

Susan Tomes

Artist biography 2024

Susan Tomes has won numerous international awards as a pianist, both on the concert platform and in the recording studio, including several Gramophone Awards and the 2013 Cobbett Medal. She grew up in Edinburgh and was the first woman to take a degree in music at King's College, Cambridge. Her career encompasses solo, duo and chamber playing; she has made over fifty CDs and has been at the heart of the internationally admired ensembles Domus, the Gaudier Ensemble and the Florestan Trio with whom she won a Royal Philharmonic Society Award. She has served on international music competition juries in London, Vienna, Munich, Trondheim, Graz, Lyon and Weimar, and in 2023 she chaired the piano trio jury at the prestigious ARD International Competition in Munich.

A desire to share her love of music motivated her to branch out into writing. She is the author of seven books. *The Piano – a History in 100 Pieces* (2021) was a 'Book of the Year' in *The Spectator* and the *Financial Times* and won a Presto Music Award. Her most recent book, *Women and the Piano – a History in Fifty Lives*, was published in 2024. It was 'one of the best books of 2024 so far' in the *New Yorker*, one of the 'best summer books of 2024' in the *FT*, 'an important book' for *BBC Music*, and 'one of the best non-fiction books of 2024 so far' in *Tatler Asia*. It won a Presto Music Award for a 'Book of the Year 2024'.