

## ONE TO WATCH

# Sarah Williamson

The young clarinetist records Finzi and Copland

**T**he clarinet's range and timbre have inspired scores varying from the evocative and melancholy to the effervescent and jazz-inspired.

So it's appropriate that for her first disc on the Somm label, 27-year-old clarinetist Sarah Williamson has chosen two contrasting 20th-century works – the clarinet concertos of Finzi and Copland.

It was the Copland that she performed with Andrew Davis and the BBC Symphony Orchestra back in 2002 when she first came to the public's attention in the BBC Young Musician of the Year Awards final. This time she has recorded it with the Orchestra of the Swan and conductor David Curtis.

"Their concertos aren't alike at all," says Williamson. "But that's good, because you need a contrast. The Finzi is very countryside, while the Copland is more inner-city, and full of Latin-American themes."

Following the BBC competition, Williamson won second prize in the Eurovision Competition for Young Musicians in Berlin, again with the Copland concerto, before continuing her studies at the Conservatoire supérieur de musique et de danse de Paris, graduating with the Premier Prix and a Lauréate.

Williamson has also worked with several contemporary composers, championing the music of Edward Longstaff, whose *Prelude* and *Nocturne* were written for her, and also recording Philip Grange's clarinet concerto *Sheng Sheng Bu Shi*. ©

#### Name

Sarah Williamson, 27

**Plans** Williamson plays the Copland Concerto at St Peter's, Notting Hill, on April 24, Mozart's Clarinet Concerto in Cyprus (May 12-14), Weber's Clarinet Concerto No 2 in Wymondham (July 10), and Mozart's Clarinet Quintet at the Gower Festival (July 26).