

# Press Release

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## Adams's *Guide to Strange Places* set to travel New orchestral work in Amsterdam, London, Paris, Brussels and Sydney

### **Guide to Strange Places** (world premiere)

Concertgebouw, Amsterdam  
6 October 2001, 2.15 pm

### **The Death of Klinghoffer** (Dutch premiere - concert)

Concertgebouw, Amsterdam  
20 October 2001, 2.00 pm

...musical journeys,  
to strange places...

future performances by  
BBC Symphony and  
Sydney Symphony Orchestras

work details

**Naïve and Sentimental Music**  
(London premiere)  
Royal Albert Hall, London  
6 September 2001, 7.30 pm

John Adams's most recent work, **Guide to Strange Places**, receives its premiere at the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam on 6 October, as part of the prestigious Matinee series. The Netherlands Radio Philharmonic Orchestra, under Edo de Waart, has commissioned the new work with the BBC Symphony Orchestra and the Sydney Symphony Orchestra. Adams's music is featured by the Matinee series throughout the coming season including a concert performance of his opera **The Death of Klinghoffer** on 20 October. Edo de Waart has had a close association with the music of Adams for over 20 years including collaborations with the San Francisco Symphony to premiere **Harmonium** and **Harmonielehre** and a sequence of recordings including **Nixon in China** on Nonesuch.

The title of Adams's new score, **Guide to Strange Places**, is linked to a travel guide he read when taking a holiday in Provence: "It was one of those typically French guides – minutely detailed and bristling with information and odd facts about the area: in this location there was a strange geological formation; in another unusual climatic occurrences; somewhere else a horrific historical event had taken place or perhaps a miracle had been witnessed. A chapter was dedicated to "*paysages insolites*" – or "strange places". Each classification came with its own special identifying icon. It set my imagination off... In a sense, all of my pieces are travel pieces, often through *paysages insolites* – it's the way I experience musical form".

The UK premiere of **Guide to Strange Places** promises to be one of the highlights of the BBC Symphony's major Adams weekend at the Barbican in London (18-20 January 2002). The orchestra under the composer's baton then tours the work to Cité de la Musique in Paris (22 January) and the Palais des Beaux Arts in Brussels (23 January). The Australian premiere by the Sydney Symphony Orchestra under Edo de Waart is scheduled for October 2002, and the Netherlands Radio Philharmonic will present the US premiere with Edo de Waart at Carnegie Hall in New York in May 2003.

**Guide to Strange Places** (2001)  
for orchestra  
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Duration: 22 minutes

### London premiere of *Naïve and Sentimental Music* at BBC Proms

John Adams's **Naïve and Sentimental Music** is the centrepiece of his concert at the BBC Proms on 6 September, marking his conducting debut with the BBC Symphony Orchestra. The programme also includes his orchestrations of Debussy songs, **Le livre de Baudelaire**, with Felicity Lott as soloist. The Prom is preceded by a 6 pm Composer Portrait concert at

continued...

BOOSEY & HAWKES

...reconciling two  
creative opposites...

the Victoria and Albert Museum featuring the violin and piano work **Road Movies** and movements from **John's Book of Alleged Dances** for string quartet.

**Naïve and Sentimental Music** was premiered in 1999 by the Los Angeles Philharmonic under Esa-Pekka Salonen, to whom it is dedicated. The work has received an impressive 35 performances in the past two years. Cast in three movements and symphonic in proportion, the score sets out to explore two opposed approaches to creativity. For Schiller the naïve poet was intuitive, at one with nature, whereas the sentimental poet consciously inserted himself in society and in history. Adams's output has often leapt from one camp to the other and he achieves a grand synthesis in this thrilling orchestral work

### **First recording of Adams's *El Niño* released by Nonesuch**

**El Niño**  
(premiere recording)  
Nonesuch 79634 (2CDs)

The latest Adams recording under the composer's contract with Nonesuch is his recent Nativity oratorio **El Niño**, premiered in December 2000 with a special staging by Peter Sellars. The new 2CD set (79634), scheduled for September release to co-incide with Adams's appearance at the BBC Proms, features the original cast of Lorraine Hunt-Lieberson, Dawn Upshaw, and Willard White and the Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester conducted by Kent Nagano. **El Niño** has been performed in Paris, San Francisco and Berlin. Future performances of the work are scheduled in Adelaide (March 2002), Los Angeles, New York and Tokyo (March 2003), and London (June 2003).

For further information about the music of John Adams please visit our website at **[www.boosey.com/publishing](http://www.boosey.com/publishing)** or contact David Allenby (Publicist) on telephone +44 (0)20-7291 7210 or email [david.allenby@boosey.com](mailto:david.allenby@boosey.com).