

# WIGMORE HALL

Friday 16 May 2025  
9.15am

## CAVATINA Intercollegiate Chamber Music Competition



Brian O’Kane adjudicator

Competition piece:

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827) String Quartet No. 7 in F Op. 59 No. 1 ‘Razumovsky’ (1806)  
*I. Allegro • II. Allegretto vivace e sempre scherzando •  
III. Adagio molto e mesto • IV. Thème russe. Allegro*

- 9.15am **Karelia String Quartet** - Royal Academy of Music  
Megan Yang violin • Bjorg Pas violin • Felix Pascoe viola • Daniel Schultz cello
- 10.00am **Kayu Quartet** - Royal College of Music  
Mira Marton violin • Natasha Sutanto violin • Aisha Goodman viola • Rasmus Andersen cello
- 10.45am **Tamesis Quartet** - Guildhall School of Music & Drama  
Matteo Cimatti violin • Phoebe Rousochatzaki violin • Emily Clark viola • Theo Bently Curtin cello

*Interval (15 minutes)*

- 11.45am **Holtág Quartet** - Trinity Laban  
Virag Hevizi violin • Paris Rizas Pintzopoulos violin • Ivan Illingworth viola • Morgan Key cello
- 12.30pm **LANO Quartet** - Royal Birmingham Conservatoire  
Shuwei Zuo violin • Yuwen Fan violin • Jinhe Huang viola • Gen Li cello
- 1.15pm **Teplitz Quartet** - Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama  
Sanne Heaven violin • Jacob Gritt violin • Sam Wilson viola • Samuel Hills-Field cello

*Interval (15 minutes)*

- 2.15pm **Heartwood String Quartet** - Royal Northern College of Music  
Bruno Robalo violin • Audrey Doyle violin • Michaela Jones viola • Jasmine Blackshaw-Britton cello
- 3.00pm **Waverley Quartet** - Royal Conservatoire of Scotland  
Viktor Seifert violin • Beatrice Devlin violin • Aidan MacDonald viola • Sarah Baker cello

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*Please ensure that watch alarms, mobile phones and any other electrical devices which can become audible are switched off. Phones on a vibrate setting can still be heard, please switch off.*

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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. 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 string quartets. As such, the competition is also dedicated to one of CAVATINA's two founders, Pamela Majaro, who sadly died in February 2016.

#### Simon Majaro MBE 1929-2025

Simon Majaro MBE – 'people person', academic, author, musical instrument maker and philanthropist – died on 1 April 2025.

He and his late wife, Pamela, founded the CAVATINA Chamber Music Trust in 1998, with the aim of developing the next generation of chamber music lovers and players. CAVATINA exists to bring chamber music to young people, and young people to chamber music. To date, over 130,000 young people have already benefited from CAVATINA's work, either by attending chamber music concerts all over the UK for free through the ticket scheme, by hearing professional ensembles perform at their school or by taking part in the Intercollegiate Chamber Music Competition.

CAVATINA was a big part of Simon and Pamela's lives – a passion – which was recognised in 2011 when they were made MBEs for services to music. Pamela sadly died in 2016, and Simon handed CAVATINA over to Wigmore Hall's care in 2020.

Simon and Pamela were great supporters of and regular attendees at Wigmore Hall, particularly for string quartet concerts and especially those given by the Wihan Quartet.

All at Wigmore Hall are deeply saddened by Simon's passing, and we will miss him greatly.

We are delighted to have eight string quartets 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 per player. This will be awarded through an online vote. Voting for this prize will close at 5.00pm, Friday 23 May 2025, and can be done through the Wigmore Hall website.

Today's competition is being adjudicated by **Brian O'Kane**

Irish cellist Brian O'Kane enjoys a busy career as both soloist and chamber musician. Since winning first prize at the Windsor International String Competition in 2008, he has made his debuts with the RTE National Symphony Orchestra, the Philharmonia Orchestra under Ashkenazy and in recital at Wigmore Hall. Brian is a former 'Rising Star' of Ireland's National Concert Hall and he recently recorded his debut CD for the Champs Hill label. An avid chamber musician, Brian enjoys playing as a member of the Cappa Ensemble and Navarra Quartet. He has collaborated with a wide variety of artists and has performed at concert halls and festivals throughout the world, including the Weesp Chamber Music Festival, Holland of which his quartet is the artistic director. A graduate of both the Royal Academy of Music and the Guildhall School of Music & Drama in London, Brian's biggest influences have come from Louise Hopkins and at Prussia Cove, Aldeburgh and Chamber Studio from studies with Ralph Kirshbaum, Steven Isserlis, Ferenc Rados and Eberhard Feltz. Brian currently plays a Rugieri cello made in Cremona c.1690. Brian was a member of the Selection Jury for the Wigmore Hall International String Quartet Competitions in 2022 and 2025.

