

French Fancy

Fauré Chamber Music

Maya Iwabuchi, Xander van Vliet **Violin**

Scott Dickinson **Viola**

Martin Storey **Cello**

Graeme McNaught, Aaron Shorr, Fali Pavri **Piano**

GABRIEL FAURÉ (1845-1924)

Dolly Suite for Piano Four Hands

FAURÉ

Piano Quintet No.1, Op.89



Fridays at One

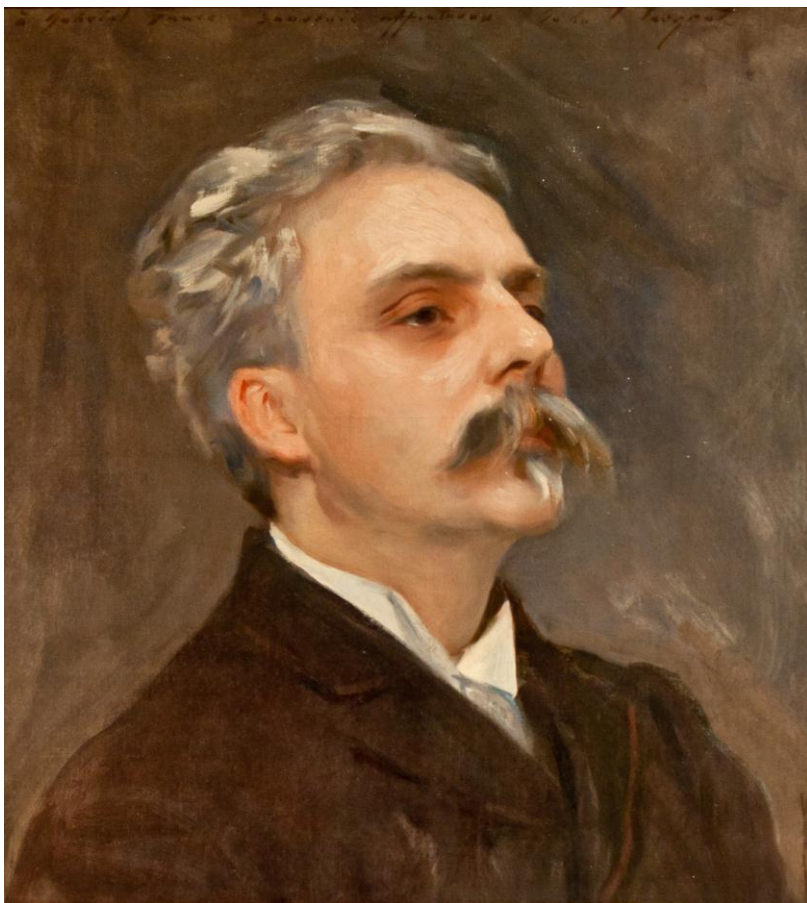
31 January 2014

GABRIEL FAURÉ (1845-1924)

Dolly Suite for Piano Four Hands

- I. Berceuse
- II. Mi-a-ou
- III. Le jardin de Dolly
- IV. Kitty-valse
- V. Tendresse
- VI. Le pas Espagnol

Fali Pavri and Graeme McNaught **Piano Duet**



Fauré's Dolly Suite is one of the jewels of the piano duet repertoire. Completed in 1893, this suite of six pieces forms an affectionate portrait of the daughter of Fauré's mistress, Emma Bardac. Composed over a period of many years, the pieces were often presented as gifts for Dolly's birthdays or other celebratory occasions.

When great composers take the time to reflect on childhood, the results are often profoundly moving. Like Schumann's *Kinderszenen*, an apparent simplicity in approach and absence of bravura, often reveal an inner world of great tenderness and beauty. The Dolly Suite is subtle, free-spirited and deeply expressive. He achieves this by weaving seamless melodic invention with a highly sophisticated and often very chromatic harmonic palette. Although inspired by the innocence of childhood, there is no escaping a master's hand in these touching portraits.

