

JOHN EVANS

Piano

John Evans is a graduate of the University of Birmingham, England, where he received a B.A. with Honours.

From his debut on the concert platform at the age of 15, performing a piano concerto with the *City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra*, to his engagement as guest conductor on the *Royal Variety Performance* in the presence of Queen Elizabeth II, his career encompasses the diverse genres of classical, jazz, popular and show music.

John's musical theatre experience began with engagements as pit pianist in regional theatre, working on shows such as *The Wizard Of Oz* and *Kiss Me, Kate*, which notably starred the legendary Patricia Morison, who had created the part of Kate in the original Broadway production.

His work as a musical director and conductor includes the European tour of *Jesus Christ Superstar* and American productions of *Camelot* and *They're Playing Our Song*. He was the original musical director of the 21st anniversary production of *Annie*, both in the West End and for the subsequent UK national tour. He conducted more than 800 performances of the West End run of *Jolson*, which won the Olivier award. When the show transferred to Toronto, John went with it and was nominated for the Dora Mavor Moore award, the Canadian theatre equivalent of the USA's Tony award and the UK's Olivier award.

John is delighted to return to his classical roots as accompanist to Maria Rocha and Stephen Dehn for this special concert.