

GWILYM SIMCOCK

Simons Center Recital Hall at College of Charleston

May 25, 26, and 27 at 5:00pm; May 25 and 28 at 7:00pm; May 29 at 6:30pm

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ARTIST



Welsh-born Gwilym Simcock is one of the most gifted pianists and imaginative composers on the British scene. Able to move effortlessly between jazz and classical music, he can at times inhabit both worlds, and has been described as stylistically reminiscent of Keith Jarrett, complete with “harmonic sophistication and subtle dovetailing of musical traditions” as well as being a pianist of exceptionally

brilliant ability. His music has been widely acclaimed as “engaging, exciting, often unexpected, melodically enthralling, complex, and wonderfully optimistic.” Simcock’s influences include jazz legends Keith Jarrett, Chick Corea, and John Taylor and classical composers Maurice Ravel, Igor Stravinsky, and Mark-Anthony Turnage.

Although principally a jazz artist, Simcock is breaking new ground between genres and often uses classical reference points in his composed work. Aside from his solo piano work, he has worked extensively throughout Europe with the top echelon of British and international jazz artists including Dave Holland, Kenny Wheeler, Lee Konitz, Bill Bruford’s Earthworks, Bob Mintzer, Bobby McFerrin, Steve Swallow, and Adam Nussbaum. His own groups range from trio to big band. His debut album *Perception* featuring his sextet with Stan Sulzmann (saxophones), John Parricelli (guitar), Phil Donkin (bass), Martin France (drums), and Ben Bryant (percussion). He was nominated for Best Album in the BBC Jazz Awards 2008. His 2009 release *Blues Vignette* featured both solo piano and work with his new trio, comprised of Yuri Goloubev (bass) and James Maddren (drums). His most recent solo album *Good Days at Schloss Elmau* on the prestigious ACT label was nominated for the Barclaycard Mercury Prize 2011.

He is also in a collaborative band named The Impossible Gentlemen with Mike Walker (guitar), Steve Swallow (bass), and Adam Nussbaum (drums), whose album of the same name was released in June 2011 has been described as “nothing short of sensational.” In 2012 his second album on ACT—*Lighthouse*, with Tim Garland (reeds) and Asaf Sirkis (drums)—was released. His latest project for ACT featuring The City of London Sinfonia will be released next year.

Winner of the Perrier Award, BBC Jazz Awards 2005, British Jazz Awards 2005, Simcock was also the first BBC Radio 3 New Generation Jazz Artist. He was voted “Jazz Musician of the Year” at the 2007 Parliamentary Jazz Awards (and nominated again in 2010), and was nominated for the 2008 BBC Jazz Awards as Best Instrumentalist. His formal education includes Trinity College of Music (London), Chetham’s School of Music (Manchester)—where he studied classical piano, horn, and composition—and the Royal Academy of Music (London) where he graduated from the jazz course with first class honors and the coveted “Principal’s Prize” for outstanding achievement. He teaches at the Royal Academy of Music.

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