

## Martin James Bartlett

Thursday May 23<sup>rd</sup>

4.30pm – 5.30pm

Palmer's Hall, Ludlow College

<b>Couperin</b>	<i>Les Barricades Mystérieuses</i>
<b>Rameau</b>	<i>Suite in A minor (RCT 5): Gavotte et six doubles</i>
<b>Debussy</b>	<i>Arabesque No. 1 in E minor, L. 66</i>
<b>Ravel</b>	<i>Pavane pour une infante défunte, M.19</i> <i>Selections from 'Le tombeau de Couperin, M.68'</i>
<b>Granados</b>	<i>Goyescas, Op.11: El Amor y la Muerte</i>
<b>Ginastera</b>	<i>Danzas Argentinas, Op.2</i>

*Programme shown may be changed without notice*



**Martin James Bartlett** was the winner of the BBC Young Musician of the Year in 2014. This led to engagements with major national orchestras and, in 2015, he made his BBC Proms debut performing Gershwin Rhapsody in Blue with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. The following year, he performed at Her Majesty The Queen's 90th Birthday thanksgiving service. Further national and international awards have followed and, from 2020 until 2022, Martin was the RCM Benjamin Britten Piano Fellow.

Performance highlights include: a UK tour with the Sinfonia of London under the baton of John Wilson, recitals in major European venues including the Wiener Konzerthaus and the Amsterdam Concertgebouw and, In February 2022 he embarked upon his debut US tour.

An exclusive recording artist with Warner Classics, his debut recital album 'Love and Death' (2019) received outstanding reviews in The Times, The Guardian and The Sunday Times. His second album 'Rhapsody' received 5\* star reviews and was "Editor's Choice" in Gramophone magazine. His most recent album "La Danse" was released in January 2024

Martin possesses a fearless technique and plays with a maturity and elegance far beyond his years.

## Programme notes

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### **François Couperin (1668-1733)**

*Les Barricades Mystérieuses (The Mysterious Barricades)* was composed for harpsichord in 1717. The intended meaning of the title has remained an enigma.

### **Jean-Philippe Rameau (1683-1764)**

The *Suite in A minor* (RCT 5) is a rich and expressive masterpiece of Baroque music which was originally composed for the harpsichord.

The *Gavotte et six doubles* demonstrates Rameau's skill in varying a single melody in numerous ways. This piece, first published in 1727, remains a testament to Rameau's influence on the music of his time and is still celebrated today for its complexity and beauty.

### **Claude Debussy (1862-1918)**

Debussy composed these arabesques when he was still in his twenties. Although early works, they already contain hints of Debussy's distinctive musical style that would later define the impressionist movement.

### **Maurice Ravel (1875-1937)**

*Pavane pour une infante défunte* written in 1899 and often clumsily translated as "Pavane for a Dead Princess" Ravel, however, stated that he did not consider it a funeral piece at all but simply an evocation of the old pavane dance that may have been danced by a princess in a bygone age. He chose the title as he simply enjoyed the rhyming sound, in French, of 'enfante' and 'défunte'.

*Le Tombeau de Couperin*, is in six movements, each a memorial to friends lost in the first world war. Criticised for not being a sombre piece Ravel responded "The dead are sad enough, in their eternal silence."

### **Enrique Granados (1867-1916)**

*El Amor y la Muerte* (Love and Death) is a piece from "Goyescas, Op. 11" (1911), a suite, inspired by the work of the Spanish artist Francisco Goya.

### **Alberto Ginastera (1916-1983)**

*Danzas Argentinas* is a set of three dances for solo piano written in 1937 by one of the leading Latin American composers of the 20th century. The three dances are:

1. *Danza del viejo boyero* (Dance of the Old Herdsman)
2. *Danza de la moza donosa* (Dance of the Graceful Girl)
3. *Danza del gaucho matrero* (Dance of the Outlaw Cowboy)