



Melanie Spanswick

MMus (RCM) GRSM (Hons) DipRCM ARCM

Melanie Spanswick is a pianist, teacher, author, writer, adjudicator, presenter and composer.

A graduate of the Royal College of Music in London, Melanie studied the piano with Patricia Carroll, Tatiana Sarkissova and John Lill. Whilst at the RCM, she won many eminent prizes including the Ziff prize for the most outstanding postgraduate pianist, Arthur Bliss Prize, Marguerite Long Chamber Music Prize, a Leverhulme Trust Award, and she graduated with a Master's degree in Performance Studies.

Melanie has performed extensively as a soloist, chamber musician, and accompanist at most of the major UK concert halls, and for numerous music societies, university concert series', and music festivals, including Windsor, Cheltenham, Brighton, Southwark, Prussia Cove.

International performances include appearances throughout Europe and in Canada, USA, Bermuda, and Russia (including a performance at Tchaikovsky's house in Klin). She gave a recital series at *The Great Romantic Festival* in Hamilton, and has performed at the *Guelph Festival*, also in Canada. Performing for the Queen Mother and Queen of Denmark are particular highlights.

Recordings comprise a solo CD for *Opera Omnia*, recorded at Wigmore Hall, as well as broadcasts on Classic FM (Platform live broadcasts), BBC Radio 2, CBC Radio, Swedish and Spanish Television.

In recent years, Melanie has established herself as a respected teacher and educational piano writer: her popular book *So You Want To Play The Piano? (Alfred: 2015)* has been revised and republished, and *The Faber Music Piano Anthology (Faber: 2016)*, compiled by Melanie, consists of a collection of 78 favourite works.

[*Play it Again: PIANO \(Schott\)*](#) is a two-book piano course with a collection of 49 graded pieces from elementary to advanced level, featuring detailed practice notes for every piece, intended for those returning to the piano after a break. Published in 2017, this course has already received much critical acclaim and international success, and a further two books (Book 3 & 4) will be published during 2018/19.

Melanie regularly writes for major international music publications including *The Stage*, *Piano Professional*, *Piano Journal*, *Music Teacher Magazine*, *International Piano Magazine*, *Clavier Companion*, *Rhinegold Publications*, *Pianoforte* (published by Faber) and she has also written for the *Daily Telegraph*. Melanie is a contributor to *Pianist* magazine, writing a 'how-to-play' article in every issue. She co-writes the *ABRSM Piano Notes* series (published by Rhinegold), and has also co-written the performance notes for the London College of Music piano examination syllabus 2018 – 2020.

A committed teacher, mentor and coach, she frequently tutors workshops in Germany, running a bilingual piano project near Düsseldorf, and has given master classes for *EPTA (European Piano Teachers Association)*, the *Overseas Masters Winter Piano Academy* held at the Yehudi Menuhin School, and is a tutor at Jackdaws Music Education Trust in Somerset. From 2018, Melanie will be a faculty member of *PIANO WEEK*, a touring International Piano Festival and Summer School, and she will also direct piano courses at Finchcocks in Kent (UK).

Melanie has examined for the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music, she adjudicates nationally and internationally for the British and International Federation of Festivals, and is an external moderator at Royal Holloway University (London).

She adjudicated and gave master classes at the 2016 Chicago Amateur Piano Competition, at the 66th and 70th Hong Kong Schools Association Music Festival, and at the 2017 Performing Arts Festival in Singapore. Melanie recently gave a series of workshops, presentations, and master classes throughout Singapore and Malaysia, also presenting at the *UCSI University Piano Pedagogy Conference* in Kuala Lumpur. During 2018, she will be directing workshops and giving master classes in Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, and presenting a piano teacher's course in Hong Kong.

As a composer, her piano compositions have been featured in various publications including *Pianist* magazine and the *International Piano Magazine*, and they have been included on British and International Federation of Festivals syllabuses. She will make her debut as a composer for Schott Music during 2018, with a group of twelve intermediate piano pieces entitled *No Words Necessary*.

Melanie has curated and presented an interview series entitled [*Classical Conversations*](#) speaking on camera to some of the world's finest pianists.

You can read Melanie's blog at www.melaniespanswick.com