

# PIANO TRIO SOCIETY

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Registered Charity no 1067071

## Junior Intercollegiate Piano Trio Competition

We have had an excellent response from the Junior conservatoires who were invited to take part in the Junior Intercollegiate Piano Trio Competition. This is the first event of this kind which our Society has organised and we are delighted that it will take place at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire on Sunday 4 February.



**Professor James Kirby**

There are six competing trios who have chosen to perform from the wide repertoire offered and each one will also perform a test piece which has been specially written for the event by our own Christopher Brammell. The Jury will consist of three distinguished musicians who are or have been members of a piano trio. These are pianist James Kirby, violinist Richard Deakin and cellist Jo Cole.



**Professor  
Richard Deakin**



**Professor Jo Cole**

Further details can be found on page 3.

# NEWSLETTER

ISSUE NO 39 CHRISTMAS 2017



## BAPAM in Iceland

BAPAM was represented at the International Symposium in Performance Science which took place in Reykjavik, Iceland in late August. Research papers on a wide variety of topics were presented, bringing the work of BAPAM on Performing Arts Medicine into the international arena. Further information can be found on page 7.



Also in this issue we introduce a newly formed piano trio, and report on the varied activities of our members as well as looking forward to 2018.

## Annual General Meeting, Tuesday 16 January

We start the New Year with our Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 16 January at Steinway Hall at 3.00pm. Members are warmly invited to attend to exchange ideas and vote for Board members for the forthcoming year. In the meantime we send you our best wishes for a very happy festive season!

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Piano Trio Profile.....TableMusic



**Ruth Herbert** - piano, **Mandhira de Saram** - violin, **Natalie Rozario** - cello

**TableMusic** - *'bold and adventurous, always richly varied - a new take on the piano trio'*

**TableMusic** brings together violinist Mandhira de Saram (leader of the Ligeti quartet), award-winning cellist Natalie Rozario plus versatile, accomplished pianist and scholar, Ruth Herbert. At core a piano trio, the group break new ground with a focus on new, recent and 20th century music displaying a rich mix of influences: contemporary classical, jazz and world, sometimes incorporating improvisation and other instruments.

Formed early in 2017, the trio have already performed original commissions from both established and emerging composers. Performances are designed to take place in a range of venues - from concert halls to bars and galleries. The group are all also highly experienced and imaginative workshop leaders, believing strongly in the importance of education and outreach work.

An album is planned for 2019, including commissioned works by Colin Riley, jazz pianist Tim Richards and outstanding young composers from the Purcell School of Music.

<http://www.tablemusic.co.uk>

- We are delighted to welcome back Dr Ruth Herbert, who, as a member of the trio Triptych was one of our earliest members. The trio performed live to showings of the film "Lady Windermere's Fan" - a project with the British Film Institute, which took them around UK and USA and which featured in one of our early Newsletters. Since then Ruth has become widely known for her research in music psychology, well-being and health, music and consciousness, music education and the psychology of performance and is a research fellow at the Faculty of Music at the University of Oxford.

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## Junior Intercollegiate Piano Trio Competition - Sunday 4 February 2018



The Organ Studio at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire is the venue for our first competition, which will feature six trios offering a varied repertoire. There will be three cash prizes awarded to the competitors, the First Prize being the Wynn Parry Prize, named in honour of our late Vice President, Dr Christopher Wynn Parry MBE. We are not making a charge for audience members so please come along and support the student trios.

The order of the day is as follows but may be subject to change;

11.30 Trio from the Junior Royal College of Music performs Mendelssohn Trio in D minor, Opus 49 (2<sup>nd</sup> movement) and Bridge Phantasie Trio.

12.05 Trio from the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire performs the 4<sup>th</sup> movement of Dvorak's Piano Trio in F minor, Opus 65 and the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> movements of the E minor trio, Opus 67 of Shostakovich.

12.45 Trio from Junior Trinity Laban have chosen Mendelssohn Trio in D minor, Op 49, 1<sup>st</sup> movement and Lento from Moeran's Piano Trio in D major.

Lunch break

14.15 Trio from the Menuhin School play Ravel's Piano Trio in A minor, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> movements, and the final three movements of Brahms Piano Trio in C minor, Opus 101.

14.55 The Junior Royal Welsh College of Music Trio performs Shostakovich Trio no 1 in D major, Opus 8 and the first movement of Haydn Hob XV:27 in C major.

15.35 The final trio is from the Junior Royal Northern College of Music, who will perform Mozart's Trio in G major, K496, 1<sup>st</sup> movement and the 3<sup>rd</sup> movement of Brahms Trio in B major, Opus 8.

The performances will include a test piece written specially by Chris Brammeld and will be followed by a presentation of prizes, when the judges will sum up the day at 17.00.

