



## Our performers

**Without these wonderful people, there would be no Festival. The following pages give some details about individual performers. On the last page, there are details of the membership of the orchestra and ensembles that are performing. There are sometimes inevitable late changes in membership. Our apologies for any consequent omissions or errors.**

**Rachel Ambrose Evans** (30 Sep) is a freelance soprano. After reading music at Cambridge, she now sings with various consorts and choirs in the UK and Europe, including The Tallis Scholars, Polyphony, Dunedin Consort, New London Consort and Britten Sinfonia Voices.

**Nick Ashby** (14 Sep), a graduate of the University of York, is a freelance bass. He performs extensively as a soloist, and with many vocal ensembles including The Tallis Scholars, BBC Singers, I Fagiolini, the Platinum Consort and Stile Antico. He is also a keen composer, and has had works recorded by ensembles including Exaudi.

**Joseph Atkins** (16 Sep) leads a busy life as composer, musical director, pianist and collaborator in touring shows, for which he arranges, plays and accompanies singers. As composer, he has a particular affinity with the voice and setting text, but also composes for larger orchestral forces. He also plays and composes for the guitar. Joe grew up in Bristol and read music at New College, Oxford.

**Christopher Borrett** (14 Sep) is a baritone and conductor. Formerly a choral scholar at New College, Oxford he is a member of the Monteverdi Choir and also sings with other ensembles such as the Marian Consort, the Brabant Ensemble, Stile Antico, Ludus Baroque and the Dunedin Consort. He is musical director of the Ipswich Chamber Choir and works closely with the Pimlott Foundation.

**Ana Beard Fernández** (17 Sep) is a soprano in the Choir of The Carmelite Priory, Kensington, and a member of National Youth Choir of Great Britain's Fellowship octet. She studies at the Royal College of Music, and also teaches violin, piano and voice.

**Pablo Hernán Benedí** (15 Sep) is a violinist who was born and studied in Spain before moving to London in 2009. As well as being a member of the

**Chiaroscuro Quartet**, Pablo is a founding member of the Trio Isimsiz. As a soloist Pablo has performed with London Chamber Players, Padre Antonio Soler Symphony Orchestra and the Philharmonia. He also regularly works as leader or section leader with groups like Arcangelo and the Academy of Ancient Music.

**Jordan Bowron** (30 Sep) went on from the Royal Northern College of Music to specialise in the baroque viola, studying Historical Performance at the Royal Academy of Music. He is in demand both as a modern and period instrumental player and his freelance work takes him worldwide, performing and recording with leading orchestras and ensembles.

**Esther Brazil** (24, 30 Sep) is an American-born English mezzo-soprano. She was educated in Beijing, Singapore, and Sydney. She was then a choral scholar at Queen's College, Oxford, and recently gained an MA from the Royal Academy of Music. Specialising in the Baroque repertoire, she has performed widely in recital, chamber and operatic performances with many of Europe's established figures. She is also a founding member of Oxford Baroque.

**Robert Brooks** (17 Sep) is a baritone, conductor and composer based in Manchester. He is a member of the National Youth Choir of Great Britain Fellows octet. He also directs the Preston Cecilian Choral Society, the Manchester Singers and the Abney Orchestra, and is currently a conducting scholar with the Leeds Festival Chorus.

**Zoe Brookshaw** (30 Sep) held a Choral Scholarship at Trinity College, Cambridge and was then awarded a place on the Monteverdi Choir apprenticeship scheme. A soprano, she specialises in baroque oratorio and has sung solo roles for distinguished conductors, including Sir John Eliot

**Christopher Bruerton** (28 Sep) is a baritone with the King's Singers. After 15 years in the choir of

**Jeremy Budd** (30 Sep) A tenor, he is the former Head Chorister of St Paul's Cathedral; as a treble soloist, he recorded and performed internationally. He has since been a member of - among others - the Monteverdi Choir and the English Baroque Soloists. Most recently, he was in the Choir of the Age of the Enlightenment, performing Handel's *Israel in Egypt* at the 2017 Proms.

**Rowena Calvert** (24 Sep) studied cello at the Yehudi Menuhin School and then the Royal Academy of Music where she was national string finalist of BBC Young Musician of the Year. She ran the Mehli Mehta Music Foundation in Bombay for two years and had her own cello class in the Mathieson Music School. She is currently studying at the Royal Northern College of Music where she has her own piano trio and string quartet.

**Thomas Carroll** (23 Sep), Welsh born, is cellist with **Trio Apaches**. He launched his career when he won both Young Concert Artists Trust and YCA, New York, subsequently performing as soloist with major orchestras across Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia and America. Much in demand as a chamber musician, Thomas is a regular guest at numerous International Festivals. As well as his work on cello, Thomas is also much in demand as a

conductor. He is currently a Professor at the Royal College of Music and the Yehudi Menuhin School.

