

MUSICAL Opinion

Price £4.50 September-October 2007
Issue number 1460

Founded in 1877 www.musicalopinion.com

130th
Anniversary
Issue



In the
Spotlight:
Christopher
Nupen



Warren
Mailley-
Smith

The pianist talks
exclusively to us

Great
Sopranos

The Tobin System

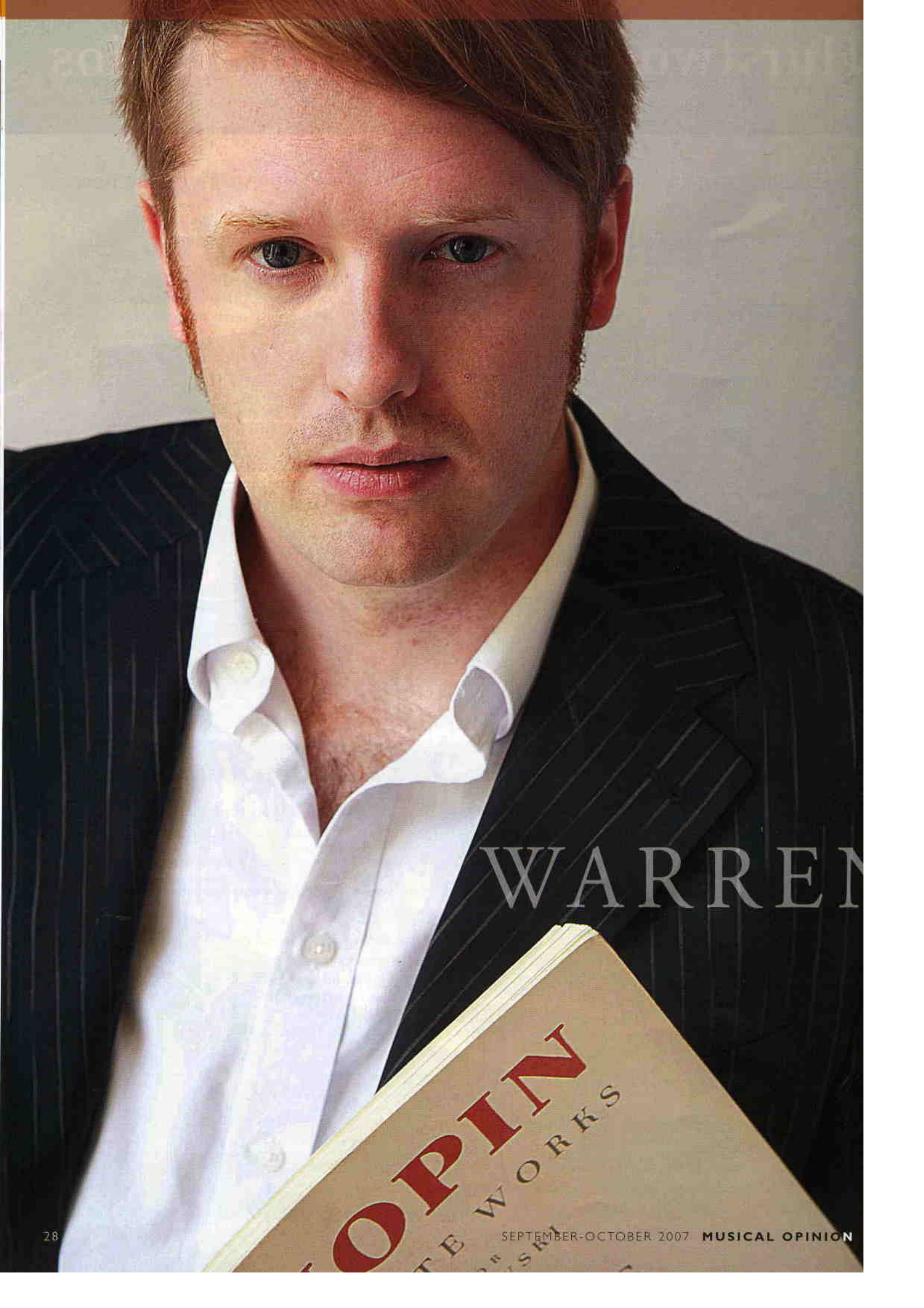
Sibelius the
Symphonist

PLUS All the latest news, views, reviews and previews

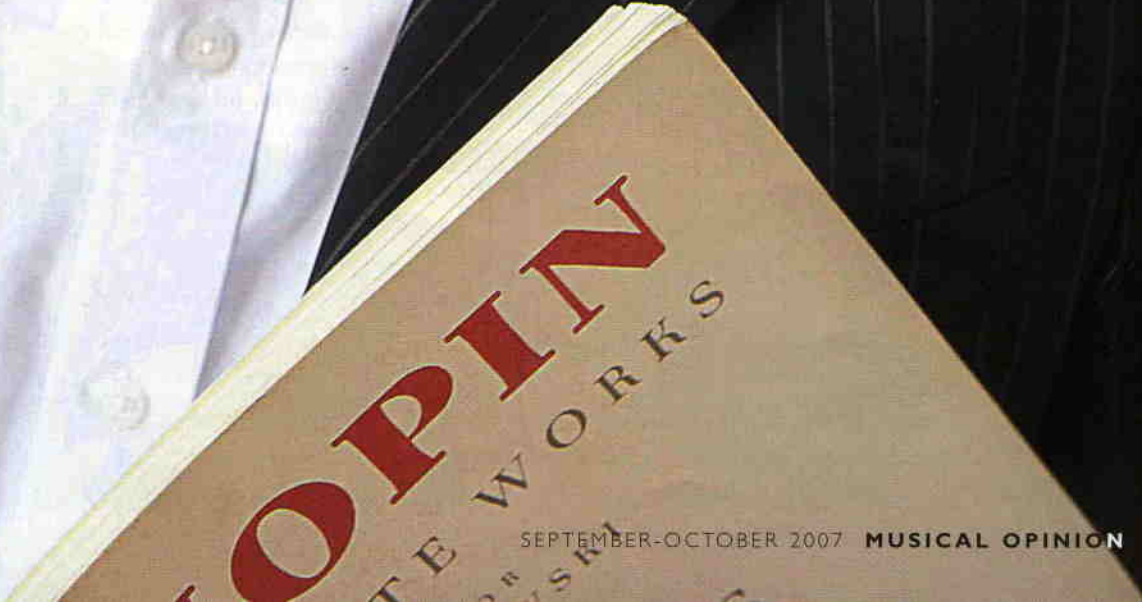
ISSN 0027-4623



9 770027 462013



WARREN



The pianist tells Judith Monk about his 2007/2008 Season

fresh from cruising back from New York the day before aboard the Queen Mary II, Warren Mailley-Smith took time out to chat about his burgeoning career and plans for the immediate future. As the strong sun dappled through the leaves of an old Oak, a London park was a perfect meeting point to talk.

I wanted to know how someone with a first degree in Law became a concert pianist? "Careers advisers give you so many options at A Level. I wasn't convinced then that music was my passion although I had played piano since the age of 5." For Warren the absolute musical revelation came after a performance he gave of Rachmaninov's Second Piano Concerto at Birmingham's Symphony Hall. "My degree studies were an achievement, but at the same time I had a premonition that if I didn't give

concert venues. In recent months he has appeared with the London Philharmonic Orchestra's Chamber Ensemble, the Kensington Symphony Orchestra, Orchestra of the Swan, London Concertante, London Strings, London Kensington Sinfonia, Corinthian Orchestra and the London Charity Orchestra performing concertos such as Rachmaninov Nos 2 and 3, Chopin No 2, Beethoven No 5 and Saint-Saëns No 2. In addition to an invitation to become a Steinway artist, Warren also has a major sponsorship deal with Kawai pianos, who wished to add a classical star of the future to their roster of rock and pop artists. It can't hurt a career either to have the eyes (and ears) of Prince Charles and the Royal family paying close attention and I was intrigued to know what playing at Highgrove was like? "It's like being whisked away into another world. Prince

"Chopin had just found his ease and facility at the keyboard and they are imbued with a youthful spirit and plenty of technical challenges!"

