



Friday 14 July 2023, 12pm – 1pm  
St Mary's Church, Petworth

**Royal Academy Lunchtimes: The Hygge Trio**

## BIOGRAPHIES

### Hugo Lau *clarinet*

A native of Hong Kong, clarinettist **Hugo Lau** is currently studying for a Professional Diploma at the Royal Academy of Music under the tutelage of Eric Hoerich and Sonia Sielaff, supported by Help Musicians.

Hugo is the winner of the Help Musicians Postgraduate Awards, Wilfred Hambleton Clarinet Competition, and has been selected as the artist of Talent Unlimited, Making Music UK, and the Young Associate 2023 of the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment. He was also the finalist at the Royal Over-Seas League Competition 2020 with his wind quintet Pacific Winds.

Hugo played regularly with professional ensembles, including the City of London Sinfonia, Hanover Band, English Touring Opera and Ulster Orchestra. He has previously worked with the London Firebird Orchestra, Mozart Cose Octet, New Hong Kong Orchestra, Young Musicians Symphony Orchestra and Newham Philharmonic. Hugo was invited on a full scholarship to attend the Taipei Music Academy and Festival, where he studied with John Bruce Yeh, the Assistant Principal Clarinettist at Chicago Symphony Orchestra. He has also been featured at the Asia Pacific Band Festival, Domaine Forget Music Academy in Canada, Hamamatsu Wind Festival in Japan and Kuhmo Music Festival in Finland.

A highly sought-after soloist, Hugo has performed in major venues in the U.K. and Asia including the Barbican Centre, Cadogan Hall, Wigmore Hall and St Martin-in-the-Fields. He has performed in masterclasses with Michael Collins, Yehuda Glick and Paolo Bramini.

Hugo is also an enthusiastic educator with experience working with the London Symphony Orchestra Discovery, Ulster Orchestra Crescendo, Manchester Camerata, Wigmore Hall Learning, Music for Life and Zest Fest at Royal Manchester Children's Festival.

### Hei Chit Wong *cello*

Born in Hong Kong, cellist Hei Chit Wong is currently pursuing a Master of Music degree at the Royal Academy of Music (RAM) under the tutelage of Felix Schmidt. He completed his undergraduate at Hong Kong Baptist University, receiving formidable training from Ray Wang. In addition to a recital, Wong did a research project on pizzicato in string playing. He organised a lecture recital in April 2022 discussing the folk song elements and hybridity of Bright Sheng's *Seven Tunes Heard in China* — pieces that draw inspiration from folk music.

Wong has a huge interest in performing contemporary works. Recent performances include *The Age of Robots* exhibition opening concert with compositions inspired by French photographer-artist Yves Klein's works and *TriAngle* opening ceremony with works representing the five senses. He played in a

concert consisting of solely experimental music in May 2022 at RAM. Wong is selected to premiere *Fiach* by Linda Buckley for the bicentenary celebration of RAM.

Wong has performed widely in significant events as a soloist and chamber musician. As a founding member of the Hygge Trio, he has performed at Ferrandou Musique (France) and will be appearing at the Petworth Festival (UK) in July and the Romanian Athenaeum in December. Wong has worked with Vaclav Petr, Hannah Roberts, Colin Carr, Julian Steckel, and Sung-Won Yang.

In 2021, he led the Royal Academy Opera in a double bill of comic operas — *L'Heure Espagnole* and *Gianni Schicchi* by Ravel and Puccini respectively. He has played under conductors such as John Wilson, Alice Farnham, Ludovic Morlot, and Joseph Bastion. In the summer of 2022, he participated in the 30th edition of the Asian Youth Orchestra which toured seven European cities in Italy and Germany.

Wong currently plays on a cello by Thomas Kennedy c.1820, on loan from RAM.

## **Helen Meng piano**

Praised for her complete technical mastery as well as great elegance and sensitivity to her performances, British-born Chinese pianist Helen Meng is a versatile and highly cultivated musician.

Helen has appeared across Asia, Europe and the US, in venues such as the Wigmore Hall and Milton Court in London, Forbidden City Concert Hall and Shanghai Concert Hall in China, the Fazioli Hall in Italy as well as venues in France, Thailand, Germany and the USA. In 2015, Helen held a solo recital for the Danish Royal family at their Cahors Manor Castle in France at the behest of the Queen and Prince of Denmark. China Central Television Station (CCTV) Music Channel made a solo documentary featuring Helen, making her the first young musician ever to be featured on the series and bringing her recognition throughout the entire country.

Helen made her orchestral debut at the age of 12 performing Beethoven's Piano Concerto No.1 with the China Philharmonic Orchestra. Since then, she has performed as a soloist with many renowned orchestras, such as the Shanghai Symphony Orchestra, Hangzhou Philharmonic Orchestra as well as orchestras from Italy and the USA conducted by acclaimed conductors such as Long Yu, Christian Frohlich and more.

Helen recently graduated from the Royal Academy of Music with a first-class honours degree and is currently continuing her studies as a postgraduate student under professor William Fong. She has also worked with renowned musicians such as Michel Beroff, Stephen Kovacevich, Vladimir Ashkenazy, Stanislav Ioudenitch and Marios Papadopoulos.

Helen is also a passionate chamber musician and a founding member of *The Hygge Trio*. Forthcoming engagements with the trio include recitals and residency at the *Ferrandou Musique* in June 2023. Upcoming performances throughout the UK and Europe include the Petworth Festival in July, as well as the Philharmonic Hall in Romania in December 2023.

**This event is kindly sponsored by the Anstruther Family**



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