

FREE

SATURDAY LUNCHTIME CONCERTS

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH
MARKETGATE, WARRINGTON, WA1 1XG

January – March 2023 from 1:45pm-2:30pm

WACIDOM

Inspiring Concerts – Inspiring Competitions

January 21st	Tianyang Han, lmy Luc - 4 Hands one piano
January 28th	Innsaei Quartet (Strings)
February 4th	Jill Crossland (Piano)
February 11th	Seb Wyss (Violin) Hector Leung (Piano)
February 18th	Imogen Garner (Soprano) John Gough (Piano)
February 25th	Grace Harman, Isabel Thompson (Trumpets) Lauren Turner (Piano)
March 4th	Kell Wind Trio
March 11th	Outstanding Young Pianists
March 18th	Ziluo Huang (Violin) Yidong Lin (Piano)
March 25th	Aestus Quartet (Strings)

Programmes are subject to amendment without prior notice
Registered Charity No. 1141750

In the 11th February concert Hector Leung was replaced by Matt Lam.

Patrons

Sir Stephen Hough CBE
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Leon McCawley
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Holy Trinity Church, Marketgate, Warrington WA1 1XG

21st January 2023

Tianyang Han, Piano and Imy Luc - Piano

Piano Duo Sonata in C major, K.19d. by W.A. Mozart

I Allegro Moderato

II Menuetto and Trio

III Rondo: Allegretto

Fantasia in F minor D.940 for piano duo by F. Schubert

I Allegro molto moderato

II Largo

III Scherzo. Allegro vivace

IV Finale. Allegro molto moderato

Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune by C. Debussy, arranged for piano duet by M. Ravel

Dolly Suite by G. Fauré

1. Berceuse

2. Mi-a-ou

3. Jardin de Dolly

4. Kitty Valse

5. Tendresse

6. Pas Espagnole

A graduate of the Royal Northern College of Music, **Tianyang Han** is a pianist performing and teaching in the UK. She was inspired to pursue a career as a professional musician after hearing the famous Chinese pianist Yundi Li perform. In 2009, at age 14, she started to study professionally with the esteemed teacher Danwen Wei and his assistant Lei Wang at the Shenyang Conservatory of Music. In 2014, Tianyang moved to England to undertake studies at the Royal Northern College of Music (RNCM) with Professor Graham Scott, having received the prestigious Lord Rhodes Scholarship. She graduated with a Master of Music.

Tianyang also plays chamber music alongside Yuuki Bouterey-Ishido and in her trio, the Valette Trio. The Valette Piano Trio has won various awards including the Hirsch Prize, Nossek Prize and Weil Prize. In 2010 and 2012, she attended the Italian Music Fest, Perugia, where she performed the Mendelssohn Piano Concerto No.1 with Sergei Babayan conducting. In 2018, she received a scholarship to join the 29th Semaine Internationale de Piano & Musique de Chambre festival in Switzerland.

Other awards include winning prizes in both the Youth Class and the Chopin Ballade/Scherzo Class at the 16th Hong Kong-Asia Piano Open Competition, Third Prize in the Shenyang Conservatory of Music Competition in 2011 and 2013, and finalist at the 2017 Concerto Competition (RNCM).

Imy Luc is a pianist, accompanist, and chamber musician based in Manchester. She has both undergraduate and Masters degrees in music and piano performance from the Royal Northern College of Music, studying

with Dina Parakhina. She is also an alumna of the junior department of the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London and the specialist music school, Chetham's School of Music in Manchester.

Imy is an experienced performer, playing in venues around the UK, including Wigmore Hall, Bridgewater Hall, and St. George's Bristol. She has been awarded multiple prizes for her solo and accompaniment playing including RNCM Chopin Prize (2018), Shirley Cattarral Prize for Piano (2016), RNCM Song Cycle Accompaniment Prize (2019) and RNCM English Song Accompaniment Prize (2019). She was also a finalist of the RNCM Concerto Competition in 2020 and the RNCM Gold Medal in 2021.

