

WIGMORE HALL

Friday 19 May 2023
10.00am

CAVATINA Intercollegiate Chamber Music Competition



Robert Max adjudicator

Competition piece:

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827) String Quartet No. 6 in B flat Op. 18 No. 6 (1798-1800)
I. Allegro con brio • II. Adagio ma non troppo • III. Scherzo. Allegro • IV. La Malinconia. Adagio – • V. Allegretto quasi Allegro

10.00am **Meraki Quartet** (Royal Academy of Music)
Miles Ames violin • Munjung Heo violin • Dorota Kolinek viola • Mikołaj Piszczorowicz cello

10.35am **Fortuna Quartet** (Royal College of Music)
Betania Johnny violin • Sanni Talvitie violin • Diego Bartolomé Gomez viola • James Dew cello

11.10am **Fibonacci Quartet** (Guildhall School of Music & Drama)
Luna De Mol violin • Kryštof Kohout violin • Elliot Kempton viola • Kosta Popović cello

15-minute interval

12.00pm **Hirvi Quartet** (Trinity Laban)
Enya Barber violin • Congling Wu violin • Leonardo Badila viola • Floora Valila cello

12.35pm **Bevan Quartet** (Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama)
Grace Shepherd violin • Mungo Everett-Jordan violin • Emma Farnsworth viola • Rhys Herbert cello

1.10pm **Treske Quartet** (Royal Northern College of Music)
Oliver Baily violin • Mollie Wrafter violin • Abigail Hammett viola • Robert Wheatley cello

The adjudication will follow shortly after the final quartet has performed.

Wigmore Hall is a no smoking venue. No recording or photographic equipment may be taken into the auditorium nor used in any other part of the Hall without the prior written permission of the management.

In accordance with the requirements of City of Westminster persons shall not be permitted to stand or sit in any of the gangways intersecting the seating, or to sit in any other gangways. If standing is permitted in the gangways at the sides and rear of the seating, it shall be limited to the number indicated in the notices exhibited in those positions.

Disabled Access and Facilities - full details from 020 7935 2141.

Wigmore Hall is equipped with a 'Loop' to help hearing aid users receive clear sound without background noise. Patrons can use this facility by switching hearing aids to 'T'.



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

We are delighted to have six 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: £200 per player

Audience Prize: £600. This will be awarded through an online vote. Voting for this prize will close at 5.00pm, Friday 26 May 2023, and can be done through the Wigmore Hall website.

Today's competition is being adjudicated by **Robert Max**.

Robert Max has been the cellist of the Barbican Piano Trio since 1988 and was principal cellist of the London Chamber Orchestra for 20 years. He has performed as solo cellist and chamber musician throughout Europe, Russia, East Asia and in North and South America. Robert teaches the cello at the Royal Academy of Music's Junior Academy and coaches talented young musicians at MusicWorks. In 2019 he performed Bach's six Cello Suites and then recorded them for Guildmusic, earning rave reviews including 'masterful humanity and insight' (*Musical Opinion*).

We asked him ahead of time what he's looking for from the musicians today. Robert said: *'I can't wait to hear how each of the four musicians in each of the six quartets responds to various musical challenges Beethoven has created in this charming yet puzzling quartet and how they fashion unity as an ensemble out of diversity.'*

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



CAVATINA
Chamber Music Trust
www.cavatina.net

Meraki Quartet

Formed in September of 2022, the Meraki Quartet is a multinational group based at the Royal Academy of Music.

The group has a special interest in studying a wide range of chamber pieces from outside the standard chamber music repertoire. The players enjoy producing concerts with works from historical performance all the way to contemporary music and jazz. The quartet is passionate about educating the newest generation of players and has taught young chamber groups privately and at Eton College.

Recent awardees of the The Frost Trust Advanced Specialist Strings Ensemble Training Scheme, the Meraki Quartet works in close partnership with its mentor Martin Outram. The ensemble was also privileged to work with acclaimed chamber musicians Leandro Silvera, Peter Jarůšek and Tim Frederiksen. It can be found performing around London.

