

Patrick Bolton - Bassoon

Graduating with a first-class degree in music from Christ Church, Oxford, bassoonist Patrick Bolton took up a place at the Royal Academy of Music where he studied the bassoon with Robin O'Neill, Jonathan Davies, and Amy Harman, and the contrabassoon with Simon Estell. He was generously supported throughout his studies by the Countess of Munster Trust, Help Musicians UK, and the Isabel May Walton Scholarship. Patrick graduated with distinction and was awarded the prestigious Diploma of the Royal Academy of Music for outstanding performance in a final recital. Following completion of his masters, Patrick won second prize in the final of The Arts Club – Sir Karl Jenkins Music Award 2020 in association with Classic FM.

The Royal Academy of Music afforded Patrick some exciting opportunities, most notably playing *The Rite of Spring* at the BBC Proms in 2019 as principal bassoon of the Orchestra of the Royal Academy of Music and the Juilliard School under the baton of Edward Gardner. He took part in a side-by-side project with the London Sinfonietta and French group Le Balcon in the first UK performance since 1985 of Stockhausen's *Donnerstag aus Licht* at the Royal Festival Hall. Patrick also played principal bassoon with the Academy Symphony and Chamber Orchestras under Sir Mark Elder, Jac van Steen, and Trevor Pinnock.

Professionally, Patrick has worked with the Aurora Orchestra, as well as with the new professional orchestra SÓN, based in his hometown of Southampton, and the London Contemporary Music Festival. Since February 2020 he has been on trial for the position of Sub-Principal Bassoon with the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra. During the 2019-20 season he has been working with the London Philharmonic Orchestra as the Foyle Future First bassoonist, through which he has been mentored by the orchestra's players as well as sitting in on orchestral rehearsals and taking part in their education work. Patrick co-founded the chamber group Ensemble Renard, 2019 winners of the Nicholas Blake Prize, who have devoted themselves to performing lesser known repertoire by famous composers, most notably the music of Hans Abrahamsen with whom they collaborated on a performance of his Wind Quintet No. 2, "Walden", as part of Abrahamsen's inaugural residency at the Academy in November 2019.

Patrick has performed across Europe in recent years. In 2016 he was invited to play for a production of *La Bohème* with Dresden-based opera company Szene.12. The following year, he was appointed a Joan Conway Scholar for Performance at the University of Oxford through which he attended Summacademy Voksenåsen in Oslo, where he studied with bassoonists Fredrik Ekdahl, Joost Bosdijk, and Audun Halvorsen. In 2019, Patrick played principal bassoon at the Aurora Masterclasses in Sweden where he played Beethoven's Emperor Concerto with Elisabeth Leonskaja under Jukka-Pekka Saraste. He has played in masterclasses with Emily Hultmark, Nikolaj Henriques, Gustavo Nuñez, and Meyrick Alexander. As principal bassoon of the Orchestra for the Earth, Patrick has toured the alps several times and made his concerto debut online during the COVID-19 pandemic.