



**Marina Piccinini performs UK premiere of Aaron Jay Kernis's Flute Concerto
with London Philharmonic Orchestra**

“A touching, spellbinding storyteller” (*Der Standard*)

After the rousing success of the first performance, on Saturday the 11 February Marina Piccinini joins the London Philharmonic Orchestra at the Royal Festival Hall for the UK premiere of Pulitzer-winner Aaron Jay Kernis's Flute Concerto, which was written especially for her.

The world premiere of the piece, alongside the Detroit Symphony Orchestra under Leonard Slatkin in January 2016, was acclaimed by *American Record Guide* for the quality of the writing and for showcasing the flutist's artistry: 'she played it with absolutely breathtaking virtuosity. Not only does Kernis understand fully her interpretive capabilities (she made sounds on the instrument I didn't know were possible, and certainly didn't know I would like), but she clearly relished the huge expressive range the work allowed her to explore.'

The recipient of numerous awards, Piccinini was the first flutist to win the prestigious Avery Fisher Career Grant; she is well-known for her commitment to new music and her history of first performances and commissions by some of today's foremost living composers, as well as concerts with esteemed orchestras worldwide, including Boston Symphony, Tokyo Symphony, Montreal Symphony, Rotterdam Philharmonic, Vienna Symphony, and Toronto Symphony orchestras.

Talking about the work, Piccinini commented: 'the soaring lyricism and virtuosity of this concerto is of operatic temperament and dimensions, with mercurial mood swings that shift from hushed pianissimos to exuberant over-the-top outbursts. With four movements of far reaching technical innovation, demands on the soloist (and orchestra!) and pure dramatic scope, it deserves a landmark status amongst contemporary American concerti.'

The concert will also include Philip Glass's *The Light*, Ives's *The Unanswered Question*, and John Adams's *Doctor Atomic Symphony*, in an all-contemporary, all-American programme part of the orchestra's 'Belief and Beyond Belief' series.

[Watch Piccinini and the Detroit Symphony perform Kernis's Flute Concerto on DSO Live](#)

www.marinapiccinini.com

www.lpo.org.uk/whats-on-and-tickets/4577-american-adventurers.html

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Saturday 11 February 2017

Royal Festival Hall, 7.30pm

Andrés Orozco-Estrada conductor | **Marina Piccinini** flute | **London Philharmonic Orchestra**

Philip Glass *The Light*

Aaron Jay Kernis Flute Concerto (UK premiere)

Ives *The Unanswered Question*

John Adams *Doctor Atomic Symphony*

Notes for editors

A daring artist with diverse musical interests, flutist Marina Piccinini is in demand worldwide as a soloist, chamber musician and recording artist. Internationally acclaimed for her interpretive skills, rich, expansive colours, technical command and elegant, compelling stage presence, Piccinini has been hailed by Gramophone as “the Heifetz of the flute”.

Well-known for her commitment to new music and her history of first performances and commissions by some of today’s foremost living composers, as well as performances with orchestras worldwide, Piccinini’s 2016-17 season includes engagements throughout the United States, Canada, Korea, Italy and Great Britain. Of special note is the UK premiere of Pulitzer Prize–winner Aaron Jay Kernis’ *Flute Concerto*, written for her, with the London Philharmonic Orchestra, under principal guest conductor Andrés Orozco-Estrada, and the world premiere of Kernis’s *Air* in the version for flute and orchestra with the Korean Chamber Orchestra at Korea’s Seoul Arts Center. Other engagements include a North American tour with guitarist Meng Su, performances at Korea’s Gonjian Flute Festival, at the Marlboro and Aspen Music Festivals in the US, and the Accademia Chigiana in Siena, Italy. She returns to the UK for the Ibert Concerto with the Farnborough Symphony Orchestra.

Recent performances of note include a celebrated US recital tour with pianist Andreas Haefliger, the world premieres of Kernis’s *Flute Concerto* with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, and Chautauqua Symphony, and a highly-acclaimed tour with the Vienna Symphony Orchestra, playing the Nielsen *Flute Concerto* under conductor Jukka-Pekka Saraste. Other performances include Tokyo’s Casals and Suntory Halls; the Seoul Arts Center; New York’s Weill Hall and Zankel Halls at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center’s Alice Tully Hall, and Town Hall; the Mozartsaal in Vienna’s Konzerthaus, and at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC. Amongst the esteemed orchestras with which Piccinini has appeared are the symphony orchestras of Boston, Saint Louis, Tokyo, Montréal, Toronto, the National Symphony Orchestra, the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, and the Rotterdam Philharmonic. An active chamber musician, she is Resident Artist at the Marlboro Festival and has performed with the Tokyo, Takács and Brentano string quartets, toured with pianist Mitsuko Uchida’s acclaimed *Pierrot Lunaire* project, and is a founding member of *Tre Voci*.

Piccinini’s recordings can be heard on the Avie, Claves, and ECM labels, and this season she records the Kernis *Flute Concerto* with conductor Leonard Slatkin for Naxos. Her latest CD is of her own arrangements of the Paganini *Caprices* (Avie).

Marina Piccinini received her Bachelor and Master of Music degrees from The Juilliard School, under legendary flutist Julius Baker, and also worked with flutists Aurèle Nicolet and Jeanne Baxtresser. Her popular Marina Piccinini International Masterclasses, a week-long seminar, celebrates its 10th anniversary this June.