The Wigmore programme opens with *Variations in E Major* B14, followed by *Polonaise in Bb Major* Opus 71 No 2, *Waltz in B minor* Opus 69 No 2, *Waltz in Db Major* Opus 70 No 3, *Mazurka in Bb Major* B16-C101, *Mazurka in G major* B16-C100, *Sonata No 1 in C minor* Opus 4 with the second half devoted mainly to the *Rondos*. This programme will also be given in Carnegie Hall's Weill Hall in New York on 24 April 2008 and will be recorded later this Autumn. Warren is also taking this programme on a UK tour with three concerts each at venues in Manchester, London, Birmingham, Edinburgh and Cambridge from September. Visit his website for details:

MAILLEY-SMITH

playing the piano my complete attention I would always regret it. Some people thought I was crazy, but I just had to take that risk because all I wanted to do was devote myself to playing the piano without any other distractions."

Since then in career terms his rise has been fairly meteoric. His reputation as one of the country's leading solo pianists of his generation continues to grow with performances all over the UK last year at festivals, music societies, universities and many of the country's leading

Charles is extremely knowledgeable and unfailingly polite and charming." Warren has now been invited to play for the Royal family more than 30 times.

On 24 September Warren has another Wigmore Hall date and he will be showcasing his new programme of young Chopin pieces including four *Rondos*: "I believe these works were the early forerunners to the *Ballades* and *Scherzi* that came later. The *Rondo* Opus 1 was written when Chopin was only 15!" Warren's enthusiasm for these early works is evident:

www.uk-pianist.com

Warren's highly lauded debut CD *Silhouettes* on the artist-led Quartz label, was featured by Classic fM radio in 2006 with him as their 'Hot Property of the Week' and a music video of Liszt's *Un Sospiro*, taken from the album, can be seen on Classic fM TV soon.

Tall and talented, Warren Mailley-Smith is the embodiment of a modern romantic concert pianist but fortunately for the ladies in the audience much better looking than Chopin or Liszt! ■

Photo: Ben Wright