



19th January 2012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Multi-award winning violinist Katie Stillman and pianist Simon Lane to play Valentine's concert in aid of orangutan conservation

Multi-award winning musicians Katie Stillman (violin) and Simon Lane (piano) are to perform a concert in aid of Oxford-based charity the Sumatran Orangutan Society (SOS). **The concert is on 14th February 2012 at the Jacqueline du Pré Music Building, Oxford.**

Canadian violinist Katie Stillman is a force to be reckoned with. Having toured Mexico at just fifteen years old, she won the prestigious Grand Prize at the Canadian Music Competitions aged sixteen, before winning Radio Canada's Young Artists Performance Prize.

Katie then studied at the Royal Northern College of Music (RNCM) where she won numerous prizes including the John Manduell Prize for outstanding achievement and also met duo partner Simon Lane. The duo has since performed throughout the UK and Canada including at London's Wigmore Hall, St. George's Bristol and Bridgewater Hall.

Katie Stillman said: "We are delighted to be involved in fundraising for the Sumatran Orangutan Society which is so crucial to the future of our planet. We have designed the format of the concert for the enjoyment of both regular concert goers and people who have come simply to support this good cause. We will begin with a more traditional violin and piano recital - perfect in such a lovely hall - then continue after the interval with a more relaxed Salon-style evening. This gives us the chance to chat to the audience, sharing the stories of these virtuosic and often sentimental works which gave the composers their chance to shine."

Simon Lane said: "I am very much looking forward to playing in Oxford. I believe I did a piano competition in the Jacqueline du Pré building when I was about 15, so it will be great to go back now I am a little older! This concert deserves a full house as I know the music will appeal and the audience will also be supporting a very good cause."

The concert on 14th February will include a variety of longer and shorter pieces by composers including Massenet, Beethoven, Elgar, Gershwin and Respighi. The event follows SOS's successful Concert4Conservation in 2011, headlined by Stornoway.

Claire Baylis of SOS said: "Sumatran orangutans are critically endangered and SOS works hard to protect them, so we're incredibly lucky to have such talented musicians supporting the cause. It's set to be a relaxed but very special evening – ideal if you want a memorable Valentine's night out or simply enjoy beautifully performed classical music."

Doors open at 7.30pm and the concert begins at 8pm. Tickets will go on sale on Friday 20th January via www.wegotickets.com £15 (stalls) £20 (balcony), all proceeds to SOS.

Sumatran orangutans are critically endangered and without urgent action could be the first Great Ape species to become extinct. SOS is dedicated to turning this situation around through rainforest restoration, community-led conservation, education and campaigning (www.orangutans-sos.org).

For more information, interview requests and images please contact Claire Baylis via claire@orangutans-sos.org or call 01865 403343 or mobile 0779 197 5745.

Notes to editors:

Katie Stillman and Simon Lane: www.tashmina.co.uk/artists/katie-stillman

Katie Stillman and duo partner Simon Lane began their musical partnership whilst studying at the RNCM, and have since performed throughout the UK and Canada including at London's Wigmore Hall, St. George's Bristol and Bridgewater Hall. They have been selected for the Tillett Trust's Young Artists' Platform, the Worshipful Company of Musicians' Maisie Lewis Award and the Park Lane Group Young Artists' New Year Series at the Purcell Room. Last year Katie and Simon were asked by the ABRSM to record part of the 2012-2015 Violin Syllabus, which is distributed worldwide.

Katie was a prize-winner at the 2006 CMC International Stepping Stones Competition, and received the Royal Overseas League's Edith Phipps Memorial Prize in 2007. In addition to her recitals with Simon, her solo engagements have included a concerto performance with the London Mozart Players. Katie is also a founding member of the Barbirolli Quartet, recently selected by the European Concert Halls Organisation as the UK Concert Halls' nominated 'Rising Stars', leading to a tour of Europe's leading concert halls in thirteen cities. Other highlights include concerts at the Verbier, Aldeburgh and Aix-en-Provence festivals, Septembre Musical Montreux Festival and Kings Place, London, for the London Chamber Music Society.

The Barbirolli Quartet's first CD on the Nimbus label was released in January and includes quartets by Bliss, Britten, Delius and Purcell.

Simon leads a diverse musical life, and has performed with both instrumentalists and singers across the UK as well as Ireland, France, Italy, Germany, Austria, Denmark and North America. Recent festival appearances include the Bachfest Leipzig, Le Festival de Musique de Menton, the Lake Maggiore Festival and he has collaborated with artists such as Jack Liebeck, Philip Higham, Allan Clayton and Iestyn Davies. In 2009, Simon was recipient of the Accompanist's Prize in the Royal Overseas League Music Competition. His teachers have included Michael Dussek, Julius Drake, Mark Ray and Dina Parakhina.

Full biographies are available.

Praise for Katie Stillman and Simon Lane:

"Combined tenderness, wistful nostalgia and red-blooded passion in an interpretation of terrific distinction and compelling emotional force." ***The Daily Telegraph***

"It took only a few bars of the Beethoven C minor Sonata from pianist Simon Lane to sense that I was going to hear a real partnership with violinist Katie Stillman" ***The Strad***

"Sensitive and passionate musicianship matched by an excellent technique, the result being utterly persuasive performances" **Philip Dukes**

"The Canadian violinist Katie Stillman and the pianist Simon Lane offered alert, sensitive and mature performances" ***The Independent***

"Stillman and Lane held their nerve and revealed exemplary technique in Lutoslawski's explosive and fiendishly testing Subito" ***The Times***

Sumatran Orangutan Society: www.orangutans-sos.org

Jacqueline du Pré Music Building: www.st-hildas.ox.ac.uk/jdp