

CONCERTTHEATRE

THE TENANT

A PERFORMANCE OF MUSIC AND THEATRE BASED ON
ANNE BRONTË'S *THE TENANT OF WILDFELL HALL*
AND MUSIC FROM MOZART, SCRIABIN & BRAHMS

*"Bravura performances from both,
Smith May and Bonger lace this
quintessentially feminist tale
with gentle sentiment, tugged
heartstrings and raging despair."*

STAGETALK MAGAZINE



PERFORMANCE INTRODUCTION

Music and performance company, Concert Theatre, bring to life Anne Brontë's groundbreaking work *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall* with a woman's valiant struggle for independence and creative freedom. Music and drama collide to offer new perspectives on Brontë's radical feminist text through three composer's works; Scriabin's 24 Preludes, Mozart's Violin Sonata No. 26 and Brahms' Rhapsody.

Concert Theatre's focus is on the development of the heroine as a professional female artist in Brontë's text, which argues that a woman should have her own will, and space to be immersed in an artistic world. In an innovative hybrid concert-theatre form, the two actors and one live pianist in *The Tenant* are presented through framing motifs, mirroring how a painting is 'captured' within a frame. Music provides another texture and dimension, expressing the text beyond words to the audience. Our production interweaves classical music and literature, to offer audiences a fresh expression and experience of both.

The Tenant was sold out on its first tour in Spring 2017, (at venues including National Portrait Gallery; Kings Weston House, Bristol; and Holburne Musuem, Bath), receiving impressive acclaim from critics, theatre and music professionals and audiences.

"A true
hybrid genre"
THE CUSP





VENUES

The Tenant can be adapted for different venues, including theatres (proscenium and thrust stage), country houses, churches and galleries. It has a scalable set, and is light on the road (2 actors, 1 pianist, production manager and director).

Size

The minimum performance space is 4.5m x 5.5m

Technical requirement

In non-theatre spaces, we will bring our own lighting and extension lines. In theatres, we can work with the lighting equipment in-house. We require a grand piano, which is ideally sourced and supplied by the venue.



*"A portrait of an artist...
evolution from traditional, meek
female into practicing artist"*

EXEUNT MAGAZINE

WORKSHOPS

Alongside our performances, we can also provide workshops featuring the experience of moving with music in a dramatic way.

Participants will be able to experience virtuosic performance by a concert pianist in front of them and learn elements of classical music – rhythm, phrasing, articulation and dynamics through their bodies. The workshop leaders will work with the participants to devise a dramatic piece with the music at the end of the workshop. Workshops can be matched to participant's level of musical experience accordingly.

Length 2-3 hours

Leaders A musician and an actor from the production.

Age 8+

Number of participants Up to 25

"The Tenant was a mesmerising performance that kept me hooked from start to finish"

CHRISTINA PARKER

(HEAD OF LEARNING, THE HOLBURNE MUSEUM)



ABOUT CONCERT THEATRE

Concert Theatre is an emerging company pioneering a new hybrid genre of classical music and performance. We have been building our practice and developing audiences and partnerships since 2012.

Our first production, *Sonata Movements* was well received: "poignant and beautiful", Martin Cullingford (*Gramophone*); "strikingly innovative", Michael White (*Telegraph*); "[it was] moving to experience these two quite different performances...illuminating the other in unexpected ways" Caryl Churchill.

In Spring 2014, we produced *Kiss of the Earth*, touring the work to 30+ venues with further critical success: "...the best physical theatre I've ever seen", Everything Theatre; "a brilliant concept...introducing people to seemingly challenging subject matters and artistic means of expressions in a bold and thoroughly engaging way" Paul Edlin (Artistic Director, Deal Festival).



Photo credit: Paul Blakemore

"This is more than a play with incidental music, or music with a dollop of drama: Concert Theatre aims to be a perfect amalgam of both art forms"

FINANCIAL TIMES

CREATIVE TEAM

Director An-Ting Chang (Wilton's Music Hall, Taiwan National Theatre)

Writer Jessica Macdonald (Twisted Theatre, Sleepdogs)

Designer Wang Jing (Sadler's Wells, Shanghai Opera House)

Costume Designer Pam Tait (*Queer as Folk*, *Top Girls*)

Pianist Diana Brekalo (Wigmore Hall, Cadogan Hall, Bridgewater Hall)

Actors Emily May Smith (Kneehigh, Bristol Old Vic), Martin Bonger (NIE, Complicite)

Producer Ruth Holdsworth (LIFT, MAYK)

CONTACT

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Trailer: [Click here to watch](#)

Full performance: Available on request

"I was intrigued by the combination of forms"

MEL SCAFFOLD
(CEO, THEATRE BRISTOL)



Performance at the National Portrait Gallery

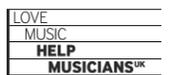
Photo credit: Tiffany Lin



Performance at the Holburne Museum, Bath

Photo credit: Ruth Holdsworth

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