As well as performing, Imy is passionate about teaching and educating others. Most recently she finished a full time role as a piano teacher at King Edward's School in Bath where she had a class of over 40 students. She is now back in Manchester and continues to perform and teach privately.

Next concert: 28th January 2023 - Innsaei Quartet (strings)

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28th January 2023

Innsaei String Quartet

Mendelssohn - String Quartet No. 3 in D Major, Op. 44 No. 1

- I. Molto allegro vivace
- II. Menuetto: Un poco Allegretto
- III. Andante espressivo ma con moto
- IV. Presto con brio

Balakrishnan - Skylife

Formed in 2016 at the Royal Northern College of music in Manchester, the **Innsaei String Quartet** has performed in numerous concerts, competitions, and masterclasses across the UK and Europe. The name of the quartet comes from the Icelandic word Innsaei, meaning 'feelings or emotions beyond words' - which the quartet portrays through their powerful and youthful interpretations.

Under the tutorage of esteemed chamber musicians such as members from the Elias Quartet, Chillingarian quartet, Talich quartet, Schoenberg quartet and many others, the Innsaei quartet has developed from a group of passionate students into a professional string quartet performing chamber music at the highest level. Recently they have introduced a new first violinist to the quartet - Emily Blayney, with whom they are incredibly excited to continue their journey as both an exceptional string quartet and a close group of friends.

Emily Blayney started violin lessons aged 7 and progressed through the Guidhall School of Music and Drama to the RNCM under the tutelage of Cath Yates and Cecily Ward. As an orchestral musician she has performed at the Barbican, the Bridgewater and Royal Albert Halls.

Eleya Clapperton is a recent graduate of the RNCM, Eleya and she is now enjoying a rich and diverse career as performer and teacher. Eleya performs with a wide range of Manchester based ensembles including the Manchester Concert Orchestra and Manchester Camerata.

Beth Willett is a Manchester based violist studying her Masters degree at the RNCM, under the tutelage of Susie Mészáros and Vicci Wardman. Beth has worked with the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra, the Manchester Collective and the Elias String Quartet as well as teaching as part of Andrew Lloyd Webber's Music in Secondary Schools Trust.

Alec Smith is based in Manchester and is an award winning chamber and orchestral cellist. Alec graduated from the RNCM in 2020 where he studied with cellists Chris Hoyle, Eduardo Vassalo and Leonard Elschenbroich. Alec has played with the BBC Philharmonic and Welsh National Opera.

Next week's concert: Jill Crossland - Piano solo

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Saturday 4 February 2023 1.45 p.m.

Jill Crossland (piano)

D Scarlatti **G major (Kp427/ L286)**

J S Bach **English Suite No 2 in A minor BWV807**

Prelude - Allemande- Courante- Sarabande- Bourrees 1 and 2 - Gigue

Beethoven **7 Variations on “God Save the King”**

Jill Crossland pursues an active concert and recording career. Jill plays regularly on the South Bank and at the Wigmore Hall in London, and her recent appearances have also included Cadogan, Bridgewater and Fairfield Halls, St George’s Bristol, the Leipzig Gewandhaus, Vienna Musikverein, Vienna Konzerthaus, the National Concert Hall, Dublin and the Sage Gateshead. Jill’s recordings include the Bach Goldberg Variations on Warner Classics and works by Handel, Scarlatti, Mozart and Beethoven. Jill has featured in the Classic FM Hall of Fame and her release of the complete Bach’s Well Tempered Clavier has received high praise, described by the *Penguin Guide* as ‘a remarkable achievement, ranking with the finest’ Jill has appeared on radio and TV, including live and recorded broadcasts on BBC Radios 3 and 4.