**Eva Caballero** (30 Sep) Originally from Barcelona, she developed her love of baroque and historical flutes during a scholarship at Trinity College of Music, London. Having continued her studies in France, she is now once again based in London. Winner of numerous awards as a performer, she is also an enthusiastic flute teacher.

**Helen Charlston** (30 Sep) became head chorister of the St Albans Abbey choir and was awarded a choral scholarship at Trinity College, Cambridge. A soprano, she now appears regularly with orchestras and choirs worldwide and has also performed a range of stage roles. The founder of Amici Voices, she is a highly experienced consort singer.

**Chiaroscuro Quartet** (15 Sep) Formed in 2005, the Quartet comprises violinists **Alina Ibragimova** (Russia) and **Pablo Hernán Benedí** (Spain), the Swedish violist **Emilie Hörnlund** and cellist **Claire Thirion** from France. Trailblazers for the authentic performance of High Classical chamber music, the Chiaroscuro performs music of the Classical and early Romantic periods on gut strings and with historical bows. They perform at major venues throughout the world and have an extensive discography.

The **Chineke!** Foundation was established in 2015 to provide career opportunities to young Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) classical musicians in the UK and Europe. Chineke!'s motto is: "Championing change and celebrating diversity in classical music".

**Elodie Chousmer-Howells** (22 Sep) is a violinist from Chelmsford. She is leader of the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain (NYO). Elodie, now in her third year with the NYO, studies at the Junior Department of the Royal College of Music and has performed with both the **Chineke!** Orchestra and Chineke! Junior Orchestra.

**Bojan Čičić** (24, 30 Sep), a virtuoso player on both the violin and viola d'amore, specialises as player and director in repertoire ranging from the late 16th century to the Romantic period. He founded the **Illyria Consort**, formerly known as Suonar Cantando, to explore rare repertoire of this period. In addition to being the leader of Florilegium, Bojan frequently guest directs groups such as the Academy

of Ancient Music, European Union Baroque Orchestra, and Camerata Kilkenny.

British cellist **Natalie Clein** (17 Sep) has built a distinguished career, regularly performing at major venues solo, with chamber groups and with orchestras worldwide. She is director of her own chamber music festival in Purbeck, Dorset, and Artist in Residence and Director of Musical Performance at Oxford University. She regularly works with contemporary composers and has also curated and been involved in cross-disciplinary projects with the dancer Carlos Acosta, writer Jeanette Winterson and director Deborah Warner amongst others.

**Colne Valley Youth Orchestra** (1 Oct) The Colchester-based Orchestra was established in 1980 by local music teacher and composer Nigel Hildreth who is still its Musical Director. It provides an ideal opportunity for young musicians from the surrounding areas to express themselves musically in a friendly, non-competitive environment, free from the stress of auditions. Hundreds of young musicians from the local area have had the chance to play and perform not just in and around North Essex, but in countries across Europe. The aim of the orchestra has always been to afford musical and social opportunities to youngsters aged 7-18 no matter what their background.

**Helena Cooke** (17 Sep) is a freelance alto living in London, and is a member of the **NYCGB Fellowship Octet**. After studying Music at the University of York, Helena worked as a Lay Clerk with the Choir of Clare College Cambridge. She sings with numerous vocal and opera groups and consorts, and has had a lifelong involvement in the St Endellion Music Festivals.

**Carina Cosgrave** (30 Sep) since graduating from her post graduate studies in double bass and baroque bass at the Royal College of Music, she has performed with numerous orchestras, including the BBC Symphony Orchestra and the City of London Sinfonia. Her passion for historical performance has led her to perform with many ensembles in Europe.

Oboist **Tristan Cox** (24 Sep) has played guest principal oboe in orchestras including the London Philharmonic Orchestra and Philharmonia, having studied in Salzburg and the Guildhall School in London. Tristan has played with orchestras including Florilegium, St James Baroque, Brook

Street Band & Brandenburg Baroque Soloists. And he sells reed and cane to other oboists!

**Miranda Cromwell** (16 Sep) is a Bristol-based director, choreographer and performer, specialising in devised physical performance. She graduated from Dartington College of Arts in 2007, where she trained in contemporary theatre and choreographic practices. In addition to her work as Young Company Director at Bristol Old Vic, Miranda is also Artistic Director of local company Twisted Theatre.

**Ricardo Da Silva** (15 Sep) Born in Angola and raised in East London, Ricardo started dancing in secondary school, went on to join East London Dance Youth Company and later completed his degree at London Contemporary Dance School.

**Ben Davies** (30 Sep) is a bass who, having studied at the Royal Academy of Music, has sung leading roles for major conductors such as Sir Colin Davis and Sir John Eliot Gardiner. He has performed with choral societies throughout the country and is a lay clerk at the Brompton Oratory. Recently, he has been a member of the English Baroque soloists, the Monteverdi Choir and The Sixteen.

