

## Nicholas Cox Biography

Respected as one of the UK's most eminent and personable musicians, Nicholas Cox has been Senior Tutor Clarinet at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester since 2003 and Principal Clarinet of Milton Keynes City Orchestra since 1991. He has appeared as guest principal with most of Britain's orchestras including the LSO, Philharmonia, RPO, Orchestra of Covent Garden, CBSO, Hallé, BBCPO, BBCSO, BBCNOW, RSNO, SCO, the Academy of St.Martin's in the Fields and the London Sinfonietta. In a remarkably rich orchestral life he has recorded the complete Symphonies of Beethoven, Nielsen, Rachmaninov and Shostakovich and worked with such eminent conductors as Claudio Abbado, Sir Charles Mackerras, Sir Roger Norrington, Libor Pesek, Gerard Schwarz, Sir Andrew Davies and Sir Neville Marriner. His live recording of the Mozart Clarinet Concerto and Quintet (ClassCD 1502) released in May 2003 was CD of the week on Classic FM and has featured regularly on the airwaves ever since and is now considered among the finest modern recordings of the work. His recording of Richard Strauss's Duet Concertino under the baton of Gerard Schwarz is equally highly regarded.

Nicholas studied clarinet with Hans Deinzer at the Musikhochschule in Hanover on a DAAD Scholarship after graduating from St Catharine's College, Cambridge. He established his credentials as one of the UK's most distinguished wind players winning the Gold Medal at the 1984 Royal Over-Seas League Competition in London and 2nd prize at the Jeunesses Musicales International Clarinet Competition in 1987 in Belgrade and has since appeared as soloist at many festivals in the UK and in many other countries and has worked with the finest quartets such as the Brodsky, Endellion, Chillingirian, Skampa and Danel. As a soloist he has performed concertos by Mozart Weber, Spohr, Bruch, Copland, Finzi, Nielsen, Strauss and Debussy.

Several distinguished composers have dedicated works to him including the late Sir Richard Rodney Bennett, Hugh Wood, David Horne, Adam Gorb, Anthony Powers, Peter Fribbins and the Russian Andrei Eshpai. In 1999 he premiered Adam Gorb's klezmer based Clarinet Concerto under the baton of the late Vernon Handley. 2010 saw the leading Catalan composer Benet Casablancas dedicate him a new Concerto for clarinet and ensemble entitled Dove of Peace after the famous Picasso illustration. His premiere of this work can be viewed on youtube. During orchestral life in the North West, Nick also found time to found and run the contemporary music group Ensemble 10/10 and single-handedly rescued and revived Liverpool's Rodewald Chamber Music series, once one of the UK's most successful and historic series of chamber music.

Nick's considerable reputation as a player is matched by an equally distinguished teaching career. In May 2006, his former pupil of from Junior RNCM Mark Simpson, became the first musician to win both BBC Young Musician and BBC Young Composer titles. Several of his former students are now active as performers and teachers in the profession. Since devoting more time to teaching, he has built a busy career as a respected international clinician. Much in demand for teaching tours, master classes, recitals and on international juries, recent trips have taken him to the USA, Spain, Italy, China, Croatia, Poland, Switzerland, Portugal, Holland and Russia and have included residencies at California State, Northridge and at the new Italian Clarinet University in Camerino.

Always active as a researcher, he edited the final work of Mieczyslaw Weinberg and over many years made new editions of the Clarinet Sonatas by Francois Devienne, the so called 'French Mozart'. Recent publications have included editions of works by Iain Hamilton, Alan Ridout and an early work of Arnold Bax. He has recently given lectures about Brahms in the USA, Spain and Switzerland. His other recordings include Brahms/Reger Sonatas (Cala 88012) and Bliss's Quintet (Redcliffe010). His latest CD (BMS440) with pianist Ian Buckle of British clarinet music by Bax, Roger Fiske, Iain Hamilton, Richard Rodney Bennett and Hugh Wood was re-released on Naxos in 2015.