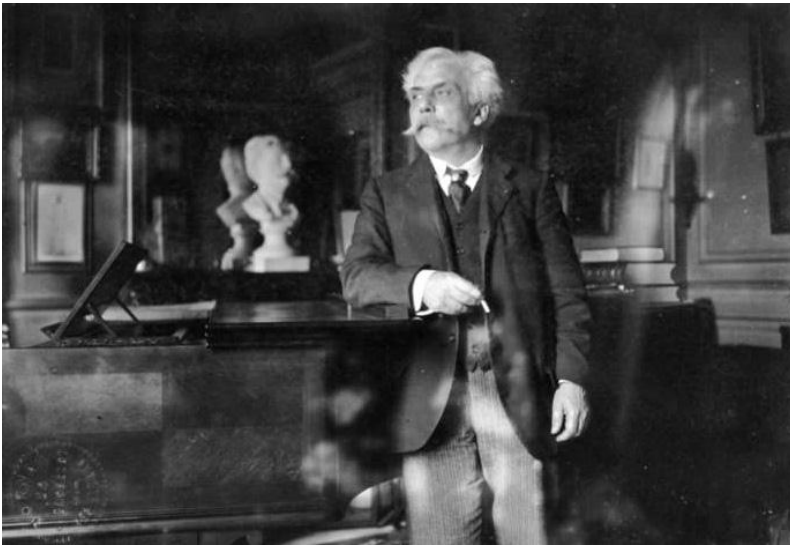


FAURÉ

Piano Quintet No.1, Op.89

- I. Molto moderato
- II. Adagio
- III. Allegretto moderato

Maya Iwabuchi **Violin**
Xander Van Vliet **Violin**
Scott Dickinson **Viola**
Martin Storey **Cello**
Aaron Shorr **Piano**



Begun in 1887, Fauré's Piano Quintet took nearly two decades to complete. Although his early sketches of the first movement were praised by Belgian violinist Eugène Ysaÿe, Fauré was nonetheless dissatisfied and dropped work on the quintet for long periods. When he finally returned to more concerted work on the quintet in 1903 and 1904, he achieved a breakthrough in style which heralded pure music of utter spontaneity.

Fauré wrote "Ysaÿe finds the style of the quintet grander and more elevated than

in my (piano) quartets, more obviously free from all seeking after effect: music pure and simple. I am very glad he has had this impression: all the more so as at present music aims for everything save music itself."

Although Fauré held the quintet in high regard amongst his output and enjoyed performing it frequently in concert, the quintet has mysteriously dropped out of the main canon of chamber music. There are many possible explanations for this, not least being the incorrect assignment of metronome marks by Fauré's publishers, leading to uncharacteristically slow and turgid tempi throughout the quintet. As the quintet was rapturously received at its Parisian premiere, its subsequent decline in the repertoire might be attributed to the loss of a definitive performing tradition led by Fauré himself at the piano.

*Aaron Shorr
Acting Dean of Music.*

Scott Dickinson was born in Glasgow and studied in Manchester, London and Salzburg, where he won the 1996 Mozarteum Concerto Competition. He has appeared with Yuri Bashmet, Steven Isserlis, the Gould Piano Trio, Brodsky, Chilingirian, Elias, Navarra and Royal Quartets, Aronowitz, Hebrides, Nash, Razumovsky and Red Note Ensembles, and as guest principal viola with numerous orchestras including the Australian Chamber Orchestra, London Philharmonic, Philharmonia, Royal Scottish National, Scottish Chamber, Swedish Radio Symphony and the John Wilson Orchestras. For five years he was a member of the Leopold String Trio, performing worldwide (including at Carnegie Hall, Wigmore Hall and the Musikverein, on CDs for Hyperion, and frequently on BBC Radio 3). In 2002 he returned to Scotland to become Principal Viola of the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, with whom he has regularly also appeared as soloist, including a highly praised performance of 'Jubilus' by Jonathan Harvey on CD. Scott has taught at Chethams' School, Royal Northern College of Music, Sydney Conservatorium and, currently at the RCS, and regularly plays flute, viola and harp trios with his wife, flautist Susan Frank, and harpist Lucy Wakeford.

Since her first concert at the age of five, **Maya Iwabuchi** has enjoyed an international career as a solo violinist, chamber musician and orchestral leader. Her main influences were Professor Alice Schoenfeld at the University of Southern California and Professor Rodney Friend at the Royal College of Music in London. Highlights for Maya as soloist include appearances with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, New York Philharmonic and the Philharmonia Orchestras. Her performances have taken her to major concert halls

