

# WIGMORE HALL

Friday 10 May 2024  
10.00am

## CAVATINA Intercollegiate Chamber Music Competition



David Karlin adjudicator

Competition piece:

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827) Piano Trio in E-flat major, Op.70 No.2

10.00 **Lisson Trio** (Royal Academy of Music)  
Isobel Howard violin • Daniel Schultz cello • Sejin Yoon piano

10:35 **Kaja Piano Trio** (Royal College of Music)  
Kaja Sešek violin • Clare Juan cello • Zala Kravos piano

*10-minute interval*

11.20 **Trio Casella** (Guildhall School of Music and Drama)  
Violetta Suvini violin • Gabriel Francis-Deqani cello • Luke Lally-Maguire piano

11.55 **Mozaika Trio** (Trinity Laban)  
Virag Hevizi violin • Xiaodi Zhao cello • Alina Pritulenko piano

12:30 **Heaven Trio** (Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama)  
Sanne Heaven violin • Rhys Herbert cello • Ieuan Davies piano

*10-minute interval*

13.15 **Hera Piano Trio** (Royal Northern College of Music)  
Caterina Bordoni violin • Sabrina Giovanardi cello • Winnie Su piano

13:50 **Lark Trio** (Royal Conservatoire of Scotland)  
Emma Baird violin • Helen LaGrand cello • Anna Michels piano



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The origins of the present intercollegiate chamber music competition go back to the Heller Quartet Prize, founded and endowed in 1961 by Rosemary Rapaport in memory of her husband, Gerard Heller. Gerard was an amateur pianist with a passion for chamber music, particularly string quartets, hosting many concerts in his home, including the Griller Quartet's first performance in Manchester. Rosemary was a violinist who studied and subsequently taught at the Royal Academy of Music. In 1962, along with her friend Irene Foster, she established the Purcell School.

In 2012 the competition was given a fresh endowment by CAVATINA Chamber Music Trust, a charity that aims to develop and foster younger audiences for chamber music, both through work in schools and in concert halls. String quartets now alternate annually with piano trios to compete for the prizes, with both ensembles currently working through their respective works by Beethoven. This year the competition is open to piano trios. As such, the competition is also dedicated to one of CAVATINA's two founders, Pamela Majaro, who sadly died in February 2016.

We are delighted to have 7 trios performing today from Conservatoires across the country. They are competing for the following:

First prize: £500 per player; and an offer of a paid performance as part of the Sunday Concerts series at Conway Hall.

Second prize: £250 per player

Audience Prize: £150 each. This will be awarded through an online vote. Voting for this prize will close at 5.00pm, Friday 24 May 2024, and can be done through the Wigmore Hall website.

Today's competition is being adjudicated by **David Karlin**.

David is a director and co-founder of Bachtrack, the world's largest website devoted to listings and reviews of classical music worldwide. Since 2009, he has written over 900 concert reviews, opera reviews and other articles for Bachtrack. David created Bachtrack's software, which he still maintains as well as doing the more prosaic tasks of finance, HR, IT management and everything else required of a small business owner. Previously, David has had a long career in technology (most recently software company Sage and audio equipment company Harman).

We asked him ahead of time what he's looking for from the musicians today. David said:

*'For me, the magic of chamber music is the chemistry between musicians as they come together to put across what is special about the piece they are playing. I am looking for a result that is more than the sum of its parts; I am hoping to hear new things that shed new light on the piece; but above all, I am looking to be emotionally moved by what I hear.'*

**Grateful thanks to the Laurie & Gillian Marsh Charitable Trust for its continuing support of this competition and CAVATINA's work in general.**



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### **Lisson Trio**

The Lisson Trio was formed at the Royal Academy of Music in 2022 and has focused in performing underplayed and contemporary works. Recent concerts in London have featured the Korngold, Arensky and Wijeratne piano trios and are planning many more projects in the future featuring lesser-known works which they are excited to introduce to audiences.

South Korean pianist Sejin Yoon is supported by an Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM) Scholarship at the Royal Academy of Music where she studies with Professor Ian Fountain. She was one of the category finalists in the BBC Young Musician 2020. She performed with various orchestras and regularly performs as a soloist. Alongside of her solo playing she has a great passion for chamber music-making and she is the founding member of the Lisson Trio.

Daniel Schultz is a Finnish cellist born in 1999. He studied his Bachelor's degree in the Sibelius Academy with Professor Martti Rousi and is currently studying his Master's degree in London at the Royal Academy of Music with Professor Josephine Knight. His most cherished moments with the cello have been performing the big cello works with orchestras such as the Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra, the Sibelius Academy Symphony Orchestra and the Turku Philharmonic Orchestra. Amongst his favourites are the Elgar cello concerto and the Rococo variations by Tchaikovsky. Daniel also holds chamber music very close to his heart.

