

2011 BDRS Convention Masterclass Guest Artists

As usual the annual Convention offers a full programme of events and BDRS is again presenting one guest artist from abroad and from Great Britain.



Nora Cismondi was born in 1978 in Valence, France, and studied the oboe with Cesar Onibene. She already was winning prizes at international competitions in Brussels and Verona at the age of 11. She attended the National Conservatory of Lyon when she was fifteen then entered the Conservatoire Nationale Supérieur de Musique in Paris in 1994. There she studied with Jacques Tys, J L Capezzali, and Maurice Bourgue with whom she did post-graduate work after receiving first prizes in Oboe and Chamber Music.

During her time at the Conservatory, she was offered the opportunity to be part of the European Youth Orchestra (1994-1996) where she had her first orchestral experience under the baton of such illustrious conductors as Bernard Haitink, Vladimir Ashkenazy and Mstislav Rostropovitch.

Ms. Cismondi's talent earned her an appointment as the first oboe soloist at the National Paris Opera in 1998. She held this position until 2005 when she was appointed principal oboist in the Orchestre National de France under the directorship of world-renowned conductor Kurt Masur. She has been invited to perform as guest first oboist with famous orchestras, including the Budapest Festival Orchestra, Münchner Philharmonie, Mahler Chamber Orchestra and Bayerische Rundfunk.

Ms. Cismondi has received top prizes at prestigious international oboe competitions, including the Prague Spring Festival in 2001, the International Oboe Competition in Toulon in 2002, and the ARD (German Radio) Competition in 2003.



Meyrick Alexander has recently been appointed Head of Woodwind at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama before which he served for thirty years as Principal Bassoon of the Philharmonia Orchestra in London.

With this orchestra he played with most of the world's leading conductors and soloists and performed on six continents. He has also been a member of staff of three major music colleges (GSMD, RNCM and Birmingham Conservatoire) and continues to play with several orchestras including the London Chamber Orchestra and the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment.

Meyrick has served on the jury of many international competitions and is currently the woodwind coach of the I, Culture Youth Orchestra, which recruits from several eastern European countries. With the pianist Catherine Milledge, he can be heard on a recital CD entitled *The Wandering Bassoon*, available from Meridian Records.

They are as usual joined by a team of tutorial, workshop and session leaders.