

# EMMA JOHNSON

*“Britain’s favourite clarinettist”* (The Times)

Emma Johnson is one of the few clarinettists 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. Her recent recording with the BBC Concert Orchestra, *English Fantasy*, has been listened to over 600,000 times on Spotify and follows on from her Classical chart-topping albums: *Voyage* and *The Mozart Album* on the Universal label. Johnson’s CD of sonatas by Brahms and Mendelssohn with John Lenehan was described as **“definitive . . . triumphant . . . a landmark disc”** in The Observer and *Pastoral* was named a CD of the year by BBC Music Magazine.

Emma has appeared as soloist with many of the world’s leading orchestras in repertoire which includes all the major clarinet works as well as pieces written especially for her. She has also collaborated with artists such as Sir Yehudi Menuhin and Dame Cleo Laine and she directs her own group, *Emma Johnson and Friends*. Her recording of the Brahms Quintet with the Michelangelo Quartet was recently made CD of the month by Music Web International.

Emma works in a diverse range of genres; her jazz trio *Clarinet Goes to Town* has been particularly well received by concert audiences and she has also collaborated with composer Jonathan Dove on a retelling of the story of the Pied Piper for children. Her compositions and arrangements have been published by Music Sales and Faber Music and most recently her *Songs of Celebration* for choir and clarinet has been premiered in London.

Emma Johnson’s TV appearances range from a recital for Sky Arts TV, to gala events such as a recent televised Prom celebrating the *BBC Young Musicians* programme. Emma played the popular hit theme tune for *The Victorian Kitchen Garden* on BBC TV which won an Ivor Novello Award. Her radio work includes *Artist of the Week* for BBC Radio 3 and Classic FM and for radio stations worldwide as well as guest slots 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, 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](http://www.clicsargent.org.uk)), Emma was the first woman to be made an Honorary Fellow of Pembroke College, Cambridge and to have her portrait commissioned by the college. She 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.”**

For more details please visit [www.emmajohnson.co.uk](http://www.emmajohnson.co.uk) Follow Emma on Twitter: @ClarinetEmmaJ