

London String Quartet Week

30 March - 6 April 2009

Now in its seventh year, London String Quartet Week is organised by the London String Quartet Foundation whose mission is to promote the discovery and development of talent and audiences for the string quartet.

The Week is incorporated in the Eleventh London International String Quartet Competition, now recognised as among the best of its kind in the world. After a tough pre-competition stage, the Invitation Jury has invited twelve quartets to London to compete for the extremely prestigious awards on offer. Around the Competition a lively mix of events and activities has been programmed to encourage deeper understanding of some of the greatest music that has ever been composed.



Eleventh London International String Quartet Competition

During the four days of Preliminary Rounds, each quartet will play two recitals for the audience and International Jury. Recital 1 will comprise their choice of any one of Haydn's Op 64 or Op 76 series, plus Thomas Adès' *Arcadiana*, the Competition set piece. Recital 2 covers the ensemble's choice of one of the ten late Mozart quartets and their choice of a significant work composed after 1915.

The International Jury will then select at least 6 quartets to go through to the Semi-Finals on 4 April at Wigmore Hall, where they will perform their chosen Beethoven quartet. Only 3 or 4 quartets will go through to the Final on 6 April, where they will play their choice of work from the Romantic repertoire. The announcement of the final result and prize-giving will take place directly after the concert.

The competing quartets are:

Amaryllis Quartet (Germany), Ardeo Quartet (France), Collegium Quartet (Ukraine), The Danish String Quartet (Denmark), Finzi Quartet (UK), Jasper String Quartet (USA), Kamus Quartet (Finland), KNUA String Quartet (Korea), Roddick String Quartet (Canada), Signum Quartet (Germany), Solstice String Quartet (UK) and Quatuor Voce (France).

Members of the International Jury are:

Hatto Beyerle (viola, ex-Alban Berg Quartet, Artistic Director, European Chamber Music Academy; Austria); Peter Cropper (violin, ex-Lindsay Quartet, Professor, (MA in Music Performance), Sheffield University; UK); John Gilhooly (Director, Wigmore Hall; UK); Seppo Kimanen (cello, Jean Sibelius Quartet; Finland); Mihaela Martin (violin, Michelangelo Quartet; Romania); Euan Murdoch (Chief Executive, Chamber Music New Zealand; New Zealand); Christoph Richter (cello, ex-Cherubini Quartet, Professor, Heine Quartet; Germany); Irene Schwalb (Director, Konzertkontor Irene Schwalb; Germany); Roger Tapping (viola, ex-Allegri and Takács Quartets; UK/USA).



Booking Information

Tickets for the Preliminary Rounds at the Royal College of Music can be purchased through the Royal College of Music Box Office; tickets for the Semi-Finals and Final at Wigmore Hall can be purchased through Wigmore Hall Box Office.

Royal College of Music

Royal College of Music, Prince Consort Road, London SW7 2BS
(Tube: South Kensington, Gloucester Road)

Tickets

Illustrated Talks are included in the ticket price
All Day Pass (all events at Royal College of Music) £12 (£9 students, registered disabled)
One Session Pass (morning, afternoon or evening Competition round only) £5 (£4 students, registered disabled)
Two Session Pass (any two Competition rounds) £8 (£7 students, registered disabled)
Week Pass (all events at Royal College of Music March 31-April 3 inclusive) £36 (no concessions)

Box Office

How to Book:
In Person: The Box Office located in the Inner Hall is open weekdays 10.00am - 4.00pm and for up to one hour before any given event.
By Telephone: +44 (0)20 7591 4314, weekdays 10.00am - 4.00pm and up to one hour before any given event.
Postage: Customers can choose to collect their tickets from the Box Office or have them posted for an additional charge of 50p. Tickets are sent out first class within 5 working days of sale. Tickets should be collected from Box Office in the Inner Hall weekdays 10.00am - 4.00pm and up to one hour before the event. All non-UK address ticket sales are held for collection.