**Steven Devine** (30 Sep) is a principal harpsichord player with a number of orchestras, including London Baroque and the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment. He has performed all over the world as a harpsichord soloist and made many recordings. His recent *Goldberg Variations* was reviewed as “among the best” by *Gramophone* magazine. He is professor of harpsichord and fortepiano at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music.

**Leo Duarte** (30 Sep) developed his love of the early oboe whilst a postgraduate at London’s Royal Academy of Music. He plays regularly with leading orchestras, including the English Baroque Soloists, the Academy of Ancient Music and the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment. Commitment to historically informed performances is also expressed with the group “Reveries Musicales.”

**Will Duke** (27 Sep) is a video artist, filmmaker and projection designer based in the UK. Since 2009 Will has been working as a projection designer for Contemporary Dance and Theatre. He is involved with stage productions from early design meetings through to opening nights and beyond. His work includes projects with Royal Shakespeare Company

and Complicité. Will works across theatre and dance as well as exploring contemporary music and visual art installation. He is passionate about cinema, visual culture and the ever-evolving possibilities for the integration of the moving image into live performance.

**Patrick Dunachie** (28 Sep) has sung counter-tenor with the King's Singers since 2016. Previously he was a chorister at Hereford Cathedral, a member of the King's College Choir, a lay clerk at Christchurch, Oxford, a teacher, and a freelance singer with numerous groups.

**Festival Orchestra** (29 Sep, 1 Oct)

**Festival Ensemble** (14 Sep)

See the final age for the full membership of these groups of professional musicians, many of whom are also performing in other Festival events.

**Festival Choir** (1 Oct)

The choir comprises about 30 local enthusiasts with a wide range of musical knowledge and experience. They came together in early September to 'come and sing' under the inspired leadership of Ben Voberg-Clark.

**Tom Foster** (24 Sep) is a fortepianist and harpsichordist. He performs frequently as a chamber musician, recital soloist, and continuo accompanist. With a special affinity for music of the 18th Century, he has developed an expertise in its performance practice, especially with regard to improvisation. Tom is currently based in Boston, Massachusetts. Following a master's degree in New York, he is a graduate of the London Royal College of Music. He also composes, with about 40 original compositions premiered.

**Alec Frank-Gemmell** (1 Oct) is Principal Horn of the Scottish Chamber Orchestra. He divides his time between concertos, recitals, chamber music and orchestral playing. Often invited as a guest principal horn, Alec frequently appears with the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, London Symphony Orchestra and Chamber Orchestra of Europe. As a soloist, he has long been keen to explore the solo repertoire of the baroque era and to champion the use of instruments from the 19th century. He regularly plays in period-instrument ensembles, most notably with Ensemble Marsyas.

**Christopher Gabbitas** (28 Sep) has been a

baritone with the King's Singers since 2004. He has been singing in choirs since aged eight, successively in Rochester Cathedral, St John's Cambridge and Christchurch Oxford. He is also a qualified lawyer.

**Vasil Garvanliev** (16 Sep) a Macedonian tenor, has had an adventurous career so far. He began singing pop professionally at the age of seven in his native country. He moved to Toronto in 2004 to train. He spent ten years as an operatic and concert as an operatic bass-baritone before, on the advice of Marilyn Horne, making the transition to tenor in 2016.

**William Gaunt** (30 Sep) Having been a chorister at Ripon Cathedral, he was awarded a choral scholarship to King's College, Cambridge. A bass-baritone, he performs and records as a consort singer with leading ensembles such as the Gabrieli Consort, the King's Consort and Tenebrae. As a soloist, he has appeared with the London Symphony Orchestra and the Orchestra of the Age of the Enlightenment.

**Rebecca Gilliver** (22 Sep) is principal cellist of the London Symphony Orchestra and professor of cello at London's Guildhall School of Music and Drama. Following early success at a number of competitions, Rebecca has performed widely as soloist and chamber player; and has been guest principal with orchestras including the Australian Chamber Orchestra, New Sinfonietta Amsterdam and the World Orchestra for Peace.

**Bartosz Glowacki** (9 Sep) is one of the leading lights of a new generation of accordionists. He was born in Poland, where he studied classical accordion with in the National Music School in Sanok. In 2015 he graduated from the Royal Academy of Music, with the Regency Award for noticeable achievements, where he continues his Master studies now. Bartosz represented Poland in the Eurovision Young Musicians Competition in Vienna. Bartosz has recently completed an Open Space residency in Aldeborough, conducting innovative projects with accordion music.

**Marta Goncalves** (30 Sep) A flautist, she graduated with Distinction from the Royal College of Music. She performs regularly with, among others, the Orchestra of the Age of the Enlightenment, the Academy of Ancient Music and Florilegium. A teacher of the flute, she works with Orchestras for All, whose mission is to give

experience of ensemble music making to disadvantaged young people.