Izzy Howard is a British violinist with a passion for chamber music and orchestral playing. She has enjoyed playing in various festivals around the world including the Aldeburgh Festival, Curtis Institute Young Artist Program, the Mozarteum Festival, Virtuoso Belcanto, Blenio Festival and was a Prizewinner at the 2021 Verao Classico in Lisbon. Izzy is currently excited to be playing with the London Symphony Orchestra after being a player on

their prestigious String Scheme in 2022. Last year Izzy and Sejin gave a series of recitals in Toronto as inaugural scholars for the Sir Elton John Global Exchange Programme.

### **Kaja Piano Trio**

Studying at the Royal College of Music in London, violinist Kaja Sešek, cellist Clare Juan and pianist Zala Kravos decided to unite their sounds and formed a trio in 2023.

Kaja Sešek is a Slovenian violinist, currently finishing her Master of Performance degree at the Royal College of Music, London, where she is studying with Detlef Hahn. She completed her undergraduate studies at Academy of Music Ljubljana with Gorjan Košuta. She is an ongoing member of Gustav Mahler Jugendorchester since 2022. She has performed as a soloist with RTV Slovenia Symphony Orchestra and the Slovene Military Orchestra, among others. Her studies are supported by the Ad Futura Public Scholarship Fund of the Republic of Slovenia.

Clare Juan is an Australian cellist, currently pursuing her Master of Performance degree at the Royal College of Music, London, studying with Gemma Rosefield. She recently completed her undergraduate studies at the RCM with Raphael Wallfisch. In 2015 Clare made her concerto debut with the Preston Symphony Orchestra and as an avid chamber musician, she recently won first prize in the KraCamera competition and the RCM Contemporary Competition. Clare is The Sir Peter and Lady Walters Scholar supported by the Pauline Hartley Award and a recipient of the TAIT Performing Arts Association. Clare plays on a cello made by William Forster Junior in 1804, commissioned by George IV and previously owned by His Majesty King Charles III, on loan to her by the Royal College of Music, London.

Zala Kravos, born in Slovenia in 2002, started playing the piano at the age of 5 and has studied at the Queen Elisabeth Music Chapel with Maria João Pires and Louis Lortie, at the

Conservatory of the City of Luxembourg with Jean Müller and at the Royal College of Music in London with Norma Fisher. Winner of several international competitions, she has performed since the age of 6 in nineteen countries, including China and the United States. In December 2018, she was nominated by “music:LX” for the “Export Artist of the Year” award in Luxembourg. In 2017, at the age of 14, she recorded her first solo album in Germany, very well-received by critics and the media in several countries. A second album followed in 2021, together with her brother Val, with music for piano with four hands.

### **Trio Casella**

Trio Casella is formed of Luke Lally Maguire (piano), Violetta Suvini (violin) and Gabriel Francis-Dehqani (cello). The group won the 2024 Piano Trio Society Intercollegiate Competition. In 2023, they won the Ivan Sutton Chamber Music Competition and St James's Chamber Music Competition. They have broadcast multiple times on BBC Radio 3 and have performed at venues including St John's Smith Square, Milton Court Concert Hall and Princess Alexandra Hall.

Violetta Suvini graduated with a Masters in Performance from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in 2023 with Distinction and a Concert Recital Diploma. She held the Yfrah Neaman Memorial Scholarship and studied with Stephanie Gonley. Her postgraduate studies were generously supported by The Kathleen Trust, the Humphrey Richardson Taylor Charitable Trust and the Harrison Frank Family Foundation. Prior to this, Violetta studied French and Italian literature at St Hilda's College, University of Oxford, graduating in 2021 with First Class Honours and the Marjorie Countess of Warwick Prize, the Mrs Claude Beddington Prize and the Junior Paget Toynbee Prize for highest marks.

Gabriel read Music at Durham University, graduating with a first-class degree and winning the Eve Myra Kisch prize for highest mark. He has won first and second prize in the

Windsor Festival composition competition and in the summer of 2021 he conducted a concert at The Sage, Gateshead with soloist Sir Thomas Allen. Prior to this, Gabriel studied with Guy Johnston and was awarded the Andrew Lloyd Webber Scholarship to Eton College, studying with Sue Lowe.

Luke Lally Maguire is an experienced performer both in competitions and on the concert platform, Luke made his solo recital debut in the National Concert Hall, Dublin in January 2023. In February that same year, he performed in Wigmore Hall as part of the Irish Heritage Music Bursary auditions where he was the recipient of the Music Bursary for Performance valued at £5000. Most recently, Luke was a multiple first prize winner in the 2024 Feis Ceoil, Ireland's leading classical music competition for both solo and collaborative performance.

### **Mozaika Trio**

The Mozaika Trio is a newly formed ensemble from Trinity Laban, its members originating from Hungary, Uzbekistan and China. They have already received acclaim from numerous performances, including representing Trinity at the final of the intercollegiate piano trio competition hosted by the Piano Trio Society. The name Mozaika is derived from the cross-cultural collaboration of members of the trio and the influence of diverse cultures on their musical journey.

