

Jonathan Small, principal oboist and soloist with the RLPO, enjoys a seasoned reputation as a highly individual artist, whose eloquent, inspired playing combines individuality with unceasing scholarship. His aspirations as an oboist stem from the expressive flexibility of the English tradition, as represented by artists such as Roger Lord and Michael Winfield (with whom Jonathan studied at the Royal College of Music, London), blended with the special richness, vitality and tone colour of the German school as exemplified by the late Lothar Koch of the Berlin Philharmonic. Jonathan plays on instruments made by J. Püchner of Nauheim, Germany, which he has represented in the UK since 1991.

Jonathan's excellent recording of the Strauss Concerto is available on Avie, and his world-class EMI performance of the Vaughan Williams Concerto with the late Vernon Handley remains a recommended recording. His Naxos centenary recording (2006) of William Alwyn's Oboe Concerto received the highest rating for performance from BBC Music Magazine. In 2010 Jonathan recorded an album of English oboe concertos for Dutton Epoch.

Jonathan has always been active in contemporary music, and plays regularly with Liverpool Philharmonic's Ensemble 10:10. He gave the premiere of Mark Simpson's *Nur Musik* in 2008, and in January 2009 Jonathan performed *Extase II* for oboe and ensemble by the Chinese composer Qigang Chen. September 2010 saw Jonathan give the UK premiere Rodion Shchedrin's Concerto with the RLPO and Vasily Petrenko. Jonathan's many solo appearances abroad include invitations to the Czech Republic - where he gave the Martinu Concerto at Prague Spring Festival; Germany, Sweden and Switzerland, USA, China and Australia.

Jonathan has also enjoyed a long tenure as Tutor of Oboe at the RNCM in Manchester. Jonathan also holds the appointment as Guest Professor of Oboe at Beijing Central Conservatory, China. He was one of several artists invited to lead the 2011 Beijing International Oboe Festival, working alongside Albrecht Mayer (Berlin Philharmonic) and Robert Walters (Cleveland Orchestra).

Jonathan is now also building a career as a conductor, espousing the same values he holds dear as an instrumentalist. He works with professional and amateur ensembles, and has been conductor of the Wirral Symphony Orchestra since 2008. Under Jonathan's leadership the WSO is rapidly becoming one of the leading amateur symphony orchestras in the northwest of England.