Jill’s more recent CDs are of Rameau (the collections from 1706 and 1724) issued on Signum Classics, described by *Gramophone* as ‘intelligent, stylish, tasteful, tonally resourceful and beautifully recorded.’ And another of Mozart and Beethoven (the Moonlight sonata and the Bagatelles Op 126) described as having “thoughtfulness, liquidity” and “driven excitement” in *International Record Review*. Jill’s recording of Bach pieces, including today’s English Suite, was re-mastered on Divine Art last year to critical acclaim, described in *Fanfare Magazine* as ‘exquisite’ – a “synthesis of elegance, intimacy, and tonal beauty...a lovely and captivating release.”

Jill’s digital album of Bach’s Partita No. 2 and Chromatic Fantasia and Fugue and Mozart pieces including the Three Rondos K485, K494, K511, was released on Signum Classics at the end of last year.

This is Jill’s third concert in four days. She is appearing in a number of venues in Cheshire and environs in the next few months, including the Neston festival on April 23, Great Budworth on June 2, the Poynton Festival on June 25 and concerts in Newton le Willows and Wigan.

See videos of Jill at: <http://www.youtube.com/c/JillCrosslandPiano>

Website: www.jillcrossland.com

Domenico **Scarlatti** (his father Alessandro was a noted composer of vocal music) emigrated to Portugal and then Spain, and wrote more than 500 sonatas for his pupil and patron, the Portuguese Princess Maria Barbara, who later became Queen of Spain. These works show his evident fascination with Iberian ambience and rhythms. she must have been no mean student to have played them all- the repeated notes that begin today’s sonata are fiendish, for example.

We do not know why this set of suites was called ‘English’ when published after **Bach’s** death, whether because they resembled the work of Charles Dieupart, a composer working in England, or were allegedly commissioned by an English nobleman. They all have a virtuosic prelude in an Italian style, followed by

some of the usual dances found in suites of French keyboard music, and ending with a fast gigue. They are a good, early-ish example of Bach's interest in combining European styles to create his own, canonical synthesis. The opening preludes are said to be evidence of Bach's interest in lute music, although the written-out preludes are more structured than their improvisatory lute equivalents.

Ninety years later **Beethoven** wrote these variations in 1803, and they were published by George Thomson (whose hobby was commissioning Scottish folk song arrangements by famous composers such as Haydn and indeed Beethoven) in Edinburgh and Clementi in London. The original was a patriotic song popularised during the Jacobite rebellion of 1745, and had already been turned into sets of variations by Forkel, Bach's first biographer, and by Bach's son Johann Christian. Beethoven manages to incorporate both tenderness and virtuosity in his variations, and allegedly said he thought Britain had the best National Anthem.

Next concert: Seb Wyss (violin) Hector Leung (piano)

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Saturday 11th February 2023 1.45 p.m.

Sebastian Wyss (violin) and Matt Lam (piano)

Beethoven Violin Sonata No.1 in D major, Op.12 (1798)

- i. Allegro con brio
- ii. Tema con variazioni: Andante con moto
- iii. Rondo Allegro

Franck Sonata in A major for violin and piano (1886)

- i. Allegretto ben moderato
- ii. Allegro
- iii. Ben moderato: Recitativo-Fantasia
- iv. Allegretto poco mosso

British violinist **Sebastian Wyss** has just completed his MA studies at the Liszt Academy, Budapest with Banda Adam. He completed his undergraduate and postgraduate certificate studies in Royal Birmingham Conservatoire with Suzanne Stanzeleit.

During the time at the conservatoire, he won the string prize, Delia Hall sonata prize, Sheila and Corina Hodge Memorial prize for violin and piano duo and the Meher Rohi Gazder scholarship for promising violinists.

Sebastian studied first in Budapest on the Weingarten Scholarship and during this time won the first prize for violin and piano in Leo Weiner Competition. He has also studied masterclasses with Gyorgy Pauk, Henning Kraggerud, Esther Yoo, Bin Huang, Dmitri Sitkovetsky, Jian Wang and many others.

In chamber music, Sebastian has worked with Robin Ireland, Marta Gulyas. Magnus Johnstone. Alastair Beatson and Alexander Baillie. Sebastian has recently been working closely with Jozsef Lendvay.