Wigmore Hall

Wigmore Hall, 36 Wigmore Street, London W1U 2BP
 Director: John Gilhooly, The Wigmore Hall Trust.
 Registered Charity No. 1024838
 (Tube: Bond Street, Oxford Circus)
 Facilities for Disabled People: Please contact House Management, tel 020 7258 8210 for full details



Tickets

The Semi-Finals and Final are individually priced events.
4 April: Semi-Finals 1 and 2
 £20 £18 £14 £10 for each concert or £32 £28.80 £22.40 £16 for the two
5 April: Final
 £35 £30 £25 £18

Box Office

How to Book:
In person: 7 days a week; 10am - 8.30pm. Days without an evening concert 10am - 5pm. No advanced booking in the half hour prior to a concert.
Telephone: 020 7935 2141. 7 days a week; 10am - 7pm. Days without an evening concert; 10am - 5pm. There is a £1.50 administration fee for all telephone bookings which includes the return of your tickets by first class post.
Online: www.wigmore-hall.org.uk. 7 days a week; 24 hours a day. There is a 50p admin fee for online bookings, which includes the return of your tickets by first class post.

Front cover, clockwise from top left corner: Jasper String Quartet, Danish String Quartet, Amaryllis Quartet, Signum Quartet, Collegium Quartet, Finzi Quartet, Quatuor Voce, Ardeo Quartet

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www.playquartet.com

Eleventh London International String Quartet Competition

30 March - 6 April 2009

A celebration of the art of the string quartet featuring London String Quartet Week



Design: LOD.uk.com



All events for the first 5 days other than Lunchtime Concerts will be held at the Royal College of Music, Prince Consort Road, London SW7 2BS

Intervals between recitals: during 31 March-3 April inclusive there will be a 7 minute break between each recital in the Preliminary Rounds.

Monday 30 March – Thursday 2 April

Non-residential String Quartet Course with the Sacconi Quartet

Tuesday 31 March

10.15-11.30am - Illustrated Talk

David Ledbetter: Haydn's Characters in the Op 76 quartets with the Sacconi Quartet

12.00-1.30pm - Lunchtime Concerts

12noon Collegium Quartet *Beethoven Op 74 in E flat major, 'Harp'*
12.50pm Solstice String Quartet *Mozart D major K499 'Hoffmeister'; Bartók No 3 Sz85*
Part of *ignite* at the Royal Albert Hall
Café Consort, Door 12, Royal Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, London SW7 2AP
Admission free

1.00pm - Lunchtime Concert

KNUA Quartet *Haydn Op 76 No 3 in C major, 'Emperor'; *Thomas Adès Arcadiana*
St Martin-in-the-Fields Church, Trafalgar Square, WC2N 4JJ
Admission free (suggested donation £3.50)

2.00pm - Introduction to LSQF, the Competition and the Royal College of Music

2.30-5.15pm - Preliminary Round

2.30pm Ardeo Quartet *Mozart C major K465, 'Dissonance'; Ligeti No 1, 'Métamorphoses nocturnes'*
3.25pm Roddick String Quartet *Haydn Op 76 No 3 in C major, 'Emperor'; *Adès*
4.15pm Quatuor Voce *Mozart G major K387, 'Spring'; Janáček No 2 'Intimate Letters'*

6.00-7.00pm - Illustrated Talk

Andrew Watkinson: Insights into Thomas Adès' *Arcadiana*

7.30-9.25pm - Preliminary Round

7.30pm Amaryllis Quartet *Haydn Op 76 No 4 in Bb major, 'Sunrise'; *Adès*
8.25pm Finzi Quartet *Mozart D major K499, 'Hoffmeister'; Britten No 3 Op 94*

Wednesday 1 April

10.00am-12.25pm - Preliminary Round

10.00am KNUA Quartet *Haydn Op 76 No 3 in C major, 'Emperor'; *Adès*
10.50am Solstice String Quartet *Mozart D major K499 'Hoffmeister'; Bartók No 3 Sz85*
11.40am Danish String Quartet *Haydn Op 76 No 2 in D minor, 'Fifths'; *Adès*

12.00-1.30pm - Lunchtime Concerts

12noon Roddick String Quartet *Mozart G major K387, 'Spring'; Bartók No 3 Sz85*
12.50pm Amaryllis Quartet *Haydn Op 76 No 4 in Bb major, 'Sunrise'; *Adès*
Part of *ignite* at the Royal Albert Hall
Café Consort, Door 12, Royal Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, London SW7 2AP
Admission free

