

- ▼ BBT AUDIO Ruby Hughes: *Handel's Last Prima Donna - Giulia Frasi in London*
- ▼ BBT AUDIO Alexandra Conunova: Prokofiev Violin Sonatas
- ▼ BBT AUDIO Alec Frank-Gemmill: *Before Mozart – Early Horn Concertos*
- ▼ BBT AWARDS 2018 Two awards and five fellowships announced
- ▼ BBT WEBSITE Eivind Holtmark Ringstad
- ▼ BBT CONGRATULATES  
*BBC Music Magazine Award* nominees and *Critics' Circle*

## BBT AUDIO



**RUBY HUGHES** soprano (BBT Award 2014)

### **Handel's Last Prima Donna - Giulia Frasi in London**

Chandos Records CHSA 0403 Released 2 March 2018

**Ruby Hughes** pays tribute to a fascinating but forgotten Italian singer, Giulia Frasi, who came to London in 1742 and, over her 30-year career, became the most celebrated soprano in the English oratorio style. Her sweet voice and dramatic abilities brought her to the attention of Handel and she was the inspiration for many of his greatest works written in the last decade of his life, including *Susanna*, *Solomon*, *Theodora* and *Jephtha* in which she performed all the dramatic heroine roles. With this album – recorded with the **Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment** conducted by **Laurence Cummings** – Ruby fulfils her own passion for baroque music and presents a story that has seldom been told and never before been presented through Frasi's musical repertoire. On 7 April, at the London Handel Festival, Ruby, the OAE and Cummings give a recital, *A Celebration of Giulia Frasi*.

[Listen to CD excerpts here >>](#)

[Read press release here >>](#)



**ALEXANDRA CONUNOVA** violin (BBT Fellowship 2016)

### **Prokofiev: Violin Sonatas**

Aparte AP171 Release date: 30 March 2018

Violinist **Alexandra Conunova** has chosen Prokofiev for her debut recording because of the deep understanding she feels for his music. Black and white, good and evil vied with each other in Prokofiev's own mind and soul, as well as in life's events at the time these two contrasting sonatas were written. With their shared Russian roots and close musical partnership, pianist **Michail Lifits** and Alexandra Conunova perform these two sonatas - one of deep anguish, one of simplicity and lyricism - as a synthesis of Prokofiev's style. As well as the recording, BBT also supported the making of a short film of the two musicians in conversation and in performance for the sessions.

[Listen to CD excerpts here >>](#)

[View film here >>](#)



**ALEC FRANK-GEMMILL** horn (BBT Fellowship 2014)

### **Before Mozart – Early Horn Concertos**

BIS 2315 SACD Release date: 27 April 2018

Following his critically acclaimed debut CD on BIS last year (*A Noble and Melancholy Instrument*) **Alec Frank-Gemmill** takes another interesting journey of discovery into early horn repertoire. Imagination, style and virtuosity are his companions, along with the **Swedish Chamber Orchestra** and conductor **Nicholas McGegan**. With this CD Alec broadens the perspective on the early 18th century horn when it was a serious solo instrument and a very different character from the horn that has become synonymous with WA Mozart. As well as concertos by **Förster**, **Telemann** and **Leopold Mozart** there is a neglected **Haydn** and a **Neruda** rarity of extreme virtuosity.

[Listen to CD excerpts here >>](#)

## BBT AWARDS 2018



Fifteen exceptional young musicians from all over the world join BBT's roster of Award and Fellowship winners in 2018. Awards of £30,000 are given to **Dudok Kwartet Amsterdam** and Belgian clarinetist **Annelien Van Wauwe** and Fellowships of £20,000 to UK based ensembles **Castalian String Quartet** and **Trio Isimsiz**, American violinist **Tessa Lark**, Chinese viola player **Diyang Mei** and Sicilian cellist/composer **Alessio Pianelli**.

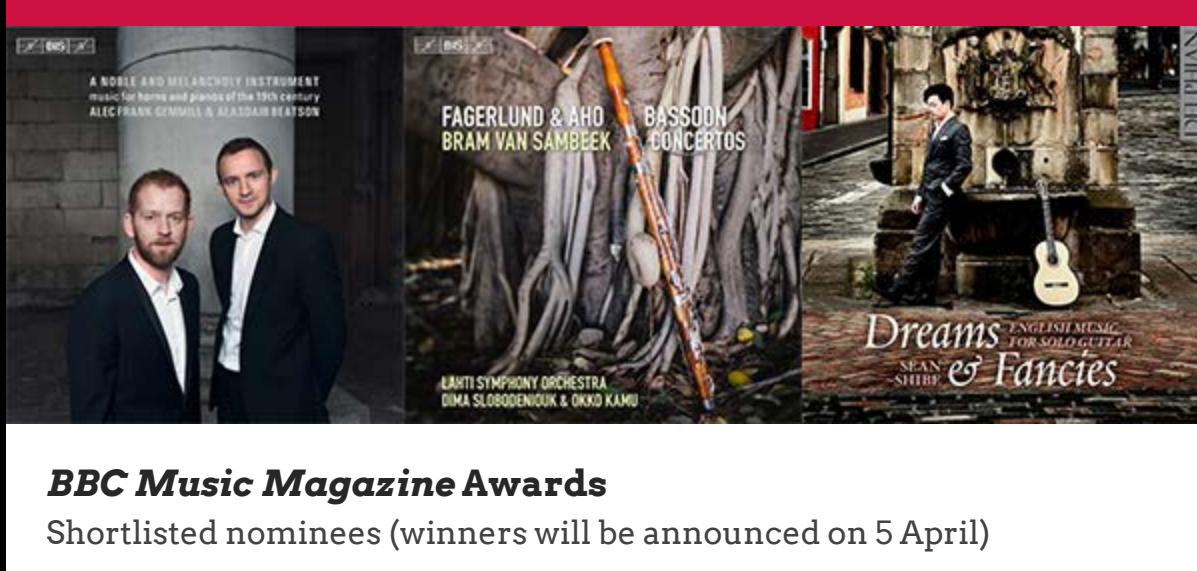
## BBT NEW ARTIST WEBSITE



As well as major creative projects and recordings, BBT also supports its musicians with the more fundamental but equally important aspects of career development, especially young Fellowship winners in the early stages of their professional lives. Norwegian viola player **Eivind Holtmark Ringstad** has used part of his 2016 Fellowship to fund new photographs and the design of a new website which is now launched.

[Link to website >>](#)

## BBT CONGRATULATES



### **BBC Music Magazine Awards**

Shortlisted nominees (winners will be announced on 5 April)

- Alec Frank-Gemmill** horn
- Bram van Sambeek** bassoon
- Sean Shibe** guitar

### **Critics' Circle Music Awards**

Emerging Talent

- Beatrice Rana** instrumental category
- Mark Simpson** composer category

BBT Audio information:  
Susan Rivers, Chief Executive  
T. +44 20 8993 0100  
E. [bbct.susanrivers@gmail.com](mailto:bbct.susanrivers@gmail.com)

Press & PR Consultant:  
Debra Boraston  
T. +44 1424 883307  
E. [debra@henrymoorestudio.co.uk](mailto:debra@henrymoorestudio.co.uk)

Communications Consultant:  
Nick Breckenfield  
T. +44 20 3069 9080  
E. [nickgreatguy@btinternet.com](mailto:nickgreatguy@btinternet.com)

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