Matt Lam is a graduate of the Royal Northern College of Music where he obtained his Bachelors with First Class Honours and Masters with Distinction. He is currently a Junior Fellow in accompaniment at the RNCM.

His teachers included renowned pianists Ashley Wass, Frank Wibaut and Jeremy Young.

Matt and his twin brother Jason formed a piano duo and have won the piano duo prize at the RNCM as

well as the 3rd prize at the 2019 Roma International Chopin Competition.

He has recently recorded Piazzolla's "Le Grand Tango" with cellist Jobine Siekman at Abbey Road Studios.

Matt is also a keen, aspiring orchestral pianist. He has performed with LPO Folye Future Firsts at the Southbank Centre, Leeds Youth Orchestra at Leeds Town Hall and with the Nottingham Philharmonic at Nottingham Albert Hall.

Next week's concert: Imogen Garner (soprano) and John Gough (piano)

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Saturday 18th February 2023 1.45 p.m.

Imogen Garner (mezzo-soprano) and John Gough (piano)

Edward Grieg (1843-1907)

Lauf der Welt – Op 48. No.3
Die verschwiegene Nachtigall - Op.48 No.4
Zur Rosenzeit – Op.48 No.5
Ein Traum – Op. 48 No 6

Michael Head (1900-1976)

Over the Rim of the Moon
The Ships of Arcady
Beloved
A Blackbird singing
Nocturne

Cecil Armstrong Gibbs (1889-1960)

The Witch
A Song of Shadows Op 9 No 5
Silver Op 30 No 2
Five Eyes Op 9 No 3

Joan Trimble (1915-2000)

My grief on the sea
Girl's Song

Murray Grand (1919-2007)

What's a lady like me?

Mezzo-soprano **Imogen Garner** studied Economics at Sheffield University, then following a year's teacher training changed career and studied at the RNCM. Chester-based, Imogen has covered several roles with English National Opera and has enjoyed a long association with the Buxton Festival, where she has covered roles and has sung as a soloist in concerts and live broadcasts on BBC Radio 4. Imogen has also performed with Scottish Opera, Birmingham Opera, Heritage Opera and Swansea City Opera. Her roles include Carmen, Orlofsky, Marcellina, Florence Pike, Dorabella, Orfeo, Mrs Grose, Third Lady and Berta. Imogen enjoys giving song recitals at venues throughout the North West with her accompanist John Gough and is a regular oratorio soloist with choral societies.

John Gough was born and bred in Chester. He enjoys a busy career combining solo playing, accompaniment and teaching at the RNCM. He has broadcast many times on BBC Radio 3 and has performed at the Wigmore Hall, London, and as soloist with the RLPO and Northern Chamber Orchestras. Overseas, he has performed at the Carnegie Hall, New York, and on Danish Radio.

Next week's concert : Grace Harman and Isabel Thompson (trumpets) and Lauren Turner (piano)

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Saturday 25th February 2023, 1.45 p.m-2:30pm

Grace Harman, Isabel Thompson (Trumpets), Lauren Turner (Piano)

Programme:

Joseph Horowitz	(1926-2022)	Concertino Classico, for two trumpets and piano
Howard Snell	(1936-)	Duet for Two Cats – Rossini arr.
George Gershwin	(1898-1937)	Someone to Watch Over Me
Andrew Lloyd Webber	(1948-)	I Know Him So Well, from Chess
J.E Barat	(1882-1963)	Andante et Scherzo
Erik Morales	(1976-)	Movement Three from Concerto for Two Trumpets

Grace Harman aged 20, is currently studying at the Royal Northern College of Music under the tuition of Gareth Small, Thomas Osborne and Murray Grieg. She has performed with the Suffolk Youth Orchestra in the UK and abroad. She is a regular freelancer, performing in orchestras and bands, as well as conducting and leading ensembles. She has performed at Ronnie Scot's Jazz Club and is a part of British Youth Music Theatre's Musician Pool. Grace had an 8-week segment on BBC Radio Suffolk documenting life as a music student. She created her own radio show in 2021, named 'Homeward Harmonies', on IO Radio. Her performances appeared on Sky News, Sky Sports, BBC4 and Good Morning Britain. Her recording of The Last Post for VE Day 2020 also reached worldwide press. In 2020, Grace collaborated with the composer Maurice Davies to create a new solo work for the trumpet, called "The Jet Set". In May 2021, Grace became a Benedetti Foundation Ambassador.