Born in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, Alina Pritulenko began playing the piano at the age of 5. She started performing from the age of 7 at numerous concerts and festivals. She took part in many masterclasses and soon became a laureate of international competitions such as “Le Muse” in Naples, Italy and “Iste'dod” in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. In 2008, Alina started her musical education at the Republican Specialized Academic Lyceum of Music named after V. Uspensky. During eleven years of education, she studied with piano professors Irina Arustamova and Gulnora Umarova.

Cellist from China, Xiaodi Zhao studied cello with Professor Yiming Zhang at the High School Affiliated to Sichuan Conservatory of Music. During this period, she won the second prize in the Professional Cello Group of the First International String Competition in 2012; the third prize in the Bach Competition in 2012; and the Best Performance Award in the 6th Aegean Cello Competition in 2014. She completed her undergraduate degree at the Royal Northern College of Music, where she studied with cellist Jennifer Langridge. In 2020, she performed as a solo cello with the Brand New Orchestra of the Royal Northern College of Music. She subsequently completed her Master of Music degree at the Royal College of Music, where she studied with Professor Alexander Boyarsky. She is currently studying for the Artist Diploma at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance, studying with Professor David Kenedy. She is also the recipient of the Bagri Scholarship from 2023 to 2024.

Virag Hevizi discovered her love for the violin at the age of 9 in Hungary, inspired by her first ballet experience with *The Nutcracker*. After completing her bachelor's at the Liszt Academy, she arrived in London in 2021 for a one-year Erasmus programme at Trinity Laban. She then received a full scholarship to continue a full Masters degree with her teacher Ofer Falk. During her stay in London, Virag has participated in many projects, led the Trinity Laban Symphony Orchestra and String Ensemble on numerous occasions, won the Vera Kantorovich and Vivian Joseph competitions and received the Director's Prize for Excellence in Strings in 2023 with the nomination for the Gold Medal Prize.

### **Heaven Trio**

The Heaven Trio are based in Cardiff at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. They study with David Adams, Alice Neary and Robin Green. They have had masterclasses with Lesley Hatfield, Lucy Gould, Alice Neary, the London Haydn Quartet and Trio Gaspard.

Sanne Heaven is an international student from Canada at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. She is currently in her second year of her undergraduate degree under the tutelage of David Adams.

In her hometown of Mission BC, Sanne studied with Dr. Calvin Dyck and had the opportunity to teach for four years at the Bakerview Music Academy, an El Sistema based program offering donor funded music lessons for children. She competed in the 2021 BC Provincials where she was awarded first prize as a soloist and led her piano quintet into the Provincial Excellence chamber competition.

### **Hera Piano Trio**

The Hera Piano Trio brings together 3 accomplished young musicians: Caterina Bordoni on violin, Sabrina Giovanardi on cello, and Winnie Su on piano. With a sound described as 'sparkling and engaging', they bring their individuality and energy together in conjunction with their diverse cultures to create music to captivate audiences.

Since their formation, the Hera Piano Trio has received guidance from esteemed chamber musicians of international renown, including Kathryn Stott, Petr Prause (Talich Quartet), Pavel Fischer (Å kampa Quartet), Harvey Davis (The Pleyel Ensemble) and Jeremy Young.

From Italy, Caterina studied with Yair Kless and Zakar Bron, and was a prize-winner in the Zanuccoli International Chamber Music Competition. Also from Italy, Sabrina currently studies with Cecilia Radic and recently won the audition for the Professional Experience Scheme with the BBC Philharmonic. From Sydney, Australia, Winnie currently studies with Graham Scott and has garnered recognition for her versatility at the piano and has appeared with The Hallé and at Buxton International Festival as a collaborative pianist.

All 3 members of the Hera Piano Trio are committed and passionate pedagogues involved in organisations that aim to improve accessibility to musical education and nurturing future talent

### **Lark Trio**

The Lark Piano Trio formed during their postgraduate studies at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, where they are mentored by Alison Wells and David Watkin. Since their formation, the trio has taken part in masterclasses with the Fidelio Trio, Joseph Swensen, David Dolan, David Watkin, and Anto Pett. The trio won the prestigious Governor's Prize for Chamber Music which resulted in engagements in venues across Scotland. They were selected to participate in the Wye Valley Chamber Music Festival 2023 and have been accepted as an ensemble of the Hans Keller Forum 2023/24. Most recently, they were awarded third prize at the intercollegiate Piano Trio Society Competition held at the RAM. They have a passion for unearthing the hidden treasures of the piano trio repertoire, with a focus on living composers and female composers. They have also found immense joy in the practice of both free and classical improvisation, and their improvised performances include a Lecture Recital with David Doland in March 2023 and a collaboration with dancers as part of the RCS Piano Festival.



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