

Organ Studies AT THE RNCM

The Tuition

* A distinguished tutorial staff includes **Darius Battiwalla**, **Kevin Bowyer** and **Jeffrey Makinson**. **Graham Barber**, **David Briggs**, **Margaret Phillips**, **David Sanger** and **Matthew Owens** are visiting tutors. **Ronald Frost** is Tutor in RCO paperwork and keyboard skills.

* Masterclasses are a regular feature and have been given by **Ludgar Lohmann**, **Nicholas Kynaston**, **Thomas Trotter** and **Gillian Weir**, among others.

* Organists have regular access to the RNCM's magnificent 3-manual Hradetsky organ. A new 17-stop Walker organ has recently been installed in the Organ Room, and two smaller organs are available for practice.

* Students also have regular access for classes on the Renn organ at St Philip's Church, Salford and the Cavaille-Coll organ at Parr Hall, Warrington.

* Annual trips to gain first-hand experience of other organs have included visits to Oxford, Paris (including masterclasses with **Naji Hakim** at La Trinité) and the Netherlands (including classes with **Jacques van Oortmerssen** in Amsterdam).

The Courses

The RNCM offers a full range of undergraduate studies (BMus, BA), and postgraduate courses leading to the PG Certificate, M Mus and M Phil.

The Scholarships

* Several RNCM students hold organ scholarships locally (Manchester and Chester Cathedrals, St Ann's Church, Manchester and UMIST)

* A generous award for advanced study in France is available for graduates of the RNCM through the generosity of the Pilling Trust

The Successes

* RNCM graduates currently hold scholarships and posts in cathedrals all over the country including Clifton College, Edinburgh, Gloucester, Manchester and St Asaph.

* Recent competition successes by RNCM-trained organists have included Neil Cockburn's achievement in winning the Lili Boulanger Memorial Fund 2000 Award and Jonathan Scott's as runner-up in the RCO Performer of the Year Competition.

For more details about studying at the Royal Northern College of Music, contact the Secretary for Admissions, RNCM, 124 Oxford Road M13 9RD.
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Sunday 15th July

Stephan Loges, baritone

Eugene Asti, piano

7.30pm

St Peter's Church, Oundle

A Garland of English Song I



Let us Garlands Bring **Gerald Finzi** (1901-1956)
Born of Italian and Jewish ancestry, Finzi has revealed himself to be one of the most English of composers. He spent much of his life in the countryside of Hampshire and Newbury, where the string orchestra he founded became an important vehicle for his writing. His great passion for English literature is often reflected in his music, which owes so much to Parry, Vaughan Williams and Elgar. In the first forty years of the 20th century there was a great flowering of solo settings of 16th and 17th century verse. One of the finest examples of this idiom is *Let us Garlands Bring*, which remains unsurpassed in the various musical collections of Shakespeare's writing. The graceful poetry is never obscured, but rather enhanced by Finzi's fresh and witty score.

Tit for Tat **Benjamin Britten** (1913-1976)
In the summer of 1968 Britten rewrote these five settings of poems by Walter de la Mare, which he had composed between 1928 and 1931. Dedicated to the poet's son Richard, they were performed for the first time by John Shirley-Quirk, accompanied by Britten, at Aldeburgh in the 1969 festival. Although Britten made no great claims for these pieces, they retain a significant place in the composer's catalogue, because they demonstrate not only his skill in word setting, but also his innate sense of the dramatic. The last song, which bears the name of the whole cycle, shows Britten in operatic mood, while in the song *Autumn* Britten shows another side to his creativity - as a skilled mood painter.

Songs of Travel **Ralph Vaughan Williams** (1872-1958)
The last song cycle in this evening's concert pays homage to another great English writer. Performed for the first time in 1904, *Songs of Travel* is a collection of love songs by Robert Louis Stevenson. Vaughan Williams had a strong influence on the development of English music during the first half of the 20th century. From his early years as a composer he became absorbed by English folksongs, which he collected avidly. This song cycle, written early in his career, is a major achievement for Vaughan Williams because of the many contrasts of mood he creates so skillfully, ranging from carefree joy to deep melancholy. The composer's distinctive harmonic language allows him to marry both words and music in a happy union, no more so than in the opening song *The Vagabond*, which sets the tone for the whole set.

Stephan Loges

Born in Dresden in 1972, Stephan Loges was a member of the Dresdner Kreuzchor before going on to study at the Hochschule für der Künste Berlin. In 1995 he began studies with Rudolf Piernay at the Guildhall School in London, completing the opera course in 1999. The same year he won the Wigmore Hall International Song Competition. Stephan Loges now appears regularly in the United States and Europe, both in operatic roles and performing his extensive Lieder repertoire.