Grateful thanks to the Laurie & Gillian Marsh Charitable Trust for its continuing support of this competition.



### Karelia String Quartet

The Karelia String Quartet was formed at the Royal Academy of Music (RAM) in early 2024 and is currently studying there under esteemed mentors, including Alex Redington (ex-Doric String Quartet), Sini Simonen (Castalian String Quartet) and Robin Wilson (Professor of Violin). The quartet has performed regularly in masterclasses with Anthony Marwood, Lawrence Power and Alasdair Tait. The Karelia String Quartet made its debut in March 2024 at the Wolfe Wolfensohn String Quartet Competition at RAM, where it won First Prize. In July 2024, the ensemble travelled to Finland to participate in the Kuhmo Chamber Music Festival as recipients of the Oleg Kagan Memorial Fund Scholarship. In October 2024, the Quartet had the honour of performing for His Majesty King Charles III at St James's Palace, representing the Australian Music Foundation, and was subsequently selected to represent RAM in Tunisia with the Hasdrubal Foundation Scholarship, collaborating with faculty from the Paris Conservatoire and the Vienna Conservatory of Music and Arts. The Quartet recently completed an exciting project including an audio-visual recording featuring Shostakovich's String Quartet No. 9 and Brahms's String Quintet No. 1, with guest violist Ami-Louise Johnsson, directed by renowned sound engineer Alexander van Ingen through the Voces8 Foundation. Forthcoming performances include an invitation to perform a Beares Showcase concert on a curated set of JB Vuillaume instruments, an in-house performance for the Duke and Duchess of Wellington at Apsley House, performances in Conzano, Italy, and a residency at Ferrandou Musique in Tauriac, France.

### Kayu Quartet

The Kayu Quartet was formed in the summer of 2023, and since then, the ensemble's musical growth has been enriched through close collaboration with distinguished Royal College of Music (RCM) faculty members, including the renowned Marmen Quartet. Recently, the quartet has also been coached by Asbjørn Nørgaard and Fredrik Sjölin of the Danish String Quartet, as well as their mentor, Tim Frederiksen. In a short time, the quartet has embraced numerous performance opportunities at various venues, presenting diverse repertoire ranging from Mendelssohn's Lyrical String Quartet No. 2 to the intensity of Shostakovich's String Quartet No. 8. As part of the RCM String Quartet Platform, the ensemble performed a lunchtime concert at St Martin-in-the-Fields in March 2025, and is proud to be representing the RCM at the CAVATINA Intercollegiate Chamber Music Competition. The Kayu Quartet is currently collaborating with the Seion Quartet at the RCM and will be performing the Mendelssohn String Octet in E flat at Wigmore Hall in June 2025 as part of the RCM annual Strings Showcase.

### Tamesis Quartet

Formed in 2023 at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama, the Tamesis Quartet has this year been nominated to represent the School at the prestigious CAVATINA Intercollegiate Chamber Music Competition. The quartet has enjoyed performing in a variety of performance settings in Guildhall and beyond, including regular coaching with professors David Waterman, Matthew Jones, Simon Rowland-Jones and Ursula Smith, and masterclasses with eminent visiting professors such as Asbjørn Nørgaard, Mark Steinberg and Gary Pomeroy. The ensemble will play as part of MusicWorks Sundays, a programme dedicated to supporting young chamber groups, led by members of the London Haydn Quartet. Hailing from varied cultural backgrounds, each member brings a wealth of knowledge and experience, including individual studies with renowned pedagogues such as Janine Jansen, Christoph Richter, David Takeno, Martin Outram, Rebecca Gilliver and Joseph Puglia, and have collectively studied in chamber festivals such as Musique à Flaine, Virtuoso e Bel Canto, Schleswig-Holstein Musik Festival and Sion Music Festival, as well as holding positions in the highly sought-after orchestra academies of the Luxembourg Philharmonic and London Symphony orchestras. They look forward to forthcoming performances in London, Kent, South West England and Switzerland and continuing their studies at Guildhall.

### Holtág Quartet

The Holtág Quartet is a recently-formed string quartet made up of students at Trinity Laban. Since its formation the members have enjoyed working together and performing works by Haydn, Beethoven and Glass. In March 2025, they had their first full recital, presenting a varied programme at the 'Theatreship', a historic ship typical of the trading vessels that once filled the docks of Canary Wharf. Now moored in Millwall Cutting, it has been converted into a new permanent theatre and performing arts space with the aim of adding to the exciting new development of the area while also reflecting and preserving something of the local history. The Holtág Quartet is also the winner of the 2024-25 Sir John Barbirolli Prize for string quartets at Trinity Laban.