1.10pm - Lunchtime Concert

Quatuor Voce *Schubert D minor D810, "Death and the Maiden"*
St James's Church, 197 Piccadilly, W1J 9LL
Admission free (suggested donation £3)

2.30-5.10pm - Preliminary Round

2.30pm Finzi Quartet *Haydn Op 64 No 4 in G major; *Adès*
3.20pm Signum Quartet *Mozart C major K465, 'Dissonance'; Janáček No 2, 'Intimate Letters'*
4.20pm Jasper String Quartet *Haydn Op 76 No 5 in D major; *Adès*

6.00-6.45pm - Open Forum: Modern String Instrument Makers

The Strad hosts an event introducing players to modern instrument makers.

7.30-9.15pm - Preliminary Round

7.30pm Kamus Quartet *Haydn Op 76 No 5 in D major; *Adès*
8.20pm Collegium Quartet *Mozart G major K387, 'Spring'; Bartók No 2 Op 17 Sz67*

* Thomas Adès' *Arcadiana* is the Competition set piece

Thursday 2 April

10.00am-12.40pm - Preliminary Round

10.00am Roddick String Quartet *Mozart G major K387, 'Spring'; Bartók No 3 Sz85*
10.55am Quatuor Voce *Haydn Op 76 No 4 in Bb major, 'Sunrise'; *Adès*
11.45am Amaryllis Quartet *Mozart D major K575, 'Prussian'; Bartók No 5 Sz102*

1.00pm - Lunchtime Concert

Ardeo Quartet *Haydn Op 76 No 2 in D minor, 'Fifths'; *Adès*
LDS Chapel, 64-68 Exhibition Road, SW7 2PA
Admission free

1.00pm - Lunchtime Concert

Kamus Quartet *Mozart C major K465 'Dissonance'; Schnittke No 3*
St. Stephen's Church, Southwell Gardens, Gloucester Road, SW7 4AL
Admission free

1.00pm - Lunchtime Concert

Finzi Quartet *Mozart D major K499, 'Hoffmeister'; Britten No 3 Op 94*
St. Mary Abbots, Kensington Church Street, W8 4LA
Admission free (NB: no public conveniences)

2.30-5.15pm - Preliminary Round

2.30pm KNUA String Quartet *Mozart C major K465, 'Dissonance'; Bartók No 4 Sz91*
3.30pm Solstice String Quartet *Haydn Op 76 No 6 in Eb; *Adès*
4.25pm Danish String Quartet *Mozart D minor K421; Bartók No 5 Sz102*

6.15-7.00pm - Illustrated Talk

Malcolm Gillies: Sleuthing Bartók's String Quartets

7.30-9.00pm - Preliminary Round

7.30pm Signum Quartet *Haydn Op 76 No 5 in D major; *Adès*
8.20pm Jasper String Quartet *Mozart C major K465, 'Dissonance'; Bartók No 3 Sz85*

Friday 3 April

10.00am-12.45pm - Preliminary Round

10.00am Ardeo Quartet *Haydn Op 76 No 2 in D minor, 'Fifths'; *Adès*
10.55am Kamus Quartet *Mozart C major K465 'Dissonance'; Schnittke No 3*
11.55am Collegium Quartet *Haydn Op 76 No 4 in Bb major, 'Sunrise'; *Adès*

1.00pm - Lunchtime Concert

Jasper String Quartet *Mozart C major K465, 'Dissonance'; Bartók No 3 Sz85*
St Martin-in-the-Fields Church, Trafalgar Square, WC2N 4JJ
Admission free (suggested donation £3.50)

1.00pm - Lunchtime Concert

Danish String Quartet *Mozart D minor K421; Bartók No 5 Sz102*
St. Bride's, Fleet Street, EC4Y 8AU
Admission free

1.10pm - Lunchtime Concert

Signum Quartet *Haydn Op 76 No 5 in D major; Adès*
St. Giles-in-the-Fields Church, 60 St Giles High Street, WC2H 8LG
Admission free

3.00pm - Announcement of Semi-Finalists

3.15-4.00pm - International Jury Discussion

Members of the International Jury discuss aspects of quartet playing.