The Senior Intercollegiate Piano Trio Competition will take place on Sunday 29 April, also at Royal Birmingham Conservatoire and with a Jury of violinist Michael Bochmann MBE and cellist Robert Max, with pianist Benjamin Frith. Further details will be available nearer the time.

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## Piano Trio People.....

The **Gould Piano Trio** continues with the second concert in its Beethoven cycle at the Wigmore Hall on Sunday 10 December at 7.30pm when they will play Opus 1 no 2 in G, Op 11 in B flat and Opus 70 no 1 "Ghost". Tickets available from the Wigmore Hall Box Office 020 7035 2141 and website [www.wigmore-hall.org.uk](http://www.wigmore-hall.org.uk)

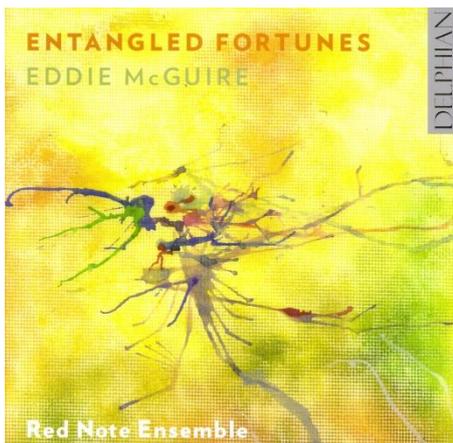
The **Barbican Piano Trio** is involved in commissioning **The Remarkable Tale of Prince Unexpected** from storyteller **Kevin Graal** and composer **Joseph Phibbs** (below). Based on Polish folk-tales and melodies, the work harnesses the power of artistic expression to bridge cultural divides. This dramatic work for narrator and piano trio, which will last around one hour, will also incorporate children's voices in the final performances.



The first performance of this work will be on 25th May 2018 at the Frinton Festival and subsequent performances will be given in the Borough of Elmbridge, including at Riverhouse Barn in Walton-on-Thames during the week of 11th June 2018. Composer Joseph Phibbs will also be extracting a purely musical Suite lasting about twenty minutes for piano trio and this work will also receive its first performances in both venues. For further information see:

[www.frintonfestival.com](http://www.frintonfestival.com) and  
[www.riverhousebarn.co.uk](http://www.riverhousebarn.co.uk)

Your editor was delighted to receive a CD entitled "Entangled Fortunes" from composer member from Scotland **Eddie McGuire**. This is a Delphian recording by the Red Note Ensemble - Jacqueline Shave (violin), Robert Irvine (cello) and Simon Smith (piano) - which includes a number of Eddie's chamber works written over a period of thirty years. In addition to the excellent performances, I was intrigued by the cover of the CD and discovered that it had been painted by Eddie himself many years ago and that another of his paintings has also appeared on a CD cover. Eddie told me "Luckily I had these among a batch of watercolours I did at a more leisurely period in my life - student days, when I returned to Scotland for the long summer break from the RAM in London. When I did them in 1968 I had no idea they would come in handy 45 years later! On the CD you have, a fine lace curtain cloth was spread on the paper and I used the brush over that - hence the patterned texture. The other uses more intense pure colours.



I did some improvisation while a couple of artists painted - in preparation for a commission from Cowal Music Club which they organised. The paintings were then exhibited at the concert. They will be putting the photos of this on their website soon: <http://www.fyne-studios.com/donmcneil.html> Another experience was performing on bamboo flute as a Chinese calligrapher did a large-scale ink painting <https://chicalligraphy.blogspot.co.uk>

Some piano pieces of mine are on in England next year - 'Botanic Gardens' (4 players 2 pianos), Piano40 at Purcell Room on May 21st and Richard Deering will play my Prelude 7 at the English Music Festival on May 26<sup>th</sup> at Radley College, Oxfordshire."

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Composer member **Adrian Williams** was featured in the Premieres section of the December edition of Classical Music. His piece "*Winter Chorale*" was commissioned by Robert Hollingworth and I Fagiolini and premiered in the Caird Hall, Dundee on 4 December. The piece incorporates a Bach Chorale as well as Laurie Lee's poem *Winter Landscape*.

On page 6 we have a review by Christopher Brammeld of the fourth performance of Adrian's Piano Trio which we commissioned last year, performed by the Fidelio Trio in the Picture Gallery at the Royal Holloway University of London on 28 September.

Composer and Trustee of the Piano Trio Society **Christopher Brammeld** has been extremely busy over the summer writing two test pieces for the Intercollegiate Piano Trio Competitions. These include a trio for the Senior competitors and a slightly simplified version for the Juniors which will be sent to the competitors to prepare as part of their performance. Chris has entitled the works "*La Musique*" - *Five Variants* and describes the inspiration behind them.

