

Craig Ogden – classical guitar

Australian born guitarist Craig Ogden is one of the most exciting artists of his generation. He studied guitar from the age of seven and percussion from the age of thirteen. His music degree (with honours) from the University of Western Australia was followed by the Royal Northern College of Music Professional Performance Diploma with Distinction; the college's highest award for performance. In December 2004, Craig Ogden was honoured by the RNCM with a Fellowship in recognition of his achievements. He is the youngest instrumentalist to have received this award from the RNCM.

One of the UK's most recorded guitarists, his recordings for Virgin/EMI, Chandos, Nimbus, Hyperion, Sony and Classic FM have received wide acclaim. Craig's Classic FM albums *'The Guitarist'* and *'Summertime'* both shot straight to No.1 in the UK classical chart in summer 2010 and 2011 respectively, followed by the release of *'Christmas Time'* in November 2013. Both *'Summer Guitar'* which was released in June 2014 and Craig's latest CD *'Craig Ogden and Friends'* released in June 2015 went straight to No. 1 in the classical chart.

One of the new generation's most prominent players, Craig Ogden's performances have taken him throughout the UK, into Europe, the USA, South East Asia, South Africa and Australia in recital, on radio and on television. Craig has performed concertos with all of the main UK orchestras plus many abroad. In recent seasons he has performed with the Philharmonia Orchestra, London Philharmonic Orchestra, Hallé Orchestra, Ulster Orchestra (world premiere of new concerto by Ciaran Farrell), Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, City of London Sinfonia (UK premiere of Erik Esenvalds' *'Songs of Silence'*), the WDR Rundfunk Orchestra in Cologne and the Aalborg Symphony Orchestra in Denmark.

BBC Music Magazine dubbed Craig Ogden *"a worthy successor to Julian Bream"* and his debut solo CD for Nimbus Records of 20th Century Classics by British composers was nominated for a Grammy Award. Craig's Virgin/EMI release, *'A Quiet Thing'* with counter-tenor **David Daniels** received universal acclaim as did the duo's USA recital tour of the **Tanglewood, Ravinia** and **Mostly Mozart Festivals** (after which Craig was immediately invited back to perform as soloist in the New York Lincoln Centre's *Great Performers* Series).

Craig Ogden has released eight recordings on the Chandos label. His recording of all three solo Rodrigo guitar concertos with the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra was greeted with wide acclaim and was recently selected as *The One To Own* in Classic FM magazine against distinguished competition including John Williams and Julian Bream. Classic CD concluded this recording to be *"one of the most winning performances I have encountered"* whilst Rodrigo's daughter wrote: *"This recording has confirmed your position among the greatest guitarists"*. Craig's CD, *'Music from the Novels of Louis de Bernières'* was the London Daily Telegraph *CD of the week*, stating *"this disc is pure joy"*. Selling over 10,000 discs in three months it is Chandos Records fastest ever selling CD. Of Craig's recording of concertos by **Walton, Arnold** and **Berkeley** with **Richard Hickox** and the **Northern Sinfonia**, Gramophone Magazine wrote *"All the works in this delightful collection were inspired by Julian Bream, with Craig Ogden proving a formidable successor, matching in sensitivity and flair Bream's own vintage recordings"* while The Guardian hailed Craig Ogden as *"Brilliant and persuasive"*. Craig's more recent recordings include a CD of the solo guitar music of British composer Paul Coles on the Nimbus label, *Souvenirs* with mandolinist Alison Stephens

(Chandos Records), a recital of Spanish Songs with soprano Patricia Rozario (Somm Records) and a solo CD of the music of Northern Irish composer Greg Caffrey.

Craig Ogden made his Royal Albert Hall debut with the Philharmonia Orchestra performing Rodrigo's *Concierto de Aranjuez* in a Classic FM *Live* concert and in May 2009 filled in for an indisposed John Williams at another Classic FM *Live* concert again playing the Rodrigo concerto. He has also performed concertos with the London Symphony Orchestra, BBC Symphony, Royal Philharmonic, London Philharmonic, Philharmonia (Vladimir Ashkenazy), Accademia di Santa Cecilia in Rome, Hallé, BBC Philharmonic, City of Birmingham Symphony, Royal Scottish National, Bournemouth Symphony, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, BBC National Orchestra of Wales, Northern Sinfonia, Britten Sinfonia, Riga Kammermusika, St. Petersburg Festival Orchestra, English Chamber, English Symphony, English Sinfonia, Ulster Orchestra, London Concert Orchestra, Manchester Camerata, National Orchestra of South Africa, Lund Symphony Orchestra in Sweden, Tasmania Symphony, West Australian Symphony and Melbourne Symphony Orchestras.

Craig Ogden regularly appears as soloist and chamber musician at the major London venues including the Purcell Room, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Wigmore Hall and the Barbican. He has also performed at the majority of the main UK festivals and is the most sought after guitarist for chamber music in the UK performing with the Carducci Quartet, London Tango Quintet, Milos Milivojevic (accordion), David Juritz (violin), Mark Padmore (tenor), Claire Bradshaw (mezzo-soprano), Patricia Rozario (soprano), Paul Tanner (percussion), Gerard McChrystal (saxophone) and Judith Hall (flute). This season John Williams invited Craig to perform in concerts including London's Globe Theatre and Craig performed as part of the Michael Tippett concert series at Wigmore Hall.

Craig also frequently records for film and was featured on the British hit, ***Notting Hill***. Craig's world premiere performances include a concerto written for him by Gerard **Brophy** (Australia) (with the **BBC Philharmonic Orchestra**), *Sun Trap* (for solo guitar) by Jonathan Cole commissioned by the Britten Festival, *The Hinchinbrook Riffs* (for solo guitar and digital delay) by Nigel Westlake and an Alec Roth song cycle for the Chester Festival. He has also given UK premieres of guitar concertos by John **Corigliano** (USA), Eriks **Esenvalds** (Latvia) and Aaron Jay **Kernis** (USA). Craig Ogden premiered a new solo work by Mark Anthony Turnage at the 2008 Cheltenham Festival which was also broadcast on BBC Radio 3.

In 2008 Craig Ogden made his presenting debut on BBC Radio 3 in '*The Segovia Legacy*' co-presented by Louis de Bernières and in 2011 Ogden also presented a series of interviews with artists including John Williams for ABC Classic FM (Australia). In December 2011 Ogden also presented three short videos as part of an advertising campaign on Classic FM for Emirates Airline.

Craig Ogden is Principal Lecturer in Guitar at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester, Visiting Lecturer at London's Royal College of Music, Associate Artist of the Bridgewater Hall in Manchester and Director of the Dean & Chadlington Summer Music Festival.