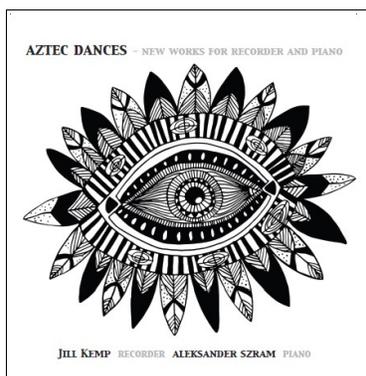


## Press release: *Aztec Dances* – New Works for Recorder and Piano March 2017



*Aztec Dances: New Works for Recorder and Piano*, a recording of world premières by **Jill Kemp** (recorder) and **Aleksander Szram** (piano), will be released by **Prima Facie** on **20 March 2017**. Featuring one of the last pieces that **David Bedford** (1937-2011) ever composed, the CD appears in his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday year. *Aztec Dances* also showcases the outstanding talent of UK composers **Edward Gregson** (b. 1945), **Gregory Rose** (b. 1948), **George King** (b. 1979) and **Daryl Runswick** (b. 1946), as he celebrates his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday.

About Jill Kemp: “*A highly accomplished recorder virtuoso.*” – The Guardian  
“*A musician of depth*” - The Recorder Magazine

All written since 2010, the works on *Aztec Dances* offer a striking contrast to Szram and Kemp's previous CD, *English Recorder Works* (MMC, 2013). Inspiration for the works on this CD range from 16<sup>th</sup> century Aztec ceremony in **Edward Gregson's** *Aztec Dances* (2010), to an ancient Greek concert hall in **Gregory Rose's** *Garden of the Gods* (2013) and contemporary jazz forms in **George King's** *Dance Suite* (2011). Some works invite technical innovations, such as playing two recorders at once in **David Bedford's** *Kemptown Races* (2010); others introduce compositional ones, for example making the recorder and piano interlock but not synchronise in ‘accidental counterpoints’, in **Daryl Runswick's** *Cycles* (2013). In each work, the performers' virtuosity shines through, and has stimulated a wide variety of additions to the recorder–piano repertoire.

“*It is exciting to hear the music being composed for the recorder now and important for players and composers (and listeners) to continue the initiative of the 20th century recorder pioneers, as Jill and Aleksander have done*” - Dr Andrew Mayes

[ENDS]

## Notes to editors

1 **PR Contact:** Clare Simmonds, email: [csimmonds.assistant@gmail.com](mailto:csimmonds.assistant@gmail.com) tel: 07773 280185.

2 '*Aztec Dances: New Works for Recorder and Piano*' will be released on 20 March 2017 on the Prima Facie label. Review copies available on request.

3 **Preview:** Watch Kemp and Szram on YouTube:

- *Sonata for Recorder and Piano by York Bowen* - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=usNfxJ7-LI0>
- *English Recorder Works: Promotional video* - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=juxuBlt5-FM>

Listen to clips from the *Aztec Dances* CD (unlisted, for reviewers only):

- *Edward Gregson - Aztec Dances: Ritual/Pastorale (2010)* - <https://youtu.be/24mU-oHDXNY>
- *George King - Dance Suite: Bebop (2011)* - <https://youtu.be/JxZK1YLb4vM>

4 **Purchasing:** The CD will be available on iTunes, Amazon, Google Play Music, Spotify, in all major and specialist CD shops in the UK including HMV and also online at <http://ascrecords.com/primafacie/>

5 **CD Launch:** *Aztec Dances* will be launched on **Friday 24 March 2017** at 1901 Arts Club, 7 Exton Street, Waterloo, London SE1 8UE (<http://www.1901artsclub.com/>). Drinks will be served from 7pm, and there will be a short performance of selected works from the CD at 7.30pm. The private bar will be open for drinks following the performance. Tickets are £10 including a glass of wine and CD. Complimentary tickets for reviewers are available from Clare Simmonds (contact details above).

6 **Jill Kemp** is passionate about raising the recorder's profile and proving it to be an exciting and versatile instrument. As a soloist and chamber musician, her repertoire spans seven centuries and she regularly performs new commissions. Winner of numerous prizes, in 2007 she won the Royal Overseas League Wind Competition, the first recorder player to do so in its 57-year history. Jill has broadcast on the BBC, Classic FM and American, Italian and Polish television. Recital venues throughout Europe, the USA and South Africa include Carnegie Hall and the Queen Elizabeth Hall. For a full biography, please visit: <http://www.jillkemp.com/>

7 **Aleksander Szram**, winner of the 2004 Vlado Perlemuter Award, enjoys a varied schedule of solo piano, concerto and chamber music performances across the world, having played in more than 35 countries over six continents. He teaches piano and lectures in analysis and performance practice at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance, London, and has also guest-lectured at the Royal Academy of Music and the Juilliard School. He is particularly interested in performing newly composed music, and has worked with many composers including Rzewski, Smalley, Fujikura and Lumsdaine, recording albums for Nimbus, MMC, Metier and Prima Facie. For more information, visit <http://www.aleksanderszram.com/>

8 The CD PFC052 was recorded at Wathen Hall, London, in 2014.

9 **Track listing** (all tracks are world premieres): 1-4 Edward Gregson - *Aztec Dances* (2010). 5-11 Gregory Rose - *Garden of the Gods* (2013). 12 David Bedford - *Kempton Races* (2010). 13-16 George King - *Dance Suite* (2011). 17 Daryl Runswick - *Cycles* (2013).

10 **Prima Facie Records**, a champion of British contemporary music, has a critically praised catalogue that includes Peter Maxwell Davies and Adam Gorb, and the performers Mahan Esfahani, Clare Hammond, Maggie Cole, Bingham Quartet amongst many others. <http://ascrecords.com/primafacie/>

11 **Image credits (both artist photos):** Matt Jamie Photography