

GWILYM SIMCOCK

“Near and Now”

New work for solo piano on ACT

Touring throughout 2019



“What binds all of this music together is Simcock’s fulsome tone, clarity of line and the way in which his seemingly effortless pianism carves out hugely satisfying harmonic journeys” *Peter Quinn, Jazzwise 4 stars*

“an expansive record showing the incredible range of Gwilym Simcock’s talent” *Jamie Cullum*

“A glorious wave of sound” *BBC Music Magazine*

“A pianist with vision and versatility” *Downbeat*

“Hugely satisfying harmonic journeys” *Jazzwise*

“It is difficult not to love this music” *Paris Move*

“Gwilym Simcock’s best album” *NDR Info*

“Great storytelling on 88 keys” *kulturnews*

Audio Links available at

<https://gwilymsimcock.com/albums/near-and-now/>

CD AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Video Links from 2018

9 minute edit of Paris concert

<https://youtu.be/-Rl3tsEVQnU>

The full version of the video from Paris is available at

<https://youtu.be/ml1nS0wNxm8>

It is also on Gwilym’s website

<https://gwilymsimcock.com/news/louisvuitton/>

Website: <https://www.gwilymsimcock.com>

Images: <https://gwilymsimcock.com/press-info/>

Gwilym Simcock
Near and Now

ACT



"Simcock's playing has an iridescent quality; dense harmony and rhythmic surety allied to classical training lends it poise and gravitas. His improvisation exhibits the crystalline, halting touch of Keith Jarrett and indicates that, for all his chops, Simcock has that attribute, not so common in jazz, to significantly rein in licks and let the mood exquisitely resonate" **Downbeat 2017**

While travelling the world as a member of US jazz guitar legend Pat Metheny's quartet, British pianist Gwilym Simcock used time away from the stage to compose pieces that have become his second solo album, *Near and Now* (ACT 2019). Each piece is dedicated to a fellow pianist -- Billy Childs, Brad Mehldau, Russell Ferrante, Egberto Gismonte and his first jazz teacher, Les Chisnall. The music has Simcock's signature sound of rich, modern harmony, driving rhythm, and melodic narrative. This concert will feature some of the music from the album together with other original pieces by Gwilym.

"Though a magnificent improviser, jazz doesn't quite cover what he does. Echoes of Ravel, Debussy, Chopin and Bach harmonise with those of Peterson, Shearing, Evans and Jarrett. The impression is of the whole of musical history having been profoundly absorbed and utilised as fuel for his spontaneous art. Add to this a thrilling rhythmic precision, structural rigour and an ability to express an essentially romantic conception with the full range of pianistic colours and timbres and the result is an extraordinary recital by a major talent." **Chris Ingham, MOJO**

"Gwilym Simcock is a stupendous improviser and remarkable musician all round ... left alone with a piano, he creates music which is neither jazz nor classical but simply itself." **Dave Gelly, The Observer**

Winner of many awards for his playing and composition **Gwilym Simcock** moves effortlessly between jazz and classical creating a sound that is very much his own. He works with orchestras, choirs, big bands, small ensembles and musicians from all areas of music including jazz, folk, pop and classical combining through-composed elements with improvisation.

Described as a pianist of 'exceptional', 'brilliant' and 'dazzling' ability, he is renowned for his solo performances, releasing a Barclaycard Mercury nominated solo album 'Good Days at Schloss Elmau' on ACT in 2011 which was lauded as "dazzlingly fresh", "world class", "stupendous" "phenomenal" "a cause for huge celebration". His music is widely acclaimed as 'engaging, exciting, often unexpected, melodically enthralling, complex yet hugely accessible', and above all 'wonderfully optimistic'.

Gwilym is often on radio and TV including The Proms on BBC2 TV, as guest presenter on 'Saturday Classics' and "Composer of the Week" on BBC Radio 3, and with the finalists at the first BBC Young Jazz Musician of the Year Awards on BBC4 TV. In 2018/19 he is Artist in Residence with the NDR Big Band.

In 2014 he released two highly acclaimed albums on ACT "Instrumation" with the City of London Sinfonia and "Reverie at Schloss Elmau" a duo with his long time collaborator bassist Yuri Goloubev. Gwilym co-leads Anglo-American Supergroup 'The Impossible Gentlemen' (with Mike Walker, Steve Rodby and Adam Nussbaum) who were nominated as Best Ensemble in the 2013 Parliamentary Jazz Awards. He is regularly on tour throughout the world with US guitar legend Pat Metheny's new quartet. He is Professor of Jazz Piano at his alma mater The Royal Academy of Music.

"No young musician outside the pop world has moved as fast into the upper reaches of his profession as Simcock". **Stuart Nicholson, Observer**

Website: www.gwilymsimcock.com

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