**Clio Gould** (14, 22 Sep) is Principal Violin of the London Sinfonietta and director of the Sainsbury Royal Academy Soloists, and is former leader of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and Artistic Director of the Scottish Ensemble. As a widely experienced soloist and leader, she is increasingly involved in the performance of contemporary solo repertoire, and has worked with many leading composers. She gave the first, and many a subsequent, performance of Oliver Knussen's violin concerto. Clio plays the Rutson Stradivarius of 1694.

**Julian Gregory** (28 Sep) has been a tenor with the King's Singers since 2104. Starting as a chorister at age six in Leicester Cathedral, he has twice been a chorister (boy and adult) at St John's College, and has freelanced in the UK and Europe.

**Indira Grier** (22 Sep) started playing the cello at the age of 4. She frequently performs across the UK as part of the Grier Trio, with her violinist sister, Savitri, and pianist and composer father, Francis. She is also active as a soloist and orchestral player, and has been performing as concerto soloist from the age of 12. In addition to her musical studies, Indira is reading English Literature at University College London.

**Benjamin Grosvenor** (23 Sep) first came to prominence as the outstanding winner of the Keyboard Final of the 2004 BBC Young Musician Competition at the age of eleven. Since then, he has become an internationally regarded pianist with solo and concerto performances world-wide. At just nineteen, Benjamin performed with the BBC Symphony Orchestra at the First Night of the 2011 BBC Proms, and has become a popular annual performer there. Benjamin also enjoys incorporating chamber music collaborations into his schedule, including performances with the Escher, Elias and Endellion String Quartets. The youngest of five brothers, Benjamin began playing the piano aged 6. He studied at the Royal Academy of Music where he graduated in 2012 with the 'Queen's Commendation for Excellence' and in 2016 was made a Fellow.

**Jonathan Hanley** (14 Sep) is a Suffolk-born tenor. He was a choral scholar at St Mary-le-Tower, Ipswich and then at York Minster. A graduate of the University of York, he regularly performs with a

number of ensembles in Yorkshire and East Anglia as both a chorus member and soloist. He is currently a lay clerk at Peterborough Cathedral.

**Gwyneth Herbert** is an award-winning composer and lyricist, vocalist, multi-instrumentalist and record producer. Drawing on influences from the worlds of jazz, folk, contemporary classical music and storytelling, she has released six albums and toured across the world with her band. She is also a charismatic worker with children, inspiring them to create and perform; her production of "The King's Shilling" and work on sea shanties with primary school children were highlights of last year's Festival Finale.

**Nicola Hicks** (22 Sep) is a viola player who has performed regularly in chamber ensembles, orchestras, and as a soloist in the United States and United Kingdom. She trained in Manchester and Pennsylvania. Nicola has worked with **Chineke!** as an orchestral player and as a viola mentor for Chineke! Junior Orchestra. She is also an active string teacher with several London organisations.

**Emilie Hörnlund** (15 Sep) was born in Goteborg, Sweden. Formally a member of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Emilie is Principal Viola at the Swedish Royal Opera. In addition to her chamber work with the **Chiaroscuro Quartet** and other groups, she works with many leading orchestras in the UK and Sweden. Emilie studied at the Falun Music Conservatory, Guildhall School of Music and the Royal College of Music, and has a particular interest in the baroque viola.

**Jonathan Howard** (28 Sep) has been a bass with the King's Singers since 2010. He sang incessantly but without training as a child, then became a choral scholar at New College, Oxford, where he read classics. And then became a King's Singer!

**Hugo Hymas** (30 Sep) developed his accomplishment in performing tenor roles whilst at Durham University. He now has a freelance career, and as a Britten- Pears young artist has recently performed at Snape Maltings. As an ensemble performer, he has toured with the Monteverdi Choir and also sings with other London based consorts.

**Alina Ibragimova** (15 Sep) is leader and first violin of the period instrument **Chiaroscuro Quartet**. Born in Russia in 1985, Alina studied in Moscow before moving with her family to the UK in

1996, where she studied at the Yehudi Menuhin School and Royal College of Music. Alina has performed chamber music as soloist, with Chiaroscuro and other ensembles, both period and modern, at major venues throughout the world. She also performs as soloist with leading international orchestras including the London Symphony Orchestra, Academy of Ancient Music, the Australian Chamber Orchestra, Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen, Stuttgart Radio Symphony, Munich Chamber Orchestra, Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, Konzerthausorchester Berlin, Philharmonia, and all the BBC orchestras.

