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GUY JOHNSTON

COVER STORY

There are a lot of connections in the world of Guy Johnston. Elements of the 28-year-old cellist's life and career keep reappearing and interacting. There is the constant of his close musical family. King's College, Cambridge, where he was a chorister, keeps reappearing. His time in the National Youth Orchestra has a particular resonance. He talks constantly about forging relationships with other artists. Even some of his teachers can be linked together.

It is now ten years since he won the BBC Young Musician of the Year Competition, but it is only recently that he has started making recordings. His CD of works by David Matthews with the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra was nominated for a Classic FM Gramophone Award last year. His first solo CD, with pianist Kathryn Stott, is released this month by Orchid Classics, and it too is full of connections. There is an obvious link between two of the three composers, Britten, Bridge and Mark-Anthony Turnage: Britten was Bridge's student, and later a champion of his music. The Turnage connection is personal. Johnston is godfather of Turnage's son. At the christening he played a piece Turnage wrote for the occasion and named for his son, *Milo*. It is now the name of the CD.

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Well connected

In the ten years since he won BBC Young Musician, cellist Guy Johnston has forged a career on his own terms, and it is bolstered by links that go back to his first ventures into music. He talks to Tim Homfray

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