



## Yeol Eum Son • Prom 7

Born in South Korean but now resident in Hanover, Yeol Eum Son first came to wide prominence following awards at the 2011 Tchaikovsky Competition and the 2009 Van Cliburn Competition, two of the world's most prestigious keyboard contests. 'They opened many doors for me,' she explains. 'They still do, actually. I still get invitations from some organisations who remember me fondly from those competitions.'

Those successes, however, came after keyboard studies from a remarkably early age. 'I don't remember the moment when I first decided to become a musician – there was probably never such a moment,' she says. 'But I remember very clearly being three and a half when I first started piano. I was an extremely shy kid, but I felt so comfortable on stage. By the age of 18, she appeared with the New York Philharmonic and recorded her first CD.'

She makes her BBC Proms debut with a concerto by a musician especially close to her heart. 'Mozart has been my favourite composer for a long time – both as a player and as a listener. His music is so contradictory – fresh yet elegant, complex yet simple.' She performs Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 15: 'I think I first heard it in the movie *Amadeus*. I've adored it ever since, but I first played it only in 2016.'