**Illyria Consort** (24, 30 Sep) Bojan Čičić founded the Illyria Consort, formerly known as Suonar Cantando, to explore rare repertoire of the 17th and 18th centuries. The group has recently appeared at the Korkyra Baroque Festival and the Antwerp Laus Polyphoniae Festival with a programme of 16th and 17th-century Adriatic music, and has also toured Holland and Belgium extensively, performing baroque music from Vienna and Venice. They have released a recording of Carbonelli's violin sonatas, one of which is performed during the Festival. The membership of this flexible and talented group varies to meet the challenges of the music, as in this Festival's performance of Bach's B-minor Mass with small baroque forces.

**Ben Inman** (17 Sep) Whilst a chorister at Southwell Minster, he achieved international success with the Choirboys, singing a mixture of classical and popular material. Now a tenor, he has been a choral scholar at York Minster, studying both ensemble and solo singing. He has recently held a number of lay clerkships across the country.

**Theo Jamieson** (16 Sep) is a composer, lyricist, musical director and pianist. His classical compositions have been performed by the St Paul's Sinfonia and members of the English National Ballet Orchestra. He is currently developing musicals at Theatre Royal Stratford East and The National Theatre. Musical Direction for theatre includes: *The Wild Party* (The Other Palace), *Funny Girl* (The Savoy Theatre), *High Society* (Old Vic); *Here Lies Love*, *Treasure Island National* and *Putting It Together* (St James). As an orchestrator he has provided orchestrations/arrangements for Maria Friedman, Adam Guettel and Willemijn Verkaik in concert, and a new orchestration for *The Wild Party*.

**Rebekah Jones** (14 Sep) is a mezzo soprano, who specialised in voice and violin at King's College, London. She has sung with a number of choirs and ensembles, including the Brabant Ensemble and the National Youth Chamber Choir of Great Britain.

**Orlando Jopling** (14, 29, 30 Sep, 1 Oct) has been involved with Roman River Music from its inception, and has been its Artistic Director since 2007. He is also Principal Conductor of the Royal Orchestra Society and guest-conducts a wide range of orchestras and opera companies in the UK and Europe including the English Chamber Orchestra, Independent Opera, Irish Chamber Orchestra, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Schönbrunn Festival Orchestra, Savoy Opera and Travelling Opera; and is Assistant Conductor of Garsington Opera. He has been music director of two opera companies, *Tête à Tête* and Stanley Hall Opera, commissioning over 15 new works and numerous translations. As a cellist Orlando has guested with all of the great London orchestras and played concertos and chamber music, as well as over 120 recitals of the Bach Cello Suites and other solo cello repertoire as part of his Cello Pilgrimage. He occasionally composes for television and has arranged music for various musicians including Sinead O'Connor, Martha Wainwright and Anthony Marwood.

**Daniel Joy** (14 Sep) A tenor, he read music at Durham University followed by post graduate studies at the Royal College of Music, achieving a distinction. After studying opera, he has sung for a number of companies, including Scottish Opera, the Wexford Festival and Glyndebourne, where he has given recitals as a member of the Festival Chorus.

**Braimah Kanneh-Mason** (22 Sep) is a violinist with **Chineke!** The leader of their junior orchestra, he also plays chamber music with the Kenne-Mason Piano Trio. He currently holds a scholarship at the Royal College of Music and has received multiple awards in recent years. Besides his classical performances, he has toured the world as violinist with the group Clean Bandit.

**The King's Singers** (28 Sep) were officially formed on 1 May 1968 by six recently-graduated choral scholars from King's College, Cambridge. Their line-up was (by chance) two countertenors, a tenor, two baritones and a bass, and the group has never wavered from this formation. What really distinguished them in early years was diversity.

Their unique British charm, combined with their musical craft, captured audiences' hearts the world over. The group has been welcomed on the world's great stages throughout its history. They are ambassadors for musical excellence across the globe. Their love of diversity has always fuelled The King's Singers' commitment to creating new music. A panoply of commissioned works by foremost composers of each generation sits alongside countless bespoke arrangements in the group's extensive repertoire.

**Hannah King** (17 Sep) After studying at Cheetham's School of Music, she read music at Trinity College, Cambridge, holding choral and instrumental scholarships. A soprano, she has been a member of the College choir and now has a career that combines solo and consort performances and also shows a commitment to contemporary music.

**Vanessa King** (29 Sep) trained as a horn player and as a teacher, becoming increasingly involved in developing and running musical classes and activities for the very young since raising her own children – and she couldn't tell you where the time in between has gone!

Violinist **Harriet Mackenzie** (23 Sep) studied at the Royal Academy of Music, graduating with first class honours. She is a recipient of awards from the Tillett Trust, The Manoug Parikian Award and the Hattori Foundation. Harriet has toured Europe, America and Japan as a soloist, recitalist and chamber musician. She has broadcast recitals live for BBC Radio 3, Classic FM and Hungarian National Radio.

**Martha McLorinan** (30 Sep) A mezzo- soprano, she trained at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, holding a scholarship with the BBC National Chorus of Wales. A versatile singer, she has been described as a "radiant soloist" in her choral work, which ranges from Baroque to contemporary. She has performed and recorded many operatic roles and, having worked with numerous ensembles, is in demand as a consort singer.

