

EMMA JOHNSON

..one of the most prolific and well-known clarinet soloists over the past quarter century

(The Clarinet, America)

Emma Johnson is one of the few clarinetists to have established a busy career as a solo performer which has taken her to major European, American and Asian venues as well as to Africa and Australasia.

She is one of the UK's biggest selling classical artists, having sold well over half a million albums worldwide. Her recording of sonatas by Brahms and Mendelssohn with John Lenehan was described as "**definitive . . . triumphant . . . a landmark disc**" in The Observer and follows on from her classical chart-topping successes: *Voyage* and *The Mozart Album* on the Universal label. Her much admired recording of the Finzi Concerto was nominated for a Gramophone Award and *Pastoral* was chosen as *CD of the Year* by BBC Music Magazine.

Most recently high chart positions were achieved by *English Fantasy*, a recording with the BBC Concert Orchestra of music written especially for Emma by Sir John Dankworth, Will Todd, Paul Reade and Patrick Hawes, as well as *Clarinet Goes to Town*, featuring the clarinet in an eclectic range of styles from Tango to Ragtime to Jazz. She arranges music of many styles for the clarinet and books of her compositions and arrangements have been published by Music Sales and Faber Music.

Emma has appeared as soloist with many of the world's leading orchestras and has also collaborated with artists such as Sir Yehudi Menuhin, Dame Cleo Laine, Julian Lloyd Webber, Lesley Garrett, the Takacs Quartet, Michelangelo Quartet, Pascal Roge and John Lill.

She is director of *Emma Johnson and Friends*, a versatile wind and string group, whose recent live recording of the Schubert Octet was described as "**a winner**" by Music Web International. She is also increasingly in demand to give talks about music and to curate concert series. Her broadcasts about Gerald Finzi and John Milton on BBC Radio 4 were both chosen as *Pick of the Week*.

An exciting collaboration with composer Jonathan Dove has seen Emma working with children in workshops and performances throughout the UK to recreate the story of *The Pied Piper*. She has also given masterclasses in many countries and was a professor at the Royal College of Music, London.

Emma Johnson's TV appearances range from a recital for Sky Arts TV to prime-time chat shows and gala concerts. She featured in the Channel 4 documentary about the late Sir John Dankworth and played the popular hit theme tune for *The Victorian Kitchen Garden* on BBC TV (winning a Novello Award). Her radio work includes *Artist of the Week* for both BBC Radio 3 and Classic FM, as well as for radio stations from Austria to Argentina and she has been interviewed on programmes such as *Woman's Hour* and *World at One* on BBC Radio 4.

Emma grew up in London and her career was launched when in 1984 at the age of 17 she won *BBC Young Musician of the Year* followed by the *Young Concert Artists Auditions* in New York. However she decided to study Music and English at Cambridge University before embarking fulltime on a musical path. A Patron of ClicSargent, the childhood cancer charity (www.clicsargent.org.uk), Emma was also the first woman to be made an Honorary Fellow of Pembroke College, Cambridge and in 2017 the college commissioned a portrait of her from BP Portrait Award winner Isabella Watling. Emma was honoured by the Queen with an M.B.E. in 1996.

Emma plays an instrument made by the English clarinet maker, Peter Eaton.

"Emma Johnson has realised what lies at the heart of music making when it is at its best: she does not just perform but uses the music to communicate something wonderful."

More details can be found at www.emmajohnson.co.uk Follow Emma on Twitter: @ClarinetEmmaJ

