**WILLIAM VANN BIOGRAPHY: SHORT VERSIONS**

**300 WORD:**

Gramophone, reviewing *Purer than Pearl*, Albion Records’ latest disc of Vaughan Williams song, reserved “a special word of praise for William Vann’s deft pianism”. A multiple-prize winning conductor and accompanist, William performs with a host of major singers and instrumentalists across the world and is the founder and Artistic Director of the London English Song Festival.

Born in Bedford, he was a Chorister at King's College, Cambridge and a Music Scholar at Bedford School. He subsequently read law and took up a choral scholarship at Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, where he was taught the piano by Peter Uppard, and studied piano accompaniment at the Royal Academy of Music with Malcolm Martineau and Colin Stone.

He has been awarded many prizes for piano accompaniment, including the Wigmore Song Competition Jean Meikle Prize for a Duo (with Johnny Herford), the Gerald Moore award, the Royal Overseas League Accompanists' Award, a Geoffrey Parsons Memorial Trust award, the Concordia-Serena Nevill Prize, the Association of English Singers and Speakers Accompanist Prize, the Great Elm Awards Accompanist Prize, the Sir Henry Richardson Scholarship and the Hodgson Fellowship in piano accompaniment at the RAM. His discography includes recordings with Albion Records, Champs Hill Records, Delphian Records, Navona Records and SOMM.

He is an Associate of the RAM, a Trustee of the Ralph Vaughan Williams Society, a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists and the Director of Music at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea. His next major project will be to record two discs of songs by Vaughan Williams and Holst with Mary Bevan, Kitty Whately and Roderick Williams and on 3rd April 2019 he makes his Royal Festival Hall debut conducting Parry’s long-neglected oratorio *Judith*.

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