Fortuna Quartet

The Fortuna Quartet, formed in September 2021, is comprised of four second-year undergraduate string instrumentalists at the Royal College of Music: violinists Betania Johnny and Sanni Talvitie, violist Diego Bartolomé Gomez and cellist James Dew. Betania studies with Ani Schnarch, as a Kirby Laing Foundation Scholar, and she plays on a 2021 Marco Anedda violin, kindly loaned by Louise Kaye. Sanni studies with Ani Schnarch, as a Doctor Knobel Fund Scholar, and she plays on an 1867 Charles Gaillard violin, kindly loaned by the OP Art Foundation. Diego studies with Nathan Braude, and he plays on a 1999 Bruno Deux viola. James studies with Raphael Wallfisch, as a Celia Elmhirst Award Holder, and he plays on a 1783 William Forster cello.

Having been coached by members of the Chilingirian Quartet, the Fortuna Quartet has enjoyed performing together in events such as lunchtime concerts at St Mary Abbots Church, the Royal College of Music's Super String Sunday, the Marylebone Festival, and the Royal College of Music's Chamber Festival in February 2023.

Fibonacci Quartet

The Fibonacci String Quartet was founded in September 2019 and consists of students of David Takeno (International Chair of Violin Eugène Ysaÿe), Louise Hopkins and Matthew Jones at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama in London, UK. It is an international ensemble, bringing together Czech, Belgian, Welsh and Montenegrin nationalities.

In March 2020 the group won both First Prize and audience prize at the international Beethoven Competition in London, as well as the First Prize at the Saint James Chamber Music competition.

In December of 2021, it won First Prize at the 'Triomphe de l'Art' International Chamber Music Competition in Brussels, as well as the 'Peermusic, Hambourg' special prize and the 'International Association Dimitri Shostakovich, Paris' special prize, where it competed against international ensembles up to 35 years of age. In March of 2022, the quartet won the audience prize at the International Chamber Music Festival Schiermonnikoog. Most recently, it was awarded 1st Prize in the Royal Overseas League International Chamber Music Competition.

The Fibonacci Quartet is supported by the Talent Unlimited foundation (London) and has been invited to be a part of the 'ProQuartet' organisation (Paris), 'Le Dimore del Quartetto' organisation (Italy, worldwide), as well as becoming Philip and Dorothy Green Young Artists for Making Music (UK).

Hirvi Quartet

The Hirvi Quartet was formed in 2021 and consists of Enya Barber (violin), Congling Wu (violin), Leonardo Badila (viola) and Floora Valila (cello). Combining a broad range of musical experiences and trainings from their respective home countries, they play some of the greatest music of the classical canon as well as collaborating with contemporary composers.

The young musicians have already given successful performances at the Queen's House in Greenwich and in the Peacock room as part of Trinity Laban's Lunchtime Concert Series, and have performed at the Royal Courts of Justice and the Romanian Cultural Institute. The Hirvi Quartet is currently in residency with the Hans Keller Forum, having enjoyed receiving coaching from members of the Doric, Piatti, Carducci and Smith quartets, and is the proud recipient of the John Thompson String Ensemble Prize 2022-23. Being in their third year of study at the conservatoire, the players are looking forward to many more projects and performances during college and beyond. They are very much looking forward to performing as finalists of the Intercollegiate Cavatina Competition 2022-23.

Bevan Quartet

The Bevan Quartet (named after former Welsh MP, Health Secretary and one of the founders of the NHS, Aneurin Bevan) is made up of four final year undergraduate students from the Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama - Grace Shepherd and Mungo Everett-Jordan (violins), Emma Farnsworth (viola) and Rhys Herbert (cello).

They are fortunate enough to have been mentored by Lucy Gould, Alice Neary, Lesley Hatfield, Becky Jones, members of the Consone Quartet and members of Quatuor Agate and have explored a range of repertoire by composers including Mozart, Beethoven, Borodin, Strauss, Mendelssohn, and new works by living composers. The quartet members are very experienced musicians not just in chamber playing, but also in symphonic, opera and solo repertoire, and they all frequently perform on period instruments.

Treske Quartet

The Treske Quartet is an emerging ensemble based in Manchester, UK. Founded in 2017, its programmes contain a combination of classical quartet repertoire and contemporary compositions. The quartet is currently pursuing the RNCM Chamber Studio course as well as Chamber Studio at Kings Place. The musicians are the 'Young Artists 2022' at the Kensington Olympia Festival of Music and the Arts and over the past two years the quartet has given recitals in the UK and abroad, notably the Ryedale Festival, Wye Valley Summer Festival, Llandeilo International Music Festival, Royal Overseas League and New Generation Festival in Florence.