"The artist Henri Matisse (1869-1954) painted "*La musique*" in 1910. In it, five vermillion figures sit or stand on a bright green earth, under a deep blue sky. Two of them are playing instruments. The characters are strange, devoid of emotion, and simultaneously solitary and together. They are all the same, yet all different. It is this concept of sameness and difference that inspired the composition of this miniature Piano Trio. My first Piano Trio (2012-2013) is a substantial piece in three movements, while in the present work, everything is condensed into under five minutes. The five variants are five presentations of a simple musical gesture, that of rising notes. This upward motion was suggested to me by the musicians of Matisse's painting. Surrounding the five variants are a short introduction and coda. In the same way that I had to use my imagination to conjure and draw sounds from these silent figures, it is my hope that the performers of this work use their imagination to form their own interpretation of this abstract music."

Chris has also written a choral piece which is a commission from Bancroft's School for their Christmas Concert. The commissioning brief was for a secular Christmas piece and was to include harp as the school has an excellent player amongst its musicians. It is scored for three-part choir with ensemble of flute, clarinet, harp, piano and strings and the performance took place on Wednesday 6th December at Bancroft's School in Woodford Green. The piece sets the poem "Winter" by Walter de la Mare.

The **English Piano Trio** have had a busy few months, culminating in a lunchtime concert at the Chapel Royal, Brighton on 12 December. Concerts in 2018 include a series at the Colston Hall, Bristol with Stephen Johnson entitled "*Insights*". The first is on Tuesday 6 February at 7.30pm when Dvorak's Dumky Trio, Opus 90 will be under discussion. On May 8 Zsuzsz Berenyi and Morgan Goff join the trio for Shostakovich's Piano Quintet, whilst Bruch's "*Kol Nidrei*" and Saint-Saens Piano Trio no 1 in F are the subject for discussion on 30 May.

Our autumn event at Burgh House on the afternoon of Sunday 29 October featured **Trio Sonorité**. At short notice their clarinettist Özlem Çelik had to be replaced by Piotr Dec, which led to an amended programme: Mozart - Trio in Eb, K498 "*Kegelstaat*", Milhaud - Suite Op 157b, Errollyn Wallen - '*Dervish*', Bruch - Nos 2 and 5 from Eight Pieces, Op 83 and Beethoven - Trio in Bb, Op 11. We are grateful to pianist Jelena Makarova, who also helped to arrange the concert and to cellist Daryl Giuliano for ensuring the concert went ahead.

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## Fidelio Trio at Royal Holloway - a review by Christopher Brammeld



The Picture Gallery at Royal Holloway University of London is housed in the magnificent Victorian splendour of the Founder's Building. It contains Thomas Holloway's original collection of seventy-seven paintings, which cost almost £84,000 in 1881. The gallery contains works by William Powell Frith, John Everett Millais and Edwin Landseer. These highly impressive surroundings are used for the Music Department's series of chamber concerts, which this year includes performances by Mark Simpson, the Tippett Quartet, Richard Uttley, and on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September this year, PTS members the Fidelio Trio.

Pianist Mary Dullea is Reader and Director of Performance, and she gave an insightful introduction to the concert, which began with E. J. Moeran's Trio in D major. This substantial work contains even more music than its almost half an hour duration suggests, and the Fidelio Trio gave a compelling account, by turns rhapsodic and ravishing, and always allowing Moeran's beautiful melodic shapes to take centre stage. Moeran, who was born near London but settled in Suffolk before moving to Ireland, is still not performed as frequently as might be expected, and so it really is encouraging to see this piece being programmed by one of the country's foremost chamber ensembles.

Next on the programme was the Piano Trio by Adrian Williams, which was premiered by the Fidelios (in 2016) and has now been played by them several times, most recently at last year's memorial service in Notting Hill for the late Dr Christopher Wynn Parry MBE. This was the third time I had heard the piece, but the first time with the Trio's cellist Adi Tal. The delicate yet expansive nature of the opening of the work filled the considerable space of the Picture Gallery, and was all the more striking for following the exuberant end of the Moeran. Adrian Williams writes of his piece that "the music is full of changes, plaintive and melancholy melodic parts, fiercely violent sections, and an extended skittish-like section." The Trio made the most of these changes of mood and texture, to great effect.

After the interval (during which I was the bar's only patron; the staff informing me that the largely-student audience dislikes parting with good money for average wine on such occasions) came Ravel's A minor Piano Trio of 1914. The Fidelio Trio gave an exhilarating performance of this vibrantly intense work, the Basque dance rhythms and colourful harmonies shining brightly at all times. Ravel said of this work to a pupil, "I've written my trio, now all I need are the themes." We can be eternally thankful that he, and the Fidelio Trio, found them.