Isabel Thompson is a 21-year-old trumpet player from York, currently studying at the Royal Northern College of Music under the tutelage of Gareth Small and Murray Greig. She has performed with the Opera North Youth Orchestra, Elland Silver Brass Band and North Yorkshire Country Youth Ensembles. Isabel was a member of North Yorkshire County Youth Ensembles playing trumpet, cornet and flugelhorn, and of the Brass Ensemble, the County Big Band, and County Orchestra. She has toured Italy, Belgium and France with the Big Band and Brass Ensemble. Isabel has performed in chamber ensembles, with her trumpet quartet "Laiton", with the college Brass Band, at the RNCM Festival of Brass, and more recently, with the Band of the HM Royal Marines Scotland. At present, Isabel is currently participating in the RNCM Brass Engage project, which brings student ensembles and local brass bands together. In Summer 2022 Isabel joined the Elland Silver Brass Band on Solo Cornet, a Yorkshire-based Championship Section Brass Band.

Lauren Turner completed her Undergraduate and Postgraduate studies at the Royal Northern College of Music where she studied solo piano and piano accompaniment with John Gough. Lauren now performs regularly throughout the country as a soloist, accompanist and chamber musician. As a member of The Sterling Trio (flute, clarinet and piano) Lauren was a finalist in the Tunnell Trust Music Club Awards Scheme and with UK Young Artists. Lauren teaches piano at The Grange School in Hartford and is staff accompanist for the school's soloists and choirs. She is also official accompanist for the Chester Young Musician Competition and The Laurence Singers choir who are based in South Manchester. Lauren lives in Altrincham with her husband and two young children.

Next week's concert: Kell Wind Trio

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Saturday 4th March 2023 1.45 p.m.

Kell Wind Trio

Alistair Roberts (flute), Geoffrey Smith (clarinet), Ian Harvey (bassoon)

Mozart	Serenade No. 4 in C major K.439 <i>(Allegro –Larghetto -Menuetto - Rondo)</i>
Hahn	À Chloris
Lyadov	Folk Song Suite <i>(Moderato – Allegretto – Andante – Allegro)</i>
Poulenc	Sonata (1922) <i>(Allegro moderato – Andante – Rondeau)</i>
Richardson	Beachcomber
Duncan	“March” from “A Little Suite”
Williams	Devil’s Galop

The **Kell Wind Trio** has gained a reputation for giving lively and informative concerts which include music of many different styles and genres – from music of the Baroque to accessible music from the 20th and 21st centuries.

The Kell Wind Trio is named after the pioneering English instrumentalist Reginald Kell, who was the first clarinettist to use vibrato in orchestral concerts.

Alastair Roberts plays principal flute with a number of orchestras in the Manchester area including the Wilmslow Symphony Orchestra and the Cheshire Sinfonia. He is a member of several chamber groups that perform regularly throughout the North West of England including the Telemann Baroque Ensemble.

Geoffrey Smith plays regularly as principal clarinet with both Wilmslow Symphony Orchestra and Cheshire Sinfonia. He has also played as principal clarinet until recently with Stockport Orchestra since its inception in 1975. He has appeared many times as soloist with these and other orchestras.

