

Clare Simmonds

Short biography

Clare performs regularly as a soloist and ensemble pianist, and enjoys presenting unconventional programmes. She holds an MPerf in Piano Accompaniment from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, where she won the Tracey Chadwell Memorial Prize for contemporary song (2016) and a 'Certificate Recital Diploma' (2015). Prior to that, she received distinction in an MMus in solo piano, studying with Douglas Finch at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance, and whilst there, received the David Gosling award (2013) and the Founders Prize for Accompanists (2014). Yorkshire-born to a musical family, she studied History at Cambridge University. After teaching English in Slovakia for a year, she became publications manager for Pearson Publishing Ltd in Cambridge for ten years, whilst studying the piano privately with Philip Mead. She now plays in The Duruflé Trio, winners of the St James (2015) and Ivan Sutton (2016) chamber music prizes; and Bay's Leap, a free improvisation trio, whose first album was released to critical acclaim in 2016. Clare also provides online marketing services to promote contemporary music.