

Ben Socrates – Piano



Born in 1988, Ben Socrates is a classically trained pianist whose interests have taken him from the concert hall to the field of contemporary improvisation, jazz and electronics. Ben is the recipient of numerous prizes including the Clifford Benson and Robert Headley awards for solo performance, the University of Chichester Concerto Competition, the Elisabeth Schumann Lieder Duo Prize the Founders Prize for accompaniment.

Ben read music at The University of Chichester in 2007 before being accepted on to the Masters programme at Trinity Laban Conservatoire, with a scholarship from the TCM Trust, Ben has studied with renowned pianist/composers Douglas Finch and Adam Swayne. Alongside performances throughout the UK, in Spain, Portugal and France, Ben's interest in improvisation and collaboration led to his involvement in a number of

innovative projects. This has included work with both emerging and established composers, theatre and contemporary dance companies, installation artists and musicians from an array of disciplines. He has performed in masterclasses to acclaimed musicians including Aaron Shorr, Deidre Doyle, Terence Albright, Jonathan Plowright, Deniz Gelenbe, Christine Croshaw, Gwenneth Pryor, Martino Tirimo and Eugene Asti. Ben continues private piano studies with Nigel Clayton of the Royal College of Music.

Ben has always pursued a keen interest in classical song, performing in various recitals of German Lieder, French Art Song and Russian Romances. He is a skilled improviser, an advocate of contemporary music and jazz, and an occasional composer. He was invited to give a masterclass and recital on modern piano repertoire at the Piano Showcase Festival at Sevenoaks School, in 2012. That year he worked with Soosan Lolavar to write and premiere the prize winning 'Black Dog', for improvised piano and electronics. He also wrote Field Song, for a massive interdisciplinary art installation, which won the Ideas Tap Innovators Award and was exhibited at the BBC Radio 4 More Than Words Festival 2012.

Ben combines a busy performing schedule with a love of teaching, and is in demand as an accompanist for instrumentalists, singers, ballet classes and examinations. His work is generously supported by the Osbourne Charitable Trust, The Dartington Hall Trust, The Kathleen Trust, The South Square Trust, The Funtington Music Group and the Geoffrey Parsons Memorial Trust.