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## News from our Corporate Members.....

**BAPAM (British Association for Performing Arts Medicine)** continues to widen the scope of its work both in UK and internationally. Most recently BAPAM has supported the establishment of a new Peer Supervision Group for psychosocial practitioners who work with performing arts clients. The group, whose inaugural meetings took place earlier this year, hope to open up the conversation between performing arts and psychological practice. The aim is to foster a network for counselling, coaching and psychology practitioners working frontline with performance artists for interactive exploration, mutual consultation and support on professional practice issues, and for reflection on what constitutes best practice in working with performers, as well as to share specialist expertise, guidance and information according to a professional framework of rigorous evidence-based practice and practice-based evidence in the field.

### **International Symposium in Performance Science, Reykjavik**

The **MSc in Performing Arts Medicine** and **BAPAM** were well represented this month at the **International Symposium in Performance Science (ISPS)** in Reykjavik, Iceland, with research papers by Dr Trish Halliwell, Dr Philippa Whebble, Dr Farrah Jawad, Dr Hara Trouli, osteopath Tommi Sliiden and physiotherapists Kari Arnason, Lindsay Wallace and Krzystoff Dabrowski. Projects on flautists' injuries, breathing relaxation for singers, vitamin D levels in dancers, health issues of popular musicians, lung function when singing and dancing, muscle injuries in string players, footwear and dancers' injuries, and palmaris longus in pianists were received with great interest by the conference delegates. It is important to see such a group on the international arena of Performing Arts Medicine and we hope this will encourage more researchers to bring their work to this level. Congratulations to all involved!

### **Research by the University of East London: The Wellbeing of Musicians Across the Lifespan**

Musicians sometimes spend a lot of time looking at what is wrong, which can give more energy to challenges and create a downward spiral. Positive psychology is influenced by the idea that in spending more time focusing on what's right, we allow ourselves to consider what it looks like to do well, which can in turn lead to a more positive physical/mental/emotional outworking.

Marie El-Khazen is a researcher inviting musicians aged 60+ to take part in interviews which will help develop knowledge and understanding of musicians' perception of wellbeing as a performer, throughout a lifelong professional career.

This research has been approved by the School of Psychology Research Ethics Committee, and follows the standard of research ethics set by the British Psychological Society.

If you'd like to help with this study you need to be aged 60+, having earned the majority of your full time income from employment as a performing musician. Interviews lasting 60 – 90 minutes will be conducted face to face, or via Skype, and will be recorded (on a dictaphone). Participants will remain anonymous. To take part or find out more, please contact Marie directly by emailing [U1620023@uel.ac.uk](mailto:U1620023@uel.ac.uk). Further information on the BAPAM website.

Please note BAPAM's new address: **7-9 Breams Buildings, London, EC4A 1DT**

Telephone: **020 7404 8444/ 020 7404 5888**

**[www.bapam.org.uk](http://www.bapam.org.uk)**

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## Beethoven Piano Society of Europe

The 2017 **BPSE Senior Intercollegiate Piano Competition** was held on Sunday 3 December at St Mary Magdalene Church by kind permission of Markson's Pianos who made available their Bösendorfer VC concert grand piano for the occasion. The Jury consisted of Peter Bithell, Martino Tirimo, and Angela Brownridge

Each competitor was required to play Bagatelle in E flat, Opus 33 no 1, plus a choice of Sonatas and the results are as follows:

1<sup>st</sup> Prize - Tolga Atalay Ün from the Royal College of Music  
Performed Beethoven Piano Sonata in Ab major Opus 110



2<sup>nd</sup> Prize - Soohong Park from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama  
Performed Beethoven Piano Sonata in E major Opus 109

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize - Yuexuan Song from the Royal Scottish Conservatoire.  
Performed Beethoven Piano Variations & Fugue in E flat major

### Issues of Note

As the year draws to a close, we look back on another successful year, when we commemorated our late Vice President Dr Christopher Wynn Parry MBE at St Peter's Church, Notting Hill in February, held an inspiring Piano Trio Day in March at the Purcell School, and with an autumn event at Burgh House in October. At the same time we have been preparing for our first Intercollegiate Piano Trio Competitions and have been liaising with members on topics of interest and future plans. As you will see from our Newsletters, we aim to support all our members in their work and hope you will continue to support our Society, which relies heavily on Membership subscriptions for its work. We have kept subscriptions at a low level for many years and these are due on 1 January and may be made via our website or by cheque payable to The Piano Trio Society to the address below. If you prefer to use bank transfer please email for details.

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