Passionate about contemporary and new music, the quartet enjoys collaborating with composers, performing and recording their work. Over the past two years, Treske has been working with Cumbria-based composer Edward Cowie and will be recording his 9th String Quartet and Double String Quartet in collaboration with the Kreutzer Quartet for the Divine Arts record label in the coming months. The quartet has also collaborated with composer Claire Victoria Roberts on numerous chamber and vocal works, and is in the midst of recording two CDs with classical guitarists Roland Chadwick and Daniela Rossi. The players recently travelled to the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity for the Evolution: Quartet programme, an innovative artist development programme for quartets and composers who are in the early stages of career development. Here, they established a positive working relationship with Puerto Rican composer Gabriel Bouche Caro, and performed the première of his piece 'La Candela' in collaboration with the JACK Quartet.

Treske is named after the medieval name for the town of Thirsk in North Yorkshire, where Oliver grew up.

An interview with **Trio Havisham**, winner of the 2022 CAVATINA Intercollegiate Chamber Music Competition.

Trio Havisham
Magdalena Riedl violin
Fangning Dong cello
Zany Denyer piano

We spoke with Magdalena, Fangding and Zany to see how their year has been after winning the competition last year.

Q: What advice do you have for the ensembles performing this year?

A: Just forget that it's a competition and enjoy the experience of performing at Wigmore Hall as much as you can. It's the most amazing and magical place to play chamber music. In the preparation process we really focused ourselves only on that and to try to do justice to the music.

Q: What were the biggest challenges in performing Beethoven's 'Ghost' Trio?

A: For us the biggest challenge will always be the second movement. It's a real test of concentration and focus! It took us ages to even begin peeling off the layers of understanding in this music, and whilst we were happy with how we played it in the competition, we are very aware that only in 50 years' time will we begin to understand this work more fully!

Q: What has Trio Havisham been up to since its win?

A: We set ourselves a lot of challenges over the past year and have grown together as an ensemble even more. We participated in the Birmingham International Piano Chamber Music Competition in November 2022 and were very happy to have passed to the Finals. We then went on to prepare

an even bigger programme for the Concours International de Musique de Chambre de Lyon, which was just now in April, where we were very surprised and happy to have been awarded the Second Prize. None of us expected this, and we are looking forward to developing further in the coming year.

Q: What does the future hold for you all?

A: During the next year we still have some exciting projects coming up; after auditioning for the Tunnell Trust, we have since been offered a tour of Scotland which are looking forward to as well as a shared recital through the Musicians' Company Awards. We are currently preparing more repertoire for future competitions and are looking at applying for more long-term mentoring schemes with organisations such as ECMA and ProQuartet. Beyond that, we will have to see what will happen, as we all have to decide where to go after our postgraduate studies end at the end of next year.

Q: How has the competition benefitted you?

A: For us, this competition really was a big turning point in our development both as individual musicians, and as an ensemble. We never expected that we could win it and as such, before the competition, we never contemplated remaining together because of studying in different cities for the coming year. Despite all the stresses and complications involved in maintaining an ensemble in a 'long-distance relationship', we are very happy to have done so. Without having won the CAVATINA Competition, we never would've thought that we were capable of doing this.

Huge thanks to Trio Havisham for taking the time to speak with us. We wish them all the best for their exciting futures ahead!

School Concerts

Despite having many of our school concerts cancelled at the start of 2022 due to the pandemic, we were delighted to be able to present 30 chamber concerts for school children last year. This wasn't possible without the help and support of our CAVATINA Friends. Thank you for your donations and support, especially during these difficult times. We are striving for 40 concerts this year, and our aim is to spread these as far across the country as possible. Many of you have kindly been in touch to suggest schools that may benefit from the Trust. Please do continue to put forward schools and we will endeavour to visit them this year.



Ticket Scheme

Our ticket scheme is also thriving, with more venues and festivals than ever being involved.

Many of these venues and festivals were hit hard by the pandemic, so it's been particularly wonderful in recent times to see these scheme members making music again and helping us bring chamber music to young people.

BECOME A FRIEND OF CAVATINA!

Please consider becoming a Friend of CAVATINA and help us to bring chamber music to young people across the country!

To become a friend or to make a one-off donation, please scan the following code:

