

Biography - Rossini Hayward

One of the most creative guitarists of his generation, Rossini Hayward is becoming increasingly well-known for his interesting and expressive performances, which are often full of his own arrangements of works never before attempted on the guitar. Classical Guitar Magazine wrote in August 2018: '*Hayward is a skillful and unpretentious arranger with an ear to material that fits the guitar well. He's not out to dazzle us with impossible fingerings, though he is clearly a very skilled player. Rather he understands the charm and power of simplicity.*'

He was born in London in 1981 into an unmusical middle-class family, whose parents ran a small electronics business. The family moved to Wales when Rossini was five years old and it was there that he grew up. It was not until his twentieth birthday, whilst studying for a degree in Engineering Science at *St. Anne's College, Oxford University* that Rossini got his first classical guitar. He immediately became absorbed in the instrument and a year later as a result of being awarded a Music Bursary from *Oxford* he started lessons with Gilbert Biberian. He improved at an astonishing rate and before long was playing the Preludes and Studies of Villa-Lobos, the works of Fernando Sor and whole Bach Suites. In his third year he almost quit his studies in *Oxford* in order to pursue the classical guitar but was persuaded to carry on.

In 2005 he graduated with a First in Master of Engineering and was immediately approached by Rolls-Royce and offered a fully funded PhD to research into jet engines. He declined and instead applied to the *Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama* to study a Bachelor of Music in the classical guitar with John Mills, gaining a place in 2006 with a Major Scholarship. Four years later after a very well received final recital he successfully auditioned to continue his studies at the *Hochschule für Musik Freiburg* in Germany. He spent two years there studying with Sonja

Prunnbauer and graduated with a Master of Music in 2012 with the highest honours.

Since then he has performed in many countries throughout Europe as a solo guitarist and as a soloist with orchestra. In recent years he has consciously moved away from playing the so-called standard repertoire in concerts and instead devotes his time to arranging and composing new works, which he regularly performs. His first CD "*Pieces of Mind (Classical Guitar Compositions and Arrangements)*" was released in 2018 and features exclusively new and previously unrecorded works. Amongst other projects he is currently working on possibly the most enormous undertaking ever attempted for the classical guitar, an arrangement of *The Ring* by Richard Wagner.