Ian Harvey was a Junior Exhibitioner at London’s Royal Academy of Music. His musical commitments include the position of principal bassoon with the Stockport Symphony Orchestra. He runs his own business repairing woodwind instruments

Next week’s concert: Outstanding Young Pianists from Chetham’s School of Music

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Saturday 11th March 2023 1:45 pm – 2:30pm

Outstanding Young Pianists

Priscilla Weng	Haydn	Sonata in F major, Hob.XVI:23 I. Allegro moderato II. Adagio III. Finale – Presto
	Debussy	La plus que lente
	Copland	The Cat and the Mouse
Melody Zhang	Chopin	Nocturne D flat major Op. 27, No.2
Maia Payne	Schubert / Liszt	Ständchen (Serenade)
	Beethoven	Piano Sonata No. 23 in F minor, Op. 57 “Appassionata” I. Allegro assai II. Andante con moto III. Allegro ma non troppo - Presto

Priscilla Weng is 12 years old. She started playing the piano when she was six. For two years, she had lessons with Dr. McLachlan before she entered Chetham’s School of Music, where she studies with Simon Bottomley. Priscilla has passed her Grade 8 with distinction, won prizes in local music festivals and performed in concerts at Chetham’s School of Music and Forsyths.

Melody Zhang is 12 years old and started playing the piano when she was 6 years old. She is in her 2nd year at Chetham’s School of Music where she is a pupil of Simon Bottomley. Melody has won prizes in several local music festivals and is going to Poland to compete in the XXX international piano festival in Mazovia Sochaczew.

Maia Payne is 17 years old and has been studying the piano for 10 years. She has been under the tuition of Simon Bottomley for 7 years. She passed her ATCL Diploma in 2019 and is currently pursuing the FTCL Diploma. She has performed in competitions in Poland and Belgium and earlier this year, she won the Hazel Grove Festival for Music and Drama. In the future, she hopes to either study psychology at University or go to conservatoire to continue studying music and the piano.

Next week’s concert: Ziluo Huang (violin) and Yidong Lin (piano)

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Saturday 18th March 2023 1:45 pm – 2:30pm

Ziluo Huang - Violin and Yidong Lin - Piano

Johann Sebastian Bach

Violin Sonata No.3 in C major BWV 1005

- iii. Largo
- iv. Allegro assai

Leoš Janáček

Sonata for Violin and Piano

- i. Con moto
- ii. Ballada
- iii. Allegretto
- iv. Adagio

Antonín Dvořák Arr. Fritz Kreisler

Songs My Mother Taught Me

Li Guoquan

Fisherman's Serenade

Chen Gang

Sunshine Over Tashkurgan

China-born violinist **Ziluo Huang** is currently a PhD student in Musicology at the University of Manchester. Ziluo graduated from the Royal College of Music in London with a Master of Music in Performance degree with Distinction. She also obtained the Bachelor of Music from the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire with scholarship. She has performed at Birmingham Town Hall and Symphony Hall, St Alban the Martyr, St James Concert and Assembly Hall in Guernsey, St John's Smith Square and St Mary's Perivale in London. Ziluo has also played in masterclasses for Kun Hu, Mark Messenger, Elly Suh, Radu Bildar, John Gilbert and Tamsin Waley-Cohen.

Yidong Lin is a young pianist from Canton, China, and currently a PhD student in Musicology at the University of Manchester. He won the first prize of individual music all-round award from the Ministry of Education of China in 2018 and graduated with First Class Honours from the University of Melbourne in 2021 to further his development as a wonderful musician. He has participated in more than 150 concerts, including 6 solo concerts, which gives him a wealth of performance and accompaniment experience.

Next week's concert: The Aestus Quartet

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Saturday 25th March 2023 1.45 - 2.30

Aestus Quartet

**Leda Mileto (violin), Christopher Karwacinski (violin), Beth Willett (viola)
and Clara Hope Simpson (cello)**

Caroline Shaw

Valencia

Beethoven

String Quartet in B-flat major, Op.18 No.6

I. Allegro con brio

II. Adagio ma non troppo

III. Scherzo. Allegro — Trio

IV. La Malinconia. Adagio — Allegretto quasi Allegro

Trad. Danish,

arr. Danish String Quartet

Æ Rømeser

Hur Var Du i Aftes Så Sildig

Shine You No More (Last Leaf)

The Aestus Quartet started playing together in October 2021 at the Royal Northern College of Music. Their name is inspired by Britten's String Quartet No.2 because its beginning is evocative of the back-and-forth flow of the sea tide (aestus in Latin. In May 2022, they were recipients of the RNCM's Weil Chamber Music Prize, which led them to compete in the RNCM's Christopher Rowland Ensemble of the Year Prize Final in June 2022.

