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FOR YOUR DIARY

The next concert in the Silver Clef 2010 Series will be on **Saturday 29th May** at 7.00 pm, when Nordoff Robbins will be honoured to host the distinguished South African concert pianist Tessa Uys.

All proceeds from the Silver Clef Concert Series go to Nordoff Robbins - the charity that specialises in transforming the lives of children and adults constrained by illness, disability, trauma or isolation, through the power of music.

Registered Charity No. 280960

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**NORDOFF
ROBBINS**
music transforming lives



Silver Clef Concert Series 2010

at the
Nordoff Robbins
London Centre

Music for Soprano, Clarinet and Piano

Katie Bird *soprano*

Lucy Downer *clarinet*

Claire Howard *piano*

Saturday 30th January
at 7.00 pm

Tickets £10

PROGRAMME



C. Debussy	<i>Première Rhapsodie</i>	clarinet/piano
C. Debussy	<i>Fantoches</i> <i>Beau Soir</i> <i>Green</i>	soprano/piano
N. Planas	<i>Spanish Rhapsody</i>	bass clarinet
M. Ravel	<i>Piece en forme de Habenera</i>	bass clarinet/ piano
E. Granados	<i>La Maja y el Ruiseñor</i> <i>From Goyescas</i>	soprano/piano

Interval of 20 minutes

A. Cooke	<i>Three Songs of Innocence</i>	soprano/clarinet/ piano
The Great British Folk Song Tradition	<i>Well-known tunes</i> <i>from the British Isles</i>	soprano/piano
F. Schubert	<i>Der Hirt auf dem Felsen</i>	soprano/clarinet/ piano

Nordoff Robbins would like to thank tonight's performers for generously offering this concert in aid of the charity.



Katie Bird *soprano*



Katie Bird studied with Patricia MacMahon at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, gaining a BMus with Honours and continuing with the Postgraduate Diploma in Opera Studies, studying with Jane Irwin. At the RSAMD she won first prize in the 2005 Norma Greig French song competition and was also a finalist in the Frank Spedding Lieder Prize. She continued her studies at the Royal Academy of Music, completing the Preparatory Opera Course. Katie has performed with the Bayreuth Festspiele Chorus, Germany and sung the roles of Countess Almaviva in *The Marriage of Figaro*, Dido in *Dido and Aeneas* and Clarice in *A World upon the Moon*. Other solo appearances include productions of Massenet's *Cendrillon*, Vaughan Williams's *Riders to the Sea* as well as understudying the role of 'Wife' in Judith Weir's *The Vanishing Bridegroom* and Almirena in Handel's *Rinaldo*. Katie has performed as a soloist with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra in Bartok's *Three Village Scenes* and in Vaughan Williams's *Flos Campi*, both broadcast on BBC Radio 3. In addition to opera performances she has also appeared as a guest soloist with many choral societies across the UK in major choral works.

Lucy Downer *clarinet / bass clarinet*

Lucy Downer began playing the clarinet at the age of nine. She studied for three years at the Birmingham Conservatoire Junior School before winning a place at the Royal Academy of Music in 2003. Lucy won several awards at the RAM including the prestigious clarinet competition, the Buffet Crampon Prize. She left in June 2008 with First Class Honours in her BMus degree and Distinction in her Postgraduate Diploma in Performance. Lucy has performed as a soloist with orchestras including the Oxford Sinfonia, the Banbury Symphony Orchestra and RAM Symphony Orchestra. She is also a keen bass clarinetist, and in 2005 was the only UK quarter-finalist in the First Henri Selmer World Bass Clarinet Competition in Holland. She is particularly interested in contemporary music, and has enjoyed collaborating with various composers on solo and ensemble works for clarinet and bass clarinet. Lucy has given several world premieres, including *Spanish Rhapsody* for solo bass clarinet by Nick Planas at St Martin-in-the-Fields in November 2009. Lucy has been generously supported by the Musicians' Benevolent Fund and the EMI Music Sound Foundation, and is currently on trial with the BBC Symphony Orchestra.



Claire Howard *piano*



Claire Howard studied at Newcastle Conservatorium, Australia, obtaining First Class Honours and the University Medal. She then continued piano accompaniment studies at the Canberra School of Music, the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama with John Thwaites, and in London with Malcolm Martineau and Iain Ledingham. At the RSAMD Claire was awarded the Broadwood Junior Piano Accompanist Fellowship in addition to winning several prizes. She has been recognised with sponsorship from several prestigious Trusts and received scholarships to participate in master classes with Teresa Berganza and Miguel Zanetti in Spain, sparking an ongoing commitment to the promotion and performance of Spanish Song. In 2009 Claire performed in Granada, Spain for the 6th International Festival of the Interpretation of Spanish Song. She has performed in Edinburgh at the International Fringe Festival and the Ruhr Klassische Musik Festival in Marl, Germany. With Lucy Downer, Claire competed in the semi-finals of the 2009 International Israeli Music Competition. Recent performances have included St-Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square (with Lucy Downer), Australia House, The Strand (with baritone Jeremy Vinogradov), and the premiere performance of the Spanish Song Cycle *Canciones Imaginarias* (with soprano Georgia Krower) – settings of Lorca texts by the composer Paul Sarcich.