

London Philharmonic Orchestra

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London Philharmonic Orchestra Extends Turnage Tenure

The London Philharmonic Orchestra has announced that Mark-Anthony Turnage will continue as the ensemble's Composer in Residence until 2010.

Turnage was named as the ensemble's resident composer in 2005, and has since received a number of commissions from the Orchestra whilst also involving himself extensively in its Education and Community Programme. In addition, Turnage's music has been recorded for the Orchestra's CD label, with a second disc of studio performances of revived works by the composer due for release in early 2008.

Widely acclaimed throughout Europe and the world as a composer of outstanding ability and a unique compositional voice, Mark-Anthony Turnage was born in 1960 and first attracted attention with the première of his opera *Greek* at the Munich Biennale Festival in 1988. Since then he has held positions with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra (under the Musical Directorship of Simon Rattle), the BBC Symphony Orchestra and English National Opera, whilst he continues to receive commissions from many of the world's leading orchestras and opera companies and continues as Mead Composer in Residence at the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Turnage's anchoring of the orchestral medium has won him widespread praise amongst audiences, commentators and musicians, whilst his particularly effective writing for voice and woodwind – and regular collaborations with the finest exponents of vocal and woodwind performance – has seen him compared with illustrious compositional predecessors including Benjamin Britten.

Turnage's original appointment as Composer in Residence with the London Philharmonic Orchestra followed a year of collaborations including the premières of song cycle *When I Woke* and trombone concerto *Yet Another Set Too* (both available on London Philharmonic Orchestra recordings). In 2006 the Orchestra premièred Turnage's *Hidden Love Song*, whilst the Orchestra's upcoming 75th anniversary season will see the London premières of *Lullaby for Hans* and the clarinet concerto *Riffs and Refrains* and a revival of *Evening Songs* – first performed by the Orchestra in 2004. A new Violin Concerto for the Orchestra and violinist Christian Tetzlaff will follow in the 2008/09 season, with further new works in the season

following that. Turnage's striking, challenging but accessible music has also been heard at family and schools concerts, and he has worked extensively in compositional workshops with both South London schoolchildren and advanced composition undergraduates at UK conservatoires and universities.

In early 2008 the Orchestra's in-house record label will release studio recordings of Turnage's striking 1997 Albeburgh-commissioned one-woman scena *Twice Through the Heart* and war poetry settings *The Torn Fields* sung by Sarah Connolly and Gerald Finley respectively, and a 2006 live concert performance of saxophone concerto *Hidden Love Song*, performed by Martin Robertson. The performances are conducted by regular London Philharmonic Orchestra guest conductor Marin Alsop.

Timothy Walker is Chief Executive and Artistic Director of the London Philharmonic Orchestra. *"Mark-Anthony Turnage's comprehensive involvement in the Orchestra's activities gives genuine weight to his title of 'in residence', and reveals the mutual respect, admiration and sense of fruitful collaboration between composer and ensemble which has pervaded the relationship thus far"*, he says. *"It gives me great pleasure to announce that he will continue as Composer in Residence until the end of the London Philharmonic Orchestra's 2009/10 season"*.

Turnage Concerts – current season

Wednesday 30 January 2008 | Royal Festival Hall, 7.30pm

Lullaby for Hans (London première)

Vladimir Jurowski conductor

Saturday 2 February 2008 | Royal Festival Hall, 7.30pm

Evening Songs

Vladimir Jurowski conductor

Wednesday 13 February 2008 | Royal Festival Hall, 7.30pm

Riffs and Refrains (London première)

Michael Collins clarinet | **Marin Alsop** conductor

Box Office: 020 7840 4242 (Monday – Friday, 10am – 5pm)

Book online: www.lpo.org.uk

Further details from Valerie Barber PR on 020 7586 8560, or at www.vbpr.co.uk.