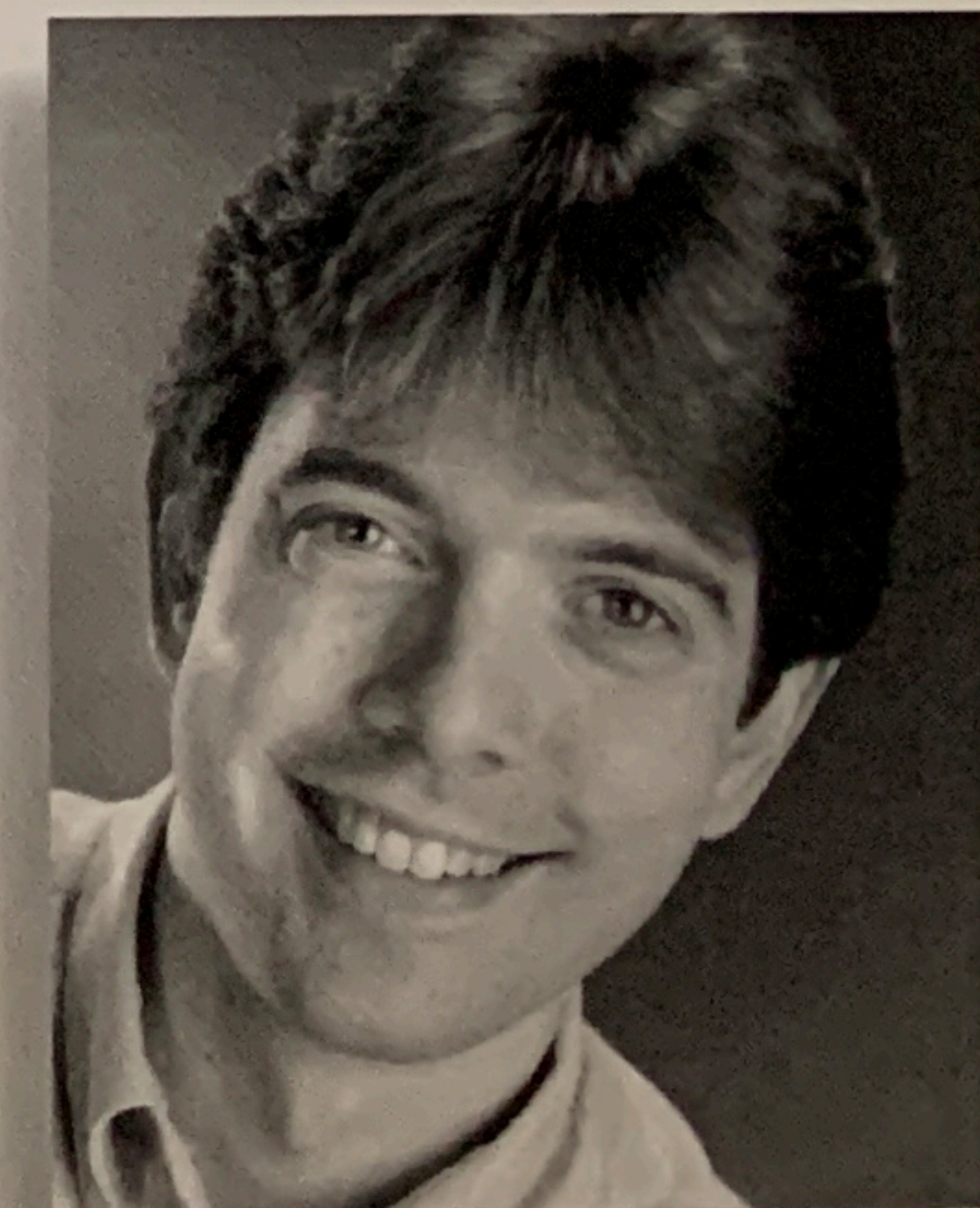
Eugene Asti

A graduate of the Mannes College of Music in New York, Eugene Asti has received numerous awards, including a Fulbright Scholarship to study piano accompaniment with Graham Johnson. Much in demand as an accompanist, he has performed with Dame Felicity Lott, Dame Margaret Price and Nancy Argenta, at venues all over Europe and in America. Eugene Asti and Stephan Loges, together with Sophie Daneman, have recently recorded a disc of songs and duets by Felix Mendelssohn, due for release next year.

*This recital
is to be
recorded by
BBC Radio 3,
for broadcast
in December.*



Stephan Loges



Eugene Asti