

WENDY NIEPER –Soprano

...rapt, plaintive, slightly jazz-inflected and beautifully controlled, Nieper was the show stopping highlight (Birmingham Evening Post)

Wendy is a versatile, sophisticated singer with a wide vocal range, a strong stage presence and a gifted jazz scat singer. She has appeared with many leading orchestras, including the Berlin Philharmonic and Tonhalle Orchestra, the Tokyo and American Symphony Orchestras, the London Sinfonietta and the Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra, a performance recorded for Deutsche Gramophone. Her performances have ranged from Purcell's *Dido & Aeneas* and Mozart's *Exsultate, Jubilate* to Canteloube's *Songs of the Auvergne* and Berio's *Folk Songs, Sinfonia* and *Coro*.

Wendy spent five years touring with a cappella group The Swingle Singers, with whom she recorded five albums and sang at La Scala and Châtelet. Her studio work includes work for Bryn Terfel, Paul McCartney and Michael Jackson, and film sound tracks including *Star Wars III*, *Lord of the Rings*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, and *Harry Potter*.

Wendy received a first class degree in classical singing from the Birmingham Conservatoire of Music, where she won the Gordon Clinton Prize for English Song.

CHRIS BRITTON - Flute

Chris Britton is a master of the alto flute, concert flute, piccolo and recorder. He has been broadcast on Radio 3 and is an expert Bach player. Chris graduated from Birmingham University in music and German went on to freelance as an orchestral flautist, gaining particularly valuable experience in the Academy of the BBC (its erstwhile training orchestra), while continuing his flute studies with Peter Lloyd and in masterclasses with James Galway and Susan Milan.

Chris lives in Oxford where he has built up a substantial teaching practice and performs in professional orchestras and as a soloist. He gives concerts with the guitarist Raymond Burley and with the Pavlova Wind Quintet, as well as his work with TOP.

KEITH FAIRBAIRN – Percussion

Keith Fairbairn's has performed with major London orchestras and chamber ensembles such as the London Sinfonietta and London Symphony Orchestra. From early in his career Keith became involved in studio work and was soon one of the very few 'first call' percussionists on the London session scene. In this capacity he has played on numerous TV shows, recordings and films & major tours. Some of the artists, conductors and composers he has worked with include Mike Oldfield, Vanessa Mae, Dionne Warwick, John Williams, Madonna, Tom Jones, Harrison Birtwhistle, John Dankworth, Oliver Knussen, Richard Blackford, Graeme Revell and the London Jazz Percussion Ensemble.

Keith Fairbairn plays a custom-built DeMorrow marimba, Musser vibraphone & endorses Meinl Percussion Products.

KIRSTEN JOHNSON – Piano

Kirsten Johnson is an international concert pianist with a wide-ranging repertoire from the

pre-Baroque to the present. She has released many recordings to critical acclaim. The most recent, **Amy Beach, *Piano Music: The Turn of the Century* (GMCD 7329)** is the second of a four-part series of the complete piano works of this esteemed American composer.

Kirsten's earlier albums of Albanian piano music, ***Këngë: Albanian Piano Music* (GMCD 7257)** and ***Rapsodi: Albanian Piano Music, Vol. II* (GMCD 7300)** were world premiere recordings, making this fascinating repertoire known internationally. Her other recorded output includes the complete piano works of Heinrich Schultz-Beuthen (1838-1915) and pieces by Hermann Goëtz (1840-1876): ***Heinrich Schulz-Beuthen - Piano Music* (GMCD 7277)** and ***Hermann Goëtz - Heinrich Schulz-Beuthen - Piano Music* (GMCD 7282)**.

Kirsten earned her Bachelor of Music at Evangel University, Missouri, USA; her Master of Music in piano performance from the University of North Texas; and her Doctor of Musical Arts from the University of Missouri-Kansas City, where she was the recipient of the Kemper Doctoral Fellowship. She studied in Vienna, Austria, at the Hochschule für Musik under a Rotary International Foundation Scholarship, and later in England with Alkan expert Ronald Smith.