Leda Mileto was born in Rome, Italy. She has been educated through the Dalcroze approach, which she is now professionally training in. Winner of national and international competitions, she completed her undergraduate studies in Italy, where she performed in major venues in Rome and Florence, with prominent pedagogues and artists. She studies today between Manchester, London and Cambridge, and is an engaged solo and ensemble player. She is currently based at the RNCM, where she is very active as performer. She is leader of the Aestus String Quartet, who enjoys the mentorship of internationally acclaimed chamber musicians and has performed for numerous festivals and concert series. Leda plays a Joseph Gagliano violin of the year 1781 with a Noel Burke bow, both from the RNCM's collection.

Christopher Karwacinski is currently studying MMus Violin at the RNCM, with Professor Benedict Holland. Chris started playing the Violin aged 5 years old. Chris was a member of Junior Guildhall at aged 15, on joint first study Violin and Tuba. After this, whilst studying violin privately under LSO violinist Belinda McFarlane, Chris went on to commence a Pure Mathematics Degree at King's College London. Chris joined as a member of the KCL Symphony Orchestra, winning the University Concerto Competition in his first Semester there and playing as soloist in their tour of Europe that summer. After completing his degree Christopher spent time studying privately with Violin Professors Simon Fischer and John Crawford, whilst working as a Maths and Music Tutor.

Chris has been fortunate enough to have enjoyed a very successful first year and a half at RNCM. This includes achieving a place on the BBC Philharmonic PES scheme, reaching the Norman George Violin Prize final 2022, performing 'The Lark Ascending' with the MBO and recently being selected to perform in the 'Augustin Hadelich' Masterclass.

Beth Willett has recently completed her postgraduate studies at the RNCM under the tutorage of Vicci Wardman, receiving a first-class result. Beth is an enthusiastic chamber musician, most notably as the violist in The Aestus and Innsæi String Quartets. With these ensembles Beth has travelled to Holland to participate in the Orlando Festival performing in masterclasses and a concert tour across Europe, and has also been finalist in many RNCM Chamber Music Competitions and a winner of the RNCM Weil Prize. Beth had performed with these ensembles at the Buxton Pavilion Arts Centre, at Southwell Music Festival, and is participating in Chamber Studio UK's Hans Keller Forum. Alongside chamber music Beth is also a passionate orchestral musician who has performed as part of professional orchestras including the BBC Philharmonic, the Northern Chamber Orchestra, and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.

Clara Hope Simpson has performed as a soloist in venues including Wigmore Hall, Stoller Hall, and Kodak Hall. She won the 2021 Barbirolli Cello Prize at the RNCM as well as the cello concerto competition at the Eastman School of Music. Clara is excited to have been recently awarded the Exceptional Global Talent Visa from Arts Council England which enables her to remain in the UK and to work as an artist without restriction. As cellist of the Aestus Quartet, she is recipient of the Weil Prize for Chamber Music and member of one of only four ensembles selected across the UK for Chamber Studio UK's Hans Keller Forum. She has been principal cellist of numerous ensembles, collaborated with composers including Anna Thorvaldsdottir and Anna Clyne, participated in chamber festivals across North America and England, and performed with groups including the Elias Quartet, Manchester Collective, and Manchester Camerata.

Next Concert Series

This is the last in our current series of concerts. We have a break now until Saturday 13th May, when we return with a solo piano recital by Maria Luc.

We hope that you have a lovely Easter and we look forward to seeing you all again very soon.