**Gwen Martin** (14 Sep) After reading music at Worcester College, Oxford, she studied singing at Trinity College of Music. Besides singing with ensembles, including the Marian Consort, she has been a recital and oratorio soloist and taken leading soprano roles with the Bristol Choral Society. She

currently leads music workshops for young people in the London Borough of Southwark.

**Frazier Merrick** (16 Sep) describes himself as composer, sound designer and all round noise maker - a sound artist who works across films, video games and interactive art installations. A graduate in music technology, he worked on the score for BBC's *Human Planet*. His work has featured at film festivals world-wide. He undertakes extensive work with young people, such as the Young Art Kommunity at Colchester's Firstsite.

**Barney Morse-Brown** (15 Sep) studied both classical and baroque cello performance at the Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama and the Royal College of Music. After completing his studies, he ventured into improvisational and experimental performance. He is noted for his versatility and his dextrous use of a looping machine. He is part of folk collective The Imagined Village, and has another life as Duotone, whose third album, *Let's Get Low*, was written on his houseboat.

**National Youth Choir Fellows** (17 Sep). The Fellowship Programme of the National Youth Choirs of Great Britain aims to create the most highly-skilled and multi-talented choral singers in the UK. Each year, eight singers aged 22-25, are selected at open audition. They undertake a training programme designed to develop outstanding skills in performance, education and leadership. During the year, the NYC Fellows' intensive programme has included education work with children, a residency and concert performance of Handel's *Messiah* at Snape Maltings, recording sessions with Tenebrae vocal consort, a performance masterclass with The King's Singers, teaching and mentoring on NYCGB residential courses and multitrack video recording experience.

**Lila Palmer** (16 Sep) is a soprano, writer and actress. An alumnus of New England Conservatory, Cambridge University and the Aspen Opera Theatre Centre, Lila is currently enrolled as a librettist in the Opera Makers program created by the Guildhall School and the Royal Opera House. She has collaborated extensively with Emmy award-nominated composer Daniel Bernard Roumain and was a founder member of the musical not-for-profit The Sounding Board, a social-justice production and commissioning organisation.



**Elsbeth Piggott** (17 Sep) Having graduated in music from the University of York, the soprano has developed a career as a freelance choral professional, working with the Oxford Bach Soloists and a number of ensembles, including the Blenheim Singers and The Sixteen. She has a Fellowship with the National Youth Choir of Great Britain and is currently a member of Schola Cantorum of Oxford.

**Jack Ridley** (1 Oct) is a London-born conductor and pianist, trained in Vienna at the Universität für Musik und Darstellende Kunst. He started conducting during his time as a choral scholar at Wadham College Oxford, where he developed a reputation for opening up performance opportunities to anyone interested in music, and delivering outstanding results. He has worked as conductor and chorus master with numerous groups in England, Scotland and several European countries. These include Glyndebourne Touring Opera, Garsington Opera, the Swedish Radio Choir, British Youth Opera, the Polska Filharmonia Bałtycka and the Southbank Sinfonia. He has recently completed a spell as Head of Music Staff for English Touring Opera's 2017 spring tour.

**Timothy Ridout** (22 Sep) studied at the Royal Academy of Music with Martin Outram, graduating in 2016 with the Queen's Award for Excellence. Also in 2016, Timothy was the first ever British winner of the Lionel Tertis International Viola Competition and was selected for representation by Young Classical Artists Trust (YCAT). He has a busy career as recitalist, chamber player and orchestral soloist with prestigious groups and at venues and festivals across Europe. Earlier this year he recorded his first CD of music by Vieuxtemps for Champs Hill Records, due for release shortly. Timothy plays on a Viola by Peregrino di Zanetto c1565-75 generously on a temporary loan from Beares International Violin Society.

**Antonio Romero** (15 Sep) was born in Jerez in 1975. He was co-founder and drummer of the band El Hombre Burbuja, influential on the Spanish pop-rock scene in the 90s. He then moved completely away from the world of pop and fully dedicated himself to studying oriental percussion. He moved temporarily to Istanbul where he created a bond with Turkey and its music that has lasted until today. He has developed his own approach by applying classical rudiments to Middle Eastern

percussion. He lives in London with his family, faithful to his intuition, his Flamenco roots and to the groove and beauty of the music

**William Searle** (17 Sep) A tenor, his choral experience began in the Cathedrals of Llandaff and Gloucester. At Cambridge, he further developed his experience and has toured abroad with the Sidney Sussex College Choir. He has also given recitals, performed in opera and is currently a member of consorts, including the Genesis Sixteen.

**Hayleigh Sellors** (15 Sep) recently graduated from Kingston University, studying BA Dance and has a Contemporary Dance background. She is a resident dancer for a dance collective, The Company.

