



General Press Release. Dated 21 May 2020

SIR SIMON RUSSELL BEALE PERFORMS AS PART OF NEW ONLINE ARTS HUB, GREENGAGE

Following two successful shows experienced live via Zoom by over 500 paying audience members from around the world, UK start-up Greengage welcomes British actor Sir Simon Russell Beale in a new filmed performance of “The Goldberg Variations: Meditations on Solitude”.

This special work brings together poetry, music and visual art in an uplifting and thought-provoking journey through J S Bach's Goldberg Variations. Among the variations are poems that illuminate unusual angles on solitude from 19 authors ranging from Wordsworth, Keats and Woolf to Rilke and Hesse. It shows that throughout history and across artforms, solitude can be beautiful, rewarding and even necessary for creation and self-discovery.

“The Goldberg Variations: Meditations on Solitude” was created, rehearsed, filmed and edited during lockdown -- and brings together artists from the UK, Netherlands and Austria.

Text read by Sir Simon Russell Beale (UK),

J.S. Bach's Goldberg Variations played by Ysaye Trio in their own arrangement of the work for string trio (Netherlands),

And photographs by Kristina Feldhammer (Austria).

The artistic director is British conductor Jonathan Berman (UK).

The digital release date for “The Goldberg Variations: Meditations on Solitude” is Sunday, 31 May 2020 at 5pm BST. This coincides with the end of the UK's tenth week in lockdown. The 83 minute film will be available on demand for 30 days.

There will be an additional pre-release livestream followed by a live online discussion event with the artists on Wednesday 27th of May 2020 at 7pm BST.

Interested parties are invited to register online for a ticket to the [pre-release event](#) or to access the high definition [video on demand](#). Greengage has chosen to make both available on a “pay what you wish” basis to reflect individual financial situations during this time.

20% of proceeds will be donated to The Royal Society of Musicians of Great Britain. The rest will be used to cover the artists' fees and production costs. All artists in Greengage performances are paid for their work.



The film has been made in high definition and specifically for audiences watching from home while concert halls remain closed. It is a high quality, communal viewing experience with a positive perspective. We recommend you find a comfortable place to sit and use the best headphones or speakers you have access to.

This work is part of a series of performances developed by Greengage, which pushes the boundaries of existing digital technology to create the magic of shared performance experiences in theatre and music while concert halls around the world remain closed and millions remain in quarantine or self-isolation.

“Before lockdown, the idea of a virtual performance space seemed niche. Now, things have changed. I hope Greengage can be a lifeline to arts organisations, many of which are facing significant financial challenges due to COVID-19, as well as arts lovers who aren’t able to see performances in traditional venues. We’ve proven that audiences will pay for online events... if the experience is valuable to them,” said Emily Ingram, Founder and CEO of Greengage.

Critics have described the Greengage experience as *“a wonderful example of how we can come together to create art, regardless of how far we actually are apart [...] giving the performing arts its voice back”* (A Younger Theatre, 4 star review for *Two Metres Apart*).

Jonathan Berman, the director, said, “Whilst art may produce many reactions, its great strength (and for me where it surpasses all else) is to be meaningful, moving and human. Our challenge and motivation for making this film was to create something which even in a society locked down, brings people the visceral experience and depth of feeling of live art.

Emily Ingram, Founder and CEO of Greengage Ventures, said, “It is a great honour to work with such exceptional talent during such an extraordinary time for the arts. Greengage is committed to using its digital expertise and knowhow in order to bring the arts to broader audiences - something that is more important now than it ever has been.”

Willem Stam, cellist in the Ysaye Trio, said “Over the past few months, ‘Meditations on Solitude’ has taken on a new meaning in our lives. Performing for empty rooms, cameras and microphones creates a more introspective environment, but it also liberates us to experiment with new ways to communicate with our audiences. Bach’s remarkable set of variations allow us to explore and ultimately share every facet of our instruments and of ourselves. We hope you will enjoy this wonderful journey as much as we continue to.”

Full details of the production are available at the Greengage website www.greengageventures.com. For more information, please contact Emily Ingram at emily@greengageventures.com.

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Jonathan Berman is a Conductor who performs with orchestras all over the world.. He is known for his unique approach to communicating complex ideas with all audiences. He goes above and beyond the traditional role of a conductor, forming the trust of audiences from traditional listeners to the next generation. He is currently in the process of recording the complete symphonies and promoting the music of Franz Schmidt. During lock down he began the website standtogethermusic.com in order to promote artists who have had cancellations.

Sir Simon Russell Beale, CBE is an English actor, author and music historian. Beale has been described by The Independent as "the greatest stage actor of his generation".

Founded in 2006 by Rada Ovcharova (violin), Emlyn Stam (viola) and Willem Stam (cello) **the Ysaÿe Trio** performs regularly at the leading festivals and concert halls throughout the Netherlands as well as abroad. "The Ysaÿe Trio performs with conviction, craftsmanship and love. Superb!" Haarlems Dagblad (Haarlem, Netherlands)

Born in 1991 in Salzburg, **Kristina Feldhammer** lives in Linz, Austria. She creates bodyworks and darkroom prints. »My art is my egoism to dissect myself into thousands of pieces. / Just to put myself back together anew - over and over again.«

Greengage Ventures Limited is a business registered in the UK. It pushes the boundaries of digital arts performances and broadens access to theatre and music. Since lockdown, Greengage has been putting on digital performance experiences to critical acclaim.

Emily Ingram is the Founder and CEO of Greengage Ventures. Before Greengage, she spent 11 years leading and advising media companies including as Head of Growth at The Economist Group, Assistant Publisher of MailOnline, Publisher of EliteDaily.com and as a consultant at The Boston Consulting Group in the London office. She currently serves on the board of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra (CBSO) and was a trustee of Aurora Orchestra from 2013 to 2019. She is a (mostly) lapsed pianist.

[Attached: press photos and production stills](#)