



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ben Johnson appointed new Festival Director of Cambridge Summer Music

The Trustees of Cambridge Summer Music are delighted to announce the appointment of Ben Johnson, the acclaimed international tenor, as its new Festival Director. Ben will bring a unique combination of an outstanding performance career with the experience of founding and managing his own music festival. Ben will take his position immediately.

Henry Edmundson, Chair of the festival commented: "As Cambridge Summer Music moves to increase its scope and diversity, I am thrilled that Ben will be leading the CSM team. With his formidable reputation as a performer and his proven experience in other festivals, I have no doubt that he will steer Cambridge's oldest music festival to even greater heights and ambitions."

Ben Johnson enjoys a varied career as a singer, conductor, teacher and artistic director. He co-founded the Southrepps Music Festival in Norfolk and is currently a vocal professor at the Royal College of Music. His international performance career has taken in concert, recital and opera performances, collaborating with the world's finest conductors and pianists. He has made several appearances at the BBC Proms, performing at the Last Night in 2017, and has performed in most of Europe's great concert halls as well as Carnegie Hall and Boston Symphony Hall in the USA.

He has enjoyed a close relationship with English National Opera, as well as performing extensively with companies including Glyndebourne, Opera de Lyon, Bergen National Opera and Opéra National de Bordeaux, to name but a few.

On his appointment to Cambridge Summer Music Ben says: "I am thrilled to be joining Cambridge Summer Music as Festival Director. I join a passionate and enthusiastic team, and I thank them for their warm welcome. In a turbulent time for the UK Arts industry, I am particularly mindful of the value and privilege of providing world class music in the historic and beautiful city of Cambridge, something of great value to performers and audiences alike."

CONTACT AND IMAGES

For more information or press images contact Henry Edmundson, Chair of Cambridge Summer Music, on henry.edmundson@cantab.net or visit www.cambridgesummermusic.com

NOTES FOR THE EDITOR

Since 1980, Cambridge Summer Music (CSM) has brought world-class music and musicians to Cambridge for the enjoyment of everyone in the city and the wider area.

CSM's annual Summer Music Festival makes an important contribution to the cultural life of our great city, with a programme of high-quality concerts in the second half of July including performances by outstanding soloists, chamber ensembles, choirs, orchestras and bands. Each year, we entertain around 15,000 local, national and international concert-goers of all ages and backgrounds.

We also present popular annual Spring and Christmas concerts, and support talented young artists through new music commissions and performance opportunities. In the coming years, the trustees of CSM have pledged to increase their commitment to music awareness and education for children in the wider Cambridge area.

All of our concerts are presented in historic and beautiful venues, including college chapels, city churches, concert halls and the Cambridge University Botanic Garden. These venues offer opportunities for audiences to visit and experience wonderful Cambridge places and spaces, such as College chapels and precincts, to which they might otherwise have little access.