**Matthew Sharp** (14 Sep) is a compelling classical cellist and a fearless pioneer. He studied cello in Cologne, voice in Stockholm and English at Trinity College, Cambridge. He was taken to Jacqueline du Pré when he was 12, Galina Vishnewskaya when he was 18 and studied chamber music with the Amadeus Quartet. He performs at major venues and festivals worldwide as solo cellist, baritone, actor and director.

**Nishla Smith** (9 Sep) is a classically trained singer, writer, visual artist, and actress. After gaining her Bachelor of Music, she toured for several years with Opera Bites and the Ten Sopranos. In 2012, Nishla moved to Melbourne and formed the Nish Smith Trio. During this period, she also wrote, recorded, and toured her work Come On, Spaceman. Since 2015, she has split her time between Melbourne, where she is currently writing and recording a new album, and Europe, where she tours as a jazz singer, and writes and illustrates children's poetry under the business name Niche Drawings.

**Joshua Sofaer** (b. 1972 Cambridge, England) is an artist who is centrally concerned with modes of collaboration and participation, which he explores through social sculpture, performance, installation, exhibition and publication. What draws Sofaer's diverse practices together is a concern with how audiences engage with the world as a place of potentiality. People's experience is key, as are the material cultures they choose to surround themselves with. Recurring themes of his work include 'rubbish': what we choose to throw away;



‘collections’: what we choose to keep; and ‘names’: how what we are called becomes who we are.

**Kate Symonds Joy** (14 Sep) is an English mezzo-soprano. She read Music at Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge University before studying on the Royal Academy Opera course, during which she was awarded the Basil A Turner Prize for her performance with British Youth Opera. Since then, she has presented numerous operatic roles with Royal Academy Opera and other groups in the UK and France. She has also undertaken concert and recital work at major venues here and in France, including the Albert Hall, the Purcell Room and Cadogan Hall. Future projects include an operatic role in Bermuda and an operatic installation in the Metropolitan Museum in New York.

**Claire Thirion** (15 Sep) is a French-born cellist with the **Chiaroscuro Quartet**. Since completing her studies in Marseille, Paris and London, Claire has been in great demand for the performance of both modern compositions and Baroque works. Claire works regularly with the London Symphony Orchestra, Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment and BBC National Orchestra of Wales, and is frequently invited as a guest leader for projects on period instruments. As an active soloist and chamber musician she also regularly performs in France and other European countries.

**Anna Tilbrook** (17 Sep) is one of Britain’s most exciting pianists, with a considerable reputation in song recitals and chamber music. She is a regular performer at Europe’s major concert halls and festivals, as well as coaching regularly for the Royal Opera, Covent Garden. Anna has collaborated with many leading singers and instrumentalists, including a much-praised range of concerts and recordings with James Gilchrist.

**Joseph Toonga** (15 Sep) originates from Cameroon but was raised in the East End of London. As an artist, Joseph is fascinated with the rawness, compactness and precision that hip-hop provides and how he can fuse it with the shaping and structure more commonly used in contemporary choreography.

**Trio Apaches** (23 Sep) was formed in 2012 by three long-standing musical friends, **Matthew Trusler**, **Thomas Carroll** and **Ashley Wass**, to

focus on innovative projects and challenging cross-genre collaborations, as well as to present masterworks of the trio repertoire in unfamiliar contexts. They have formed numerous artistic collaborations, particularly with composer Sally Beamish, vividly demonstrated in today's concert. Their innovative programmes have been widely featured on the international concert scene and on BBC Radio 3. They use the name '*apaches*' (ruffians, hooligans!) adopted by a group of 'artistic outcasts', including Ravel and Stravinsky, in the early 1900s.

**Richard Tunnicliffe** (30 Sep) studied cello at the Royal College of Music, London. He developed a love of early music, learning to play the baroque cello, which he now teaches at his former college. He has worked as a freelance player with many major period instrumental orchestras and plays and records with the trio Convivium - performances that have been reviewed with great enthusiasm.

**Isolde Troost** (16 Sep) is a Dutch pianist who trained in Holland and Norway. She works in a variety of genres including solo stage work and operatic correpetitor. What she like most, as in her Festival '17 appearance, is working with a small group of performers in musical, dance and operatic contexts.

**Matthew Trusler** (23 Sep) is violinist with **Trio Apaches**. Following graduation from Philadelphia’s Curtis Institute in 1998, in addition to his chamber work, he has performed with many of the world’s great orchestras, and received critical acclaim for his diverse recordings. He has also founded the record label Orchid Classics and the Lenny Trusler Children’s Foundation, which raises money for desperately ill babies. He performs with a bow once owned by Heifetz.

