

EMMA JOHNSON

...one of the most prolific and well-known clarinet soloists of 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. Her recent recording, *English Fantasy*, has been streamed 2 million times on Spotify and follows on from her classical chart-topping successes: *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 her recording of the Finzi Concerto was nominated for a Gramophone Award, whilst *Pastoral* was chosen as *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 for her by Sir John Dankworth, Will Todd, Patrick Hawes and Sir Michael Berkeley. She has collaborated with artists such as Sir Yehudi Menuhin and Dame Cleo Laine and she directs her own group, *Emma Johnson and Friends*, whose recent live recording of the Schubert Octet was described as **"a winner"** by Music Web International. In 2020 she was honoured to receive the Cobbett medal for distinguished services to chamber music from the Musicians' Company guild in the City of London.

Emma enjoys devising distinctive concert programmes such as *Tales of Vienna* exploring the classical and popular music of Vienna and she has also written a popular talk about humour in music, *"Comedy Classical"*. Enthusiastic response to her jazz playing inspired Emma to develop *Clarinet Goes to Town*, with John Lenehan, keyboard and Paul Clarvis, percussion, featuring the clarinet in an eclectic range of styles from Tango to Jazz. Books of Emma's diverse arrangements and compositions for clarinet have been published by Music Sales and Faber Music. Her clarinet piece, *"Georgie"* appears in the Associated Board syllabus and her *Songs of Celebration* for clarinet and choir were recently performed in London, Dublin, Tokyo and Gloucester Cathedral.

Emma Johnson's TV appearances range from a recital for Sky Arts TV to prime-time chat shows and gala concerts, including a recent televised Prom concert from the Royal Albert Hall celebrating the *BBC Young Musicians* competition. Emma featured in the Channel 4 documentary about the jazz musician, Sir John Dankworth and she played the popular theme for *The Victorian Kitchen Garden* on BBC TV (winning an Ivor Novello Award). Her radio work includes *Artist of the Week* for both BBC Radio 3 and Classic FM as well as for radio stations around the world and she has been interviewed on BBC programmes such as *Woman's Hour* and *World at One*. Her radio broadcasts about composer Gerald Finzi and poet 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 UK school children in workshops and performances recreating the story of *The Pied Piper*. She has also given masterclasses throughout the world and was a professor at the Royal College of Music, London. She is frequently invited to appear on the panels of music competitions and festivals.

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. She recently ran a half marathon to raise funds for Unicef and is a patron of ClicSargent, (www.clicsargent.org.uk), and of Ronald McDonald House Charities (<http://www.rmhc.org>). 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. 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.

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