

# HUMANITAS

VISITING PROFESSORSHIPS AT THE UNIVERSITIES OF OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE

## **Humanitas Visiting Professorship in Chamber Music 2011: Professor Alfred Brendel**

Press release 1 March 2011

Alfred Brendel is to be the inaugural Humanitas Visiting Professor in Chamber Music at the University of Cambridge, from 13 to 18 May 2011. He will give a series of public lectures as well as attending an open rehearsal and concert with the Szymanowski Quartet.

Humanitas is a series of Visiting Professorships at Oxford and Cambridge intended to bring leading academics and practitioners to both universities to address major themes in the arts, social sciences and humanities. Managed and funded by the Institute of Strategic Dialogue, it is coordinated in Cambridge by CRASSH. The Humanitas Visiting Professorship in Chamber Music 2011 has been made possible by the generous support of Mr. Lawrence Saper.

Since Alfred Brendel's retirement from concert performances in 2008, he has continued to work all around the world with young musicians and given lectures, poetry readings and masterclasses in London's Wigmore Hall, Hamburg, Paris, at Zurich University, the Gesellschaft der Musikfreunde in Vienna, and with the Berlin Philharmonic, and at Berkeley and Harvard Universities.

Alfred Brendel was the first pianist to record Beethoven's complete piano works. Through his efforts, Schubert's Piano Sonatas and the Schoenberg Piano Concerto were recognised as integral to the piano repertoire. During his sixty year career, he performed regularly at the world's musical centres and festivals, and with the leading orchestras and conductors. His extensive discography made him one of the most respected artists of our time. He gave his final concert appearance with the Vienna Philharmonic in December 2008.

Brendel will give two public lectures at Cambridge: the first, 'On Character in Music', will set out to show that in musical performances the perception of character and atmosphere is no less important than that of form and structure. In the second lecture, 'Light and Shade of Interpretation', he will examine performance details such as sound, articulation, notation, rhythm and character through recordings and projections. In both, he will play musical examples on the piano.

The Humanitas Visiting Professorship in Chamber Music 2011 will conclude with an open rehearsal and concert with the Szymanowski Quartet. In the open rehearsal Brendel and the Quartet will discuss Beethoven's Quartet in A minor, op. 132, which the Quartet will perform in the concluding concert at West Road Concert Hall, University of Cambridge. The Szymanowski quartet, a group with which Brendel has developed a special partnership, started playing together in 1995. They are now quartet in residence at the Hanover University of Music and Drama.

Mary Jacobus, Director of the Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities at the University of Cambridge, comments, "We are delighted to host Alfred Brendel as the first Humanitas Visiting Professor in Chamber Music and that he will inaugurate this series."



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## Notes to Editors:

The public events in Alfred Brendel's residency in Cambridge are as follows:

### Lecture 1: On Character in Music

Friday 13 May 2011, 5pm

### Lecture 2: Light and Shade of Interpretation

Monday 16 May 2011, 5pm

### Open Rehearsal

Szymanowski Quartet and Alfred Brendel discuss Beethoven's Quartet in A minor, op. 132.

Tuesday 17 May 2011, 2-5pm

### Concert by Szymanowski Quartet

Szymanowski Quartet no. 2, op. 56

Beethoven Quartet in A minor, op. 132

Wednesday 18 May 2011, 7.30pm

Concert tickets: £20, £15, £12, students £5, from Corn Exchange Box Office (01223 357851)

All events take place in West Road Concert Hall, University of Cambridge. The lectures and open rehearsal are free; pre-registration is recommended for the rehearsal (at [www.crassh.cam.ac.uk](http://www.crassh.cam.ac.uk)) and tickets are required for the final concert.

For photographs and more information please see the contact details below.

## About Humanitas

Humanitas is a series of Visiting Professorships at Oxford and Cambridge intended to bring leading practitioners and scholars to both universities to address major themes in the arts, social sciences and humanities. Created by Lord Weidenfeld, the Programme is managed and funded by the Institute for Strategic Dialogue with the support of a series of generous benefactors, and administered in Cambridge by the Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences & Humanities.

For more information please contact:

Tom Kirk, Office of Communications, University of Cambridge, The Pitt Building, Trumpington Street, Cambridge CB2 1RP

Tel: +44 (0) 1223 332300; Email: [thomas.kirk@admin.cam.ac.uk](mailto:thomas.kirk@admin.cam.ac.uk)

Alice Keen, Institute for Strategic Dialogue, 48 Charles Street, London W1J 5EN

Tel: +44 (0) 2074 934909; Email: [akeen@strategicdialogue.org](mailto:akeen@strategicdialogue.org)



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