

## TOM POSTER

### Biography



*“And what can I say about the excellent Tom Poster? His versatility and unerring sense of what works best marks him out as a musician’s musician and everyone in the business should be beating a path to his door” – MusicWeb International, Cheltenham Festival 2011*

Tom Poster is internationally recognised as a pianist of outstanding artistry and versatility, equally in demand as soloist and chamber musician across an unusually extensive repertoire. He has been described as “a marvel, [who] can play anything in any style” (*The Herald*), “an unparalleled sound-magician” (*General-Anzeiger*), a “young lion” (*The Guardian*), and as possessing “great authority and astounding virtuosity” (*Est Républicain*). He won First Prize at the Scottish International Piano Competition 2007, the Ensemble Prize at the Honens International Piano Competition 2009, and the keyboard sections of the Royal Over-Seas League and BBC Young Musician of the Year Competitions in 2000.

In January 2012, Tom stepped in at three days’ notice to give two performances of Brahms’ Second Concerto with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra under Robin Ticciati. Since his London concerto debut at the age of 13, Tom has appeared in a wide-ranging concerto repertoire of over 30 major works ranging from Bach to Ligeti, with orchestras and conductors including the Aurora Orchestra/Nicholas Collon, BBC Philharmonic/Yan Pascal Tortelier, BBC Scottish Symphony/James Loughran, European Union Chamber Orchestra, Southbank Sinfonia/Vladimir Ashkenazy, China National Symphony/En Shao in Beijing, Atlantic Classical Orchestra/Stewart Robertson in Florida, and the State Capella Philharmonic in St Petersburg.

Tom features regularly on BBC Radio 3 as soloist and chamber musician, and appeared in both capacities at the BBC Proms in 2008, 2009 and 2011. He has given solo recitals at the Barbican Hall, the Brighton, City of London, Edinburgh, Presteigne and Spoleto Festivals, and in Canada, the Channel Islands, France, Germany and Switzerland. Tom enjoys duo partnerships with Alison Balsom, Guy Johnston and Jennifer Pike, has recently collaborated with Ian Bostridge at the Aldeburgh Festival and Steven Isserlis at the Wigmore Hall, and has performed piano quintets with the Brodsky, Elias, Endellion, Medici, Sacconi and Skampa Quartets. As pianist of the Aronowitz Ensemble (BBC New Generation Artists 2006-2008), he has appeared at the Concertgebouw Amsterdam, Laeiszhalle Hamburg, the Aldeburgh, Bath and Cheltenham Festivals, and on several occasions at the Wigmore Hall. The Ensemble’s recordings on the Sonimage label have received great critical acclaim, and Tom has also recently recorded two discs for Chandos, including Chausson’s Concerto with Jennifer Pike and the Doric Quartet. Forthcoming highlights include the recording of a solo recital CD, and concerto performances with the Halle and Royal Philharmonic Orchestras.

Alongside his busy pianistic career, Tom has presented programmes on Beethoven and Schumann for BBC Radio Scotland, given lecture-recitals at the Two Moors Festival, acted as Artistic Director of Chacombe Music Festival, and appeared as Reciter in Walton’s *Façade* at Musicfest Aberystwyth. Tom’s arrangements of Gershwin and Cole Porter songs have been recorded and performed extensively, as have his compositions, including two chamber operas written when he was twelve. Recent commissions include a one-act musical for puppets, *The Oldest Man in the World*, for his brother Tobi’s theatre company, Wattle and Daub; and a piece about unusual sea-creatures, *Turn to the Watery World!*, for Alison Balsom, which toured the UK and Germany in 2010 and receives its London premiere in 2012.

Born in 1981, Tom studied with Joan Havill at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, where he held a Postgraduate Fellowship, and at King’s College, Cambridge, where he gained a Double First in Music.