



Saturday 15 July 2023

12pm – 1pm All Hallows Church, Tillington

5pm – 6pm St Giles' Church, Graffham

Royal Academy of Music: The Asaka Quartet

BIOGRAPHIES

Iona McDonald *violin*

Iona McDonald is a violinist recently graduated from the Royal Academy of Music in London where she studied with Maureen Smith and Michael Foyle. Born in Dumfries, and with her early education in Moffat, Iona is a well-known young musician around Dumfries and Galloway.

She is also a keen orchestral player and has been a member of the Gustav Mahler Jugendorchester since 2019. While studying, she regularly led the Academy Symphony Orchestra and Opera Orchestra. Iona has been a member of the National Youth Orchestra of Scotland ensembles since the age of 8. In July 2022 she was invited back as a soloist to perform Bruch Violin Concerto no.1 with the NYOS Junior orchestra.

Iona is passionate about music education and has been working with the Benedetti Foundation since January 2020 where she currently works as a Senior Lead Ambassador.

Eriol Guo Yu *violin*

Eriol studied her Masters degree with an entrance scholarship at Royal Academy of Music London, under the mentoring of Prof. Michael Foyle. She is a passionate baroque violinist as well, had learnt with Nicolette Moonen.

Had performed in many renowned venues across Asia and Europe, including Royal Festival Hall, Tokyo Opera City, Berlin Konzerthaus and Wigmore Hall. In 2022 Eriol was invited to Encuentro de Santander and Dartington Summer Festival.

She has a wealth of orchestral experience, having played with many orchestras such as London Sinfonietta, Shanghai Philharmonic Orchestra, Shanghai Opera House Symphony Orchestra, etc. As a former member of Asian Youth Orchestra and NYO-China, she has enjoyed working with many renowned conductors such as Bychkov, Ludovic Morlot, James Judd and more. She has been offered a place on the OAE scheme for 2023.

Eriol had received guidances from Yo-yo Ma, Midori, James Ehnes, Bin Huang, Ian Swensen, Liwei Qin and more.

Susie Xin He

viola

Susie Xin He grew up in China and began playing the viola at age of 12 in Guangzhou Xinghai Conservatory of Music with Donglei Hou. She has completed her bachelor's degree at the Royal Northern College of Music, receiving four years of full scholarships from ABRSM and learning with Lucy Nolan, Veit Hertenstein, and Martin Schaefer.

Since commencing her studies at the RNCM, Xin has had masterclasses with viola players such as Thomas Riebl, Henk Guittart, and Timothy Ridout. Xin won the RNCM Concerto Competition of 2021 and performed Bartok Viola Concerto with RNCM Chamber Orchestra in October 2021. In March 2022, she performed Enescu Viola Concertstück in Bridgewater Hall of Manchester. She is the winner of viola prize and one of the finalists of the RNCM Gold Medal in 2022.

Since September 2022, Xin started her postgraduate study at the Royal Academic of Music with Martin Outram.

Jonathan Ho Man Fong *cello*

Jonathan Fong Ho Man is currently a Chamber Music Fellow at Royal Academy of Music, where he also finished his Master majoring in cello performance with Distinction under Josephine Knight, and completed his undergraduate study in Hong Kong Baptist University under Chen Yi Chun.

Being the winner of the Eastern Music Festival Concerto Competition during the summer 2019, he is very passionate in performance. His chamber group was the only Hong Kong group admitted into Princess Galyani Vadhana International Ensemble Competition Chamber Ensemble Group in 2018, and he was a prize winner in two other music festivals when he was young. In the past two years, he has been invited to premiere two new solo cello pieces in celebrating the Bicentenary of the Royal Academy of Music.

Jonathan is also active in orchestral performances. In 2016, he was admitted as a member of Asian Youth Orchestra for an Asian performance tour and performed under the baton of Sir Mark Elder and Semyon Bychov with the Academy Symphony Orchestra during his Masters studies.

This event is kindly sponsored by the Anstruther Family



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