Violist **Simone van der Giessen** (24 Sep) was born in Amsterdam in 1984. In 2002, Simone moved to the U.K. to continue her studies with Jan Repko at the Royal Northern College of Music. It was in Manchester, that as a founding member of the Navarra String Quartet, chamber music became the centre of her musical life. Simone is in much demand as a chamber musician and is frequently invited to perform with chamber orchestras and ensembles.

**Jessica Walker** (16 Sep) is a highly-versatile mezzo-soprano. She moves effortlessly between operatic roles, here and in Europe, concert recitals

and a range of touring solo shows celebrating great figures of popular song. These include *The Girl I Left Behind Me*, *Pat Kirkwood is Angry* and *Songs for Paris*. As a performer/deviser, Jessica recently completed a major collaboration between Opera North, Leeds University, Bregenz Festival and the Shanghai Theatre Academy. This explored links and differences between Chinese and Western operatic traditions, and culminated in workshop performances in Shanghai, Bregenz and Leeds.

**Emma Walshe** (14, 30 Sep) The English soprano Emma Walshe developed a passion for choral singing as a teenager, performing with the National Youth Choir of Great Britain and the Gloucester Cathedral Youth Choir. She was a choral scholar at Gonville and Caius College Cambridge, later studying at Trinity College Oxford. She has sung regularly both as a soloist and consort singer with numerous London-based vocal ensembles, including the Monteverdi Choir, Gabrieli Consort, Marian Consort, Polyphony and Orlando Chamber Choir. She has also sung with Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment. For the last seven years she has sung with the Tallis Scholars, with performances in major venues world-wide.

**Ashley Wass** (23 Sep) is pianist with **Trio Apaches**. He has been prizewinner at the Leeds Piano and the London International Piano Competitions, and is a former BBC Radio 3 New Generation Artist. Ashley has performed with numerous leading ensembles at many of the world's top concert halls. He has received great critical acclaim for his recordings of music from a wide range of styles and eras. He is the Artistic Director of the Lincolnshire International Chamber Music Festival and a Professor of Piano at the Royal College of Music, London.

**Timothy Waine-Wright** (28 Sep) has been a counter-tenor with the King's Singers since 2009. Starting as a boy chorister in Chelmsford Cathedral, and a brief teenage experimentation with baritone, he has sung counter-tenor in a wide variety of groups, including the choirs of the Royal Naval College Chapel, Greenwich, and St George's Chapel, Windsor.

**Bethan White** (30 Sep) A baroque oboist, she studied at the Royal College of Music after reading music at the University of Cambridge. Having developed her skills in historically informed performances of pre-1800 chamber music, Bethan

has played with a variety of ensembles. These include the Gabrieli Consort and the Dunedin Consort; she also appeared at the London Bach Society's Bachfest.

**Elin White** (30 Sep) After early experience in Gloucestershire, she studied at the Royal College of Music and developed an interest in the baroque violin. Having been selected for the International Festival in Bolivia, she has returned to play there and also tour the United States. Elin now is a solo and chamber performer, appearing in the London Handel and London Baroque festivals; she also plays regularly with Florilegium.

**James Whittle** (16 Sep) is a composer-performer and conductor based in Yorkshire. He specialises in devising pieces collaboratively, blending musical performance with theatre and movement, and drawing on performance art and dance-theatre practices. James also works as a live performance and session musician, including playing solo cello on albums for York-based singer-songwriters.

**Wennah Wilkers** (15 Sep), originally from the Philippines, has a Bachelor of Dance from Amsterdam's School of the Arts. She has worked as a dance performer for projects across Europe as well as TV commercials, and has worked with artists such as Giovanni Pisas, Teddy Bot and Roselie Van Herk.

**Jamie Wright** (17 Sep) A professional baritone and conductor based in London, Jamie studied music at York University and the Royal Academy of Music. He sang with The Sixteen at the BBC Proms in the 2016 season, and joined them again as the bass soloist and chorus member in *All The Angels* at Shakespeare's Globe. Jamie is also part of the National Youth Choir's Fellowship programme this year. A keen educator as well as performer, Jamie works with the London Youth Choir, helping to encourage and teach the next generation of choral musicians in the UK. In 2015 Jamie joined Gareth Malone on his latest series *The Naked Choir* as vocal coach and arranger, continuing on to tour the UK with Gareth's Voices ensemble. Jamie currently also sings as a Gentleman of the Chapel Royal at the Tower of London.

**Maya Yousseff** (15 Sep) is a virtuoso Syrian kanun player. Maya is from a Damascus family of writers and artists. She was the first musician in the family, though her father had a huge collection of music

from all over the world, She started learning music aged seven, eventually gaining a BA in Music in Damascus, specialising in kanun. In 2007 she moved to Dubai, then in 2009 to Oman to teach and perform. She moved to the UK in 2012. Currently she is researching “Music Healing for Syrian Refugee Children” for a PhD at the School of Oriental and African Studies, where she is also teaching the kanun and directing the SOAS Middle Eastern Ensemble.