

# CATCH A RISING STAR

## PREVIEW

ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC  
RISING STARS  
CADOGAN HALL



ON STAGE:  
James Meldrum, 24, clarinet

SEE TOMORROW'S stars today, at a fraction of the price. The Royal College of Music's Rising Stars programme is set to soar this Monday at Chelsea's Cadogan Hall. Some of the most outstanding young classical musicians, including West Kensington resident James Meldrum, 24, on clarinet and composer Charlotte Bray, 26, will be airing their music at the new initiative.

Orchestrated between Cadogan Hall's director Ian Maclay and Head of Performance at the Royal Academy Simon Channing, this is the second concert in what Ian hopes will become an institution of the classical circuit.

"Breaking into any career as a young artist is tough," says the Cadogan Hall director.

"We have a responsibility to shop-window the cream of graduate talent and it will be nice to turn around one

day and say these future stars made their debut here."

Clarinet maestro James has just received a distinction in his advanced postgraduate diploma. He says that none of his family was musical "in the slightest", but for some unknown reason he knew he wanted to play piano from the age of four. Clarinet didn't figure in until he was 14, at which point he says: "I couldn't get a sound out of it for the first week!"

Three to six hours practice a day, and within a remarkable three years he had already achieved a grade eight standard.

On Monday he will perform in a 15-minute rhapsodic quintet by Herbert Howells which he describes as "fantasy-like with a very beautiful, slow and reflective ending".

Charlotte, who has just completed her masters in composition, will have her six-minute piano solo entitled *Off the Rails* played by Jianing Kong.

She describes the piece as abstract, but says that her main ambition was: "To make the piece dramatic, I wanted the

music to fulfil its climaxes."

These are just two of a flurry of talents on the cusp of their professional career, catch them now for £10 – or pay the full price later.

● The Royal College of Music Rising Stars. Monday, June 2, Cadogan Hall, 5 Sloane Terrace, SW1X. Vojtech Safarik, bass baritone; Harpham Quartet; James Meldrum, clarinet; Nicolas Fleury, french horn, and Jianing Kong performs Charlotte Bray's *Off the Rails* on piano. 7.30pm. £10. Call 020 7730 4500. See [www.cadoganhall.com](http://www.cadoganhall.com)

For Royal College of Music see [www.rcm.ac.uk](http://www.rcm.ac.uk)

Christian McLaughlin

YOUNG TALENT:  
Composer  
Charlotte  
Bray, 26



# ROMANCE ON A ROAD TRIP



DRIVING DRAMA: Dominique Bull (Juliet) and Alan Morrissey (Romeo) – at St Augustine's, Canterbury – star in the travelling production  
Pictures by James Erskine

## PREVIEW

ROMEO & JULIET  
SHAKESPEARE'S  
GLOBE ON TOUR

"O ROMEO, Romeo, wherefore art thou Romeo?"

Thanks to Shakespeare's Globe on tour the answer will soon be Fulham Palace.

For just two days the national tour will grace to palace's courtyard with an inventive outdoor production.

"All the action takes place from a classic 1970s Volkswagen caravan," says tour producer James Erskine.

"It helps the show to have an informal atmosphere and stay true to the rough and ready, scaled-down

principles of touring theatre."

Directed by Elizabeth Freestone, the performance has been tightened to two hours, yet dialogue will remain true to the text.

Costume has a sneaky surprise in store, and barring any thunderstorms, audiences of all ages should experience a fabulous tale of love and war between the houses of Montague and Capulet.

● *Romeo & Juliet* – Shakespeare's Globe on tour will play on Thursday and Friday, June 5/6, at Fulham Palace, Bishop's Avenue, SW6. 7.30pm. £15. Call 020 7736 3233. For more, see [www.fulhampalace.org](http://www.fulhampalace.org)

Christian McLaughlin



# RAW THEATRE

## PREVIEW

THE COUNTRY  
TABARD THEATRE

YOU CAN run, but you can't hide. It's one of the chilling messages in British playwright Martin Crimp's play, *The Country*.

On stage now at the Tabard Theatre in Chiswick, the plot holds the microscope over a seemingly

successful couple who are making

a fresh start by moving from London to the countryside.

All is well at the new home, until the unexpected arrival of an unconscious American girl.

At this point the audience become detectives and the darker truths behind the illusion take form.

"I've admired Martin's writing for a long time," says the associate director of the Tabard Theatre, who also directs the show, Simon Godwin.

"His style is a bit like Harold Pinter. There's no fat. It's just pure, visceral, excitement that's linguistically

stripped to the bone."

Written seven years before *The City*, Crimp's latest play now on at the Royal Court Theatre in Sloane Square, it's a drama double not to be missed.

● *The Country*, by Martin Crimp runs until June 21 at the Tabard Theatre, 2 Bath Road, Chiswick, W4. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, Sat mats 2.30pm. £13/10 concs. Call 08448 472 264. See [www.tabardtheatre.co.uk](http://www.tabardtheatre.co.uk). *The City*, by Martin Crimp runs at the Royal Court Theatre until June 7. 7.30pm. £10-25. Call 020 7565 5000. See [www.royalcourttheatre.com](http://www.royalcourttheatre.com)

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