

Press Release

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Caroline Newton appointed Executive Producer of Birmingham Contemporary Music Group

Caroline Newton is to be the new Executive Producer of **Birmingham Contemporary Music Group**.

Currently Associate Artist Manager at Harrison Parrott, where she represents musicians including BCMG Artist-in-Association Oliver Knussen, pianist Pierre-Laurent Aimard and composer/conductor Peter Eötvös, Caroline will join BCMG in August and work alongside incoming Artistic Director **Stephan Meier**.

As BCMG Executive Producer, Caroline will have overall responsibility for the production and delivery of the artistic programme and the management of the company, reporting to Stephan Meier, who will lead the artistic and strategic direction of BCMG, including programming and the commissioning of new work.

Caroline Newton comments:

"I am delighted to be joining Birmingham Contemporary Music Group and to continue the wonderful work undertaken by Jackie Newbould during her extraordinarily successful time at BCMG. Birmingham Contemporary Music Group is a jewel of an organisation; it produces vital new art, working at the highest level, collaborating with the best musicians, and with the composer front and central in its mission. It is idealistic, unpretentious, challenging and thrilling and I am very much looking forward to working with this 'ensemble of possibilities'."

Commenting on Caroline's appointment, BCMG Chair, **Christoph Trestler** says:

"The arrival of Stephan and Caroline to BCMG this summer opens a lively new chapter in the artistic life of the ensemble. Caroline's experience of working alongside some of our finest composers and musicians, and delight in new musical adventures make her a great choice to join Stephan in leading the talented BCMG team."

www.bcmg.org.uk

Further press information from:

Sophie Cohen on 020 7428 9850 07711 551 787 sophiecohen@blueyonder.co.uk

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

About Caroline Newton

Caroline Newton comes to BCMG from the agency Harrison Parrott, where she was an Associate Artist Manager with a portfolio that included BCMG Artist-in-Association Oliver Knussen, as well as Pierre-Laurent Aimard and Peter Eötvös. Prior to that, she was Contemporary Classical Music Event Manager at Southbank Centre in London, where she was responsible for events and festivals including celebrations of the music of Lachenmann and Stockhausen (*Klang*). Before this, she spent seven years with Aldeburgh Music, starting as Administrator at the Britten-Pears Young Artist Programme and then as Artistic Administrator, where she was responsible for the year-round performance programme, including Aldeburgh Festival and Snape Proms.

About Stephan Meier

Percussionist, conductor, composer, and artistic director of Das Neue Ensemble Hannover, the Musik 21 Niedersachsen network project and several International competitions for composers, Stephan Meier studied percussion and piano in Hannover and The Hague, attended courses with Pierre Boulez, Mauricio Kagel and Luigi Nono, and in conducting with Diego Masson and Peter Eötvös under scholarships from the Centre Acanthes and der Foyle Foundation / Cath Collins, Dartington. As soloist and with his ensembles Stephan Meier has performed on WDR, NDR, br, ORF, at ZKM Karlsruhe and Het Slagwerkfestival, and with the Concertgebouw Amsterdam, Kölner Philharmonie, musica viva München, Philharmonie Ljubljana and Nischni- Novgorod. As an expert in the popularisation and promotion of New Music, Meier has been invited to speak at conferences of the Deutscher Musikrat and by the President of Germany. He is chair of Musik 21 NGNM e.V., which stages the Musik 21 Niedersachsen festival within the national network for New Music.

About Birmingham Contemporary Music Group

Emerging from within the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra in 1987, Birmingham Contemporary Music Group quickly established a reputation for exciting performances, innovative audience building and learning initiatives, and a central commitment to composers and the presentation of new work. The Group thrives on innovation and invention and is critically acclaimed for championing the most forward-looking music regionally, nationally and internationally. Recent highlights have included David Lang's epic *Crowd Out* for 1000 shouting, whispering, chanting voices and two acclaimed concerts at the US Library of Congress, Washington.

As a world-leading contemporary ensemble, BCMG has premiered over 160 works, most commissioned through its pioneering Sound Investment 'crowd-funding' scheme, with a family of Investors supporting each new piece. In addition, BCMG's extensive Learning and Participation programme supports young people as composers, performers and listeners of new music through an exciting range of projects in and out of school. BCMG features on numerous CDs, including an ongoing series of NMC discs devoted to British composers, with recent recordings of music by Charlotte Bray, Oliver Knussen, Tansy Davies, Alexander Goehr, Richard Causton, and the recent Grammy nominated recording of Gerald Barry's *The Importance of Being Earnest*. BCMG has received a host of national and international awards, and broadcasts regularly on BBC Radio. The Group has two Artists-in-Association, Oliver Knussen and John Woolrich, and Sir Simon Rattle is the Group's Founding Patron.

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