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► St. Peter's Square - London E 2 7AF - England

[t] +44 (0) 20 7739 4747 - [f] +44 (0) 20 7729 4718

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Royal College of Music, Prince Consort Road  
London SW7 2BS United Kingdom



SUNDAY 12TH JULY

Mendelssohn's inimitable and sparkling scherzo style of which the most famous example is his 'Overture to A Midsummer Night's Dream'. This section of the piece was almost certainly composed when Mendelssohn was still a young man but the lyrical Andante which precedes it was added later and shows the influence of Weber. Like the 'Italian Symphony', the piece progresses from major to minor.

The second half of Derek's programme introduces an American theme, starting with innovative American composer Charles Ives. 'War Scenes', by Ned Rorem, an American composer particularly renowned for his art songs, is a setting of words by Walt Whitman about the American Civil War; the composer dedicated the song 'to those who died in Vietnam, both sides, during the composition: 20-30 June 1969'. This is followed by three songs by Samuel Barber: 'Sleep Now', a setting of one of Joyce's 'Chamber Music' poems; 'The Crucifixion', one of Barber's 'Hermit Songs', with lyrics from texts written by 14th century Irish monks; and 'Solitary Hotel', to words adapted from James Joyce's 'Ulysses'. Lastly, three Negro spirituals arranged by Derek's friend and collaborator, the late Moses Hogan.

Derek Lee Ragin grew up Newark, New Jersey and studied music at the Oberlin College Conservatory of Music, going on to win the coveted Purcell-Britten Prize for Concert Singers in England, and first prize at the 35th International Music Competition in Munich. A specialist in both baroque and contemporary music, his career highlights include: Handel's 'Giulio Cesare' and the role of Oberon in Britten's 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' at the Metropolitan Opera in New York; Orfeo at the Salzburg Festival; the world premiere of Peter Eötvös' 'Angels in America' at the Châtelet in Paris; the world premiere of Jonathan Dawe's 'Prometheus' at the Guggenheim; touring throughout the United States with the baroque ensemble Rebel; the world premiere with the New York Philharmonic of Giya Kancheli's 'And Farewell Goes Out Sighing'; and Kancheli's 'Diplipito' with the Stuttgart Chamber Orchestra. He also sang in Leonard Bernstein's 'Chichester Psalms' at Tanglewood with Seiji Ozawa and the Boston Symphony, and at Salzburg in György Ligeti's re-written opera 'Le Grand Macabre', conducted by Esa-Pekka Salonen and directed by Peter Sellars.

Derek's discography includes Italian lute songs, Handel cantatas, Negro spirituals, Orfeo in Gluck's 'Orfeo ed Euridice', the title roles in Handel's 'Tamerlano' and 'Teseo', and the role of Poro in the world premiere recording of Johan Adolf Hasse's 'Cleofide'. He also lent his voice to 'Farinelli', the film about the famed 18th century castrato which won the Golden Globe Award for Best Foreign Film in 1995. In 2004 Derek moved to England where he sings regularly with the baroque music ensemble Florilegium and with fellow counter-tenor

Michael Chance presenting Classical Counter Cabaret. Future plans include Handel's 'Teseo' with English Touring Opera, and collaborating with lutenist Peter Croton on a programme of baroque and contemporary music.

Christopher Glynn is recognised as an outstanding pianist and accompanist, performing regularly with many leading singers (including Sir Thomas Allen, Susan Bullock, Lucy Crowe, Anthony Rolfe Johnson, Jonas Kaufmann, Yvonne Kenny, Andrew Kennedy, Ian Partridge, Joan Rodgers, Toby Spence, Bryn Terfel and Catherine Wyn Rogers) and instrumentalists in concerts, broadcasts and recordings throughout Europe and further afield. Chris made his debut at the Wigmore Hall in 2001 and has since performed there many times as well as in all the main UK concert halls and in major concert venues and festivals throughout Europe and the Far East. In 2001 he was artistic director of a festival at the Royal Academy of Music to celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the death of Benjamin Britten. He has also been artistic director of two series of McCann Concerts at the National Portrait Gallery in London.

Chris was born in Leicester, read music at New College, Oxford and studied piano with John Streets in France and with Malcolm Martineau and Michael Dussek at the Royal Academy of Music. His many awards include the piano accompaniment prize in the 2001 Kathleen Ferrier Competition and the 2003 Gerald Moore Award. He is an Associate of the Royal Academy of Music, a Professor at the Royal College of Music and also often works with the Samling Foundation. Current and future plans include recitals at the Wigmore Hall and for the BBC, a recording of Panufnik and Macmillan with The Sixteen and of Reger vocal music with Consortium, and concert tours in the USA, Germany and Japan.

*Refreshments available before the concert and during the interval*

The concert ends at 10pm.



Christopher Glynn