foundation of Europe
2nd prize - RNCM Recital Prize
2001 2nd prize - Karic International Piano
Competition
2002 Finalist - Dudley Piano Competition
Spencer Boney Prize (GSMD)
2003 Sheriff's Prize (GSMD)
Royal Overseas League Music Competition -
Philip Crawshaw Memorial Prize
Finalist - Dudley Piano Competition

Recitals See comprehensive list under [past engagements](#).
Venues include: Wigmore Hall, St John's Smith Square, Erin Arts Centre, Darlington Arts Centre, Wits Great Hall (Johannesburg), Pump Room (Bath) and more.

Concertos See comprehensive list under [past engagements](#).
Orchestras include: Halle, Johannesburg Philharmonic, Natal Philharmonic, Cape Town Symphony, National Youth Orchestra, Surrey Philharmonic, Westminster Philharmonic and more.

Recordings 1988-1996 Regular radio recordings for the South African Broadcasting Corporation - live and prerecorded.
1994 Live radio broadcast of Rachmaninov's Rhapsody on a theme by Paganini. All subsequent concerto performances in South Africa recorded for radio.
2000 *Jonathan Oshry: Piano Recital* CD distributed in South Africa under the MTN label. Currently on the *Classic FM* play-list.
2001 Featured in a television documentary on the magazine programme *Top Billing*
Pre-concert recital for the BBC Proms - John Adams 'Road Movies' - recorded live on BBC Radio 3
2003 Finals of the Dudley Piano Competition recorded for BBC Radio 3.

Masterclasses 1993 Michael Schafer (Hochshule fur musik, Munich)
Neil Immelman (Royal College of Music)
1994 Bela Siki (Johannesburg)
1995 Leon Bates (Durban)
1996 Andrzej Jasinski (Pretoria)
1997 Irina Edelstein (Germany)
Arnoldo Cohen (Manchester)
1998 Anne Queffelec (Manchester)
1999 Pascal Roge (England)
Peter Donohoe (England)
Barry Douglas (Glories of Keyboard Festival)
2000 Howard Shelley (London)
2001 John O'Conner (London)
Angela Hewitt (London)
Imogen Cooper (London)

Repertoire (Solo Piano)

- Bach, J.S.** English Suite No 2 in A Minor
Partita No 6 in E Minor
Various preludes and fugues
- Balakirev, M.** Islamey
- Beethoven, L. van** Sonata in C Minor Opus 13 '*Pathetique*'
Sonata in A Flat Major Opus 26
Sonata in C Sharp Minor Opus 27/1
Sonata in D Major Opus 28 '*Pastoral*'
Sonata in C Major Opus 54 '*Waldstein*'
Sonata in F Minor Opus 57 '*Appassionata*'
Sonata in E Flat Major Opus 81a '*Les Adieux*'
Sonata in A Major Opus 101
Sonata in B Flat Major Opus 106
'*Hammerklavier*'
Sonata in E Major Opus 109
Sonata in A Flat Major Opus 110
- Bartok, B.** Sonata for piano
- Brahms, J.** Rhapsodies Opus 79
Sonata No 3 in F Minor Opus 3
Eight piano pieces Opus 76
- Chopin, F.** Ballades Nos 1-4
Scherzos Nos 1-4
24 Preludes Opus 28
Nocturnes Opp. 9/1, 9/2, 27/2, 55/2
12 Etudes Opus 10
Sonatas Nos 2 and 3
Impromptus Nos 1 and 4
Fantasie in F Minor
Polonaise in A Flat Major Opus 53
Waltzes - selection
- Ginastera, A.** Sonata No 1 opus 22
- Haydn, F.** Fantasie in C Major
- Hofmeyer, H.** Kalunga
- Ligeti, G.** Etude 'Arc-en-ciel'
- Liszt, F.** Transcendental etudes Nos 2, 3, 5, 6, 10
Mephisto Waltz No 1
Après Une lecture du dante
Sonata in B Minor
Hungarian Rhapsody No 6
Paraphrase on Verdi's Rigoletto

Mozart, W. A. Sonata in A Minor K310

Prokofieff, S. Sonata No 3 in A Minor
Sonata No 6 in A Major
Sonata No 7 in B Flat Major
Toccata

Rachmaninoff, S. Sonata no 2 in B Flat Minor Opus 36
Preludes Opp. 23/2, 23/4, 23/5, 32/12
Etude-tableaux Opp. 39/1, 39/2, 39/3, 39/5,
39/9
Moment-musicaux Opp. 16/3, 16/4

Ravel, M. Gaspard de la nuit
Sonatine
Le Tombeau de Couperin

Scarlatti, D. Various sonatas

Schubert, F. Sonata in C Minor D958
Impromptus D899

Scriabin, A. Sonata No 5
Etude Opus 8/12

Schumann, R. Etudes-symphonies
Sonata No 2 in G Minor Opus 22
Sonata No 1 in F Sharp Minor Opus 11
Phantasiestucke Opus 12

Stravinsky, I. Petrushka

Repertoire (Piano Concerti)

Bartok, B.	No 3 in E Major
Beethoven, L. van	No 3 in C Minor No 4 in G Major No 5 in E Flat Major
Brahms, J.	No 2 in B Flat Major
Gershwin, G.	Concerto in F
Liszt, F.	No 1 in E Flat Major
Mozart, W. A.	No 9 in E Flat Major No 12 in A Major No 16 in D Major No 20 in D Minor No 21 in C Major No 23 in A Major
Prokofieff, S.	No 3 in C Major
Rachmaninoff, S.	No 1 in F Sharp Minor No 2 in C Minor No 3 in D Minor Rhapsody on a theme by Paganini
Saint-Saens, C.	No 2 in G Minor
Tchaikovsky, P.	No 1 in B Flat Minor

Repertoire (Chamber)

(selection of sonatas)

- Adams, J.** 'Road Movies' for violin & piano
- Beethoven, L. van** Violin sonata in F Major Opus 24 'Spring'
Violin sonata in D Major Opus 12 No 1
Violin sonata in C Minor Opus 30 No 2
Cello sonata in A Major Opus 69
Trio in C minor Opus 9 No 3
- Brahms, J.** Violin sonata No 2 in A Major Opus 100
Violin sonata No 3 in D Minor Opus 108
Clarinet Trio in A Major
Horn Trio in E Flat
Piano Quintet in F Minor Opus 34
- Debussy, C.** Violin sonata
Cello sonata
- Franck, C.** Violin Sonata in A Major
- Lutoslawski, W.** Grave for cello
- Mozart, W.A.** Violin Sonata in E Minor K304
Piano Quartet in G Minor K478
- Poulenc, F.** Sextet for piano and wind instruments
- Prokofiev, S.** Violin Sonata in F Minor Opus 80
- Rachmaninoff, S.** Cello sonata in G Minor Opus 19
- Ravel, M.** Tzigane
- Shostakovich, D.** Cello sonata in D Minor Opus 40

References

The following music society directors and promoters have heard Mr Oshry perform in public on more than one occasion and are more than willing to act as referees:

John Bethell, MBE. D. Mus(Hon)

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Isle of Man Piano Subscription Series
erinartscentre@enterprise.net

[Reference](#)

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