Saturday 4 April

2.00pm - Semi-Final 1: Wigmore Hall

7.00pm - Semi-Final 2: Wigmore Hall

At least six quartets that have been selected by the International Jury will each perform their choice of one of Beethoven's quartets. At the end of the evening the Jury will select at least three for the Final.

Sunday 5 April

6.00pm - Final: Wigmore Hall

The selected finalists will each play their chosen work from the Romantic repertoire, which could include works by Brahms, Debussy, Dvorak, Mendelssohn, Ravel, Schumann, Schubert and Smetana. The concert will be followed by the Awards Ceremony at about 9.00pm. This year, the First Prize of £12,000 has been donated for the first time by the Worshipful Company of Musicians.

Monday 6 April

12.00-1.30pm - Lunchtime Concert

Given by the winners of the Royal College of Music String Quartet Competition which takes place in March 2009.

Part of *ignite* at the Royal Albert Hall
Café Consort, Door 12, Royal Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, London SW7 2AP
Admission free

Illustrated Talks

A series of not-to-be-missed sessions by leading experts who are passionate about what they do. See full programme overleaf for date, time and venue details.

HAYDN'S CHARACTERS

Tuesday 31 March

A talk centred on Haydn's Opus 76 string quartets illustrated with live musical examples played by the Sacconi Quartet. Haydn's wonderfully witty play with character ideas is one of the main pleasures of the quartets. David Ledbetter is co-editor, with Simon Rowland-Jones, of the new Peters Edition of Haydn's string quartets and Research Fellow at the RNCM.

INSIGHTS INTO THOMAS ADÈS' ARCADIANA

Tuesday 31 March

Thomas Adès' *Arcadiana*, his extraordinarily imaginative first quartet, was commissioned by the Endellion String Quartet in 1994. Andrew Watkinson, leader of the Endellion Quartet, discusses the appeal of this work by one of the UK's leading composers.

MODERN STRING INSTRUMENT MAKERS

Wednesday 1 April

The Strad hosts an event introducing players to modern instrument makers, with demonstrations and opportunities to try out instruments.

SLEUTHING BARTÓK'S STRING QUARTETS

Thursday 2 April

Bartók's six quartets are core works of chamber repertory. Written between 1907 and 1940, they lead from the late gasps of Romanticism through modernistic dissonance to a more classical plasticity of expression. In fact, they summarize, in microcosm, every feature of his compositional progress. In this talk Malcolm Gillies explains how Bartók adapted his ideas to the quartet medium and why these works are towering achievements of twentieth-century art.

INTERNATIONAL JURY DISCUSSION

Friday 3 April

Members of the International Jury including Peter Cropper, Seppo Kimanen, Christoph Richter and Roger Tapping join Petroc Trelawney for the closing event of



London String Quartet Week, to discuss general aspects of quartet playing, drawing on their wide range of performing experience.

Free Lunchtime Concerts

To enhance the experience of all competing quartets and to give the public another chance to hear them, there will be twelve free lunchtime recitals lasting an hour or less at the Royal Albert Hall and in some of London's most beautiful churches.

String Quartet Course with the Sacconi Quartet

This four day non-residential course will be open to pre-formed groups of any age and experience. Student groups will pay a subsidised amount, although amateur quartets will also be welcome. All participants will get free passes to all the Competition events at the Royal College of Music. Please email info@playquartet.com for further information.

Education and Outreach

RCM Sparks, the College's Education and Outreach Programme, will be providing a series of practical workshops for young string players from the *Musicians of the Future* scheme. *Musicians of the Future* is an innovative collaboration with the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea. Now in its fourth year, the scheme enables twenty-four pupils each year to benefit from free one-to-one instrumental tuition from RCM students. This is a fast-track programme working on newly commissioned pieces by composer Sally Greaves, it offers a fresh, engaging approach to learning and nurtures the importance of ensemble playing from the very beginning. New violinists from the current project and cellists from the 2005-06 project will come together to work with a professional and RCM string quartet to experience an exciting, practical insight into chamber music.

