

Pianist Libby Burgess is well-known on concert stages across Britain, playing in the country's major halls and festivals, on Radio 3, and on numerous recordings. Praised by The Observer for her 'warm, sensitive pianism', and known for her musical intelligence and generosity of collaborative spirit, she takes inspiration from the range of outstanding instrumentalists and singers with whom she works. Her exceptionally wide repertoire radiates outwards in both directions from her core love of nineteenth century Lieder and chamber repertoire; she has a passion for Bach, and regularly collaborates with living composers.

The creative highlight of Libby's year is the annual New Paths festival, in the East Riding of Yorkshire: as the founding Artistic Director she has quickly been recognised for the striking, enticing tone of her programming, reflecting her own twin interests of song and chamber music. She relishes this opportunity to gather the musicians she most values for an intense few days of concerts, pop-up performances and community events, and in this context she is normally to be found giving some dozen performances in four days, ranging from the complete Schubert song cycles or Stravinsky's *Rite of Spring*, to works by neglected historical composers, annual commissions from living composers, and performances for pre-schoolers. As a result of New Paths' early success it was also asked to take on the running of the longstanding Beverley Chamber Music Festival, which she now co-directs with Martin Roscoe.

In between these festivals, she is to be found on recital stages across the country, prestigious or obscure, partnering many of the UK's most interesting singers and instrumentalists. Libby is sought after as a vocal coach and song expert: during lockdown she set up and ran a popular series of online workshops, 'SongWorks', working with singers from conservatoires, universities and the professional sphere. She is particularly interested in the intersection of music and language, and has been asked to consult on research projects around voice use and language in song.

The seed of Libby's love for working with voices was sown as organ scholar at Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford, where she read music, graduating in 2005; she then shifted her focus to piano and completed her postgraduate studies at the Royal Academy of Music. Libby was formerly Head of Keyboard at Eton College, is on the staff at Chetham's School of Music, and is highly regarded as a speaker and writer.

She is currently undertaking a nationwide Bach marathon, 'Project 48': during the space of a year she will perform the whole of Bach's *Well-Tempered Clavier* ('The 48') in every one of England's 48 counties (too good a coincidence to miss!), raising money for musical charities.