### LANO Quartet

Formed in 2024, the LANO Quartet is a dynamic young ensemble dedicated to expressive and thoughtful music making. The Quartet's members have been recognised with various accolades, including the Leamington Music Prize, Second Prize at the Luigi Cerritelli International Music Competition, the Sylvia Cleaver Chamber Music Prize and the Ambache Prize. The Quartet has performed across the UK and internationally, with recent engagements

including the Leeds International Concert Series and an invitation to the 19th International Malcolm Arnold Festival (2024), where the ensemble's performance was praised by composer Matthew Taylor. The LANO Quartet has received coaching from renowned ensembles such as the Kuss Quartet and the Castalian String Quartet, among others. Each member brings a distinct musical background, enriching the Quartet's collective sound and artistic vision. The Quartet is proud to be representing Royal Birmingham Conservatoire at the CAVATINA Intercollegiate Chamber Music Competition.

#### **Teplitz Quartet**

The Cardiff-based Teplitz Quartet comprises students from the Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama (RWCMD). Sanne Heaven, Jacob Gritt, Sam Wilson and Sam Hills-Field study, respectively, with David Adams, Lesley Hatfield, Alex Thorndike and Rosie Biss. The Quartet has benefited from the chamber mentorship programme at RWCMD and is grateful to have received coaching from faculty chamber specialists and, through the generosity of the Frost Trust, from the Fibonacci Quartet and Carducci String Quartet – ensembles in residence at RWCMD. Members of the Teplitz Quartet have been finalists of the RWCMD and Newport concerto competitions, as well as performing as leaders and section principals for recent symphony orchestra and operatic projects. They have also performed recently in string ensemble and string soloist projects working alongside inspirational directors such as Maria Włoszczowska, and Pieter Wispelwey. They are delighted and honoured to be performing at Wigmore Hall today.

#### **Heartwood String Quartet**

The Heartwood String Quartet is a Manchester-based string quartet founded in 2020 at the Royal Northern College of Music (RNCM). The Quartet has been mentored by members of renowned quartets including the Elias, Chilingirian and Talich quartets. Since its formation, the Heartwood Quartet has

performed extensively across the UK in established concert series such as the Yorke Trust, Bury Concert Series and Buxton Opera House Concert Series as well as in chamber music festivals such as Didsbury Arts Festival and Enys Chamber Music Festival. In 2022 the Quartet enjoyed a residency with the Lake District Summer Music Festival and was pleased to be invited back for a recital and workshops in their 2024 concert series. The ensemble was the winner of the 2024 RNCM Hirsch Prize and is part of the 2024-25 Chamber Studio UK Hans Keller Forum. The Quartet's projects for 2025 include recitals in concert series such as Solway Arts Society, Boston Concert Club and William Aston Hall Concert Series and a performance of works by Roxanna Panufnik at Wigmore Hall.

#### **Waverley Quartet**

The Waverley Quartet was founded in September 2024 at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland (RCS), where the members are in their first and second years of undergraduate study. They have received extensive mentoring from Alison Wells and Donnie Deacon, as well as guidance from David Watkin and Andrea Gajic. Since its formation, the Waverley Quartet has been invited to perform numerous times including in the RCS's Mondays at One concert series and in the 2025 RCS Strings Festival, where it also received guidance from members of the Brodsky Quartet. Viktor Seifert (Germany/UK) was concertmaster in the National Children's Orchestra and his performances as a soloist and chamber musician have been broadcast on the BBC and German Radio. Beatrice Devlin (USA) was accepted into the Sphinx Performance Academy at the Cleveland Institute of Music and Juilliard in 2022 and 2023, where she was under the tutelage of world-renowned musicians such as Melissa White and the Catalyst Quartet. Aiden MacDonald (UK) won First Prize in the Watson Forbes Viola Competition in 2024 and competed in the Cecil Aronowitz international Viola Competition in 2025. Sarah Baker (USA) has performed solo with orchestras throughout the USA, including performances at Strathmore Hall and Lincoln Center.

If you have enjoyed today's Competition and would like to support the CAVATINA Chamber Music Trust (Reg. Charity No. 1067716), please scan the QR code below or visit [cafonline.org/home/donate](https://cafonline.org/home/donate) and search for 'CAVATINA' to donate online.

Thank you.