world-wide such as London's Royal Festival Hall, Barbican and Wigmore Hall, Musikverein in Vienna, Royal Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall in New York and Suntory Hall in Tokyo to name a few. She has appeared at music festivals such as the BBC Proms, Aldeburgh, Bath and Chichester Festivals, and the International Musicians Seminar in Prussia Cove. *The Strad* has hailed her playing as 'simply brilliant' and the *Times* 'gorgeous'. Maya is a keen chamber player and has been a member of Mobius Ensemble since 2004. Her guest appearances with the Vellinger Quartet were met with much acclaim and her recordings as part of Vikram Seth's 'An Equal Music' CD compilation are regularly broadcast by the BBC and Classic FM. Maya has garnered much admiration in her role as leader from artists and critics alike, regularly receiving rave reviews from the press, and has been invited to lead the Royal Philharmonic, City of Birmingham Symphony, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, Bournemouth Symphony, Ulster, English Chamber, SCO, Orquestra Cadaqués and the John Wilson Orchestras. Maya finally ended her tenure as Leader of the Philharmonia Orchestra in 2012 after eighteen illustrious years leading for major conductors such as Sir Andrew Davis, Christoph von Dohnanyi, Lorin Maazel, Riccardo Muti, Gennady Rozhdestvensky, Esa-Pekka Salonen and Kurt Sanderling. In 2011 Maya was invited to become Leader of the RSNO, a position she still holds today.

Graeme McNaught grew up in Motherwell and studied initially at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama (now RCS), then with Alfons Kontarsky, Hans Leygraf and Maria Curcio in Munich, Salzburg and London, respectively. As unanimous winner of the first Scottish Piano Competition in 1986, recitals and concerto appearances with all of Scotland's orchestras soon established him as one of the country's leading musicians. He has performed throughout the UK, Central Europe and in the Far East both as soloist and with a wide range of musical partners, including Ruggiero Ricci, Lynn Harrell, Christine Cairns, Jane Irwin and Willard White. Through his involvement with the celebrated Chamber Group of Scotland, numerous commissions and first performances followed, taking him to the festivals of Huddersfield, Edinburgh and Bergen, amongst others, and leading to frequent radio broadcasts and commercial recordings. He became a regular guest of the Paragon and Hebrides Ensembles, of Mr McFall's Chamber and of the SCO, recording James MacMillan's 'Cumnock Fair' with them under the composer's direction, for BIS. Other recordings to date reflect a particularly diverse and colourful career: Copland with White; Beethoven and Sarasate with Ricci; Bevan-Baker with the Hebrides Ensemble; McGuire, Piazzola and Piaf with McFall's; and Roslavetz under Volkov with the BBC SSO. A recently released Delphian disc with cellist Robert Irvine of Rachmaninoff and Shostakovich sonatas was met with widespread critical acclaim. Graeme teaches piano, chamber music and Lieder at the RCS.

Professor Fali Pavri enjoys a busy and varied career as soloist, chamber musician and teacher. Born in Mumbai, India, where his first teacher was Shanti Seldon, he studied the piano at the Moscow Conservatoire with Professor Victor Merzhanov and at the Royal Academy of Music, London with Christopher Elton. While still a student, he was invited by the great Russian cellist, Mstislav Rostropovitch to be his pianist on an extensive concert tour of India. This was followed by his London debut at the Purcell Room and concerts in prestigious venues around the world. He has performed and collaborated with many eminent musicians including the Vertavo Quartet, Leopold Trio, Paragon Ensemble, Scottish Ensemble, clarinetist Andrew Marriner, cellist Franz Helmerson, singers Roderick Williams and Mark Padmore and composer Mauricio Kagel. Some concert highlights include concertos at the St Endellion Festival with Richard Hickox and at the Scottish Proms with the RSNO, Wigmore Hall concerts with cellists Wolfgang Schmidt and Tim Gill, a recital tour of South Africa with his wife, the cellist Naomi Pavri and performances at many music festivals including Sangat in India, Langvad in Denmark and Cheltenham and Leamington-Spa in the UK. In June 2009 Fali gave the world premiere of 'In Memoriam', a powerful new piece for piano and percussion by the Serbian-American composer Vera Stanojevic. This led to an

invitation to be the guest artist at the the 2013 Society of Composers National Conference in Columbus, Ohio performing three new works by American composers. He has recorded two critically acclaimed discs with the cellist Timothy Gill on the Guild label, including world premieres of works by the Indian composer, John Mayer. In 2009 he recorded the song cycle *Black Sea* by the British composer Anthony Bolton, with the tenor Richard Edgar-Wilson. With the cellist Robert Irvine, he has recorded the music of Giles Swayne and of William Sweeney for the Delphian label. His CD featuring the music of the Swiss composer Volkmar Andreae was awarded a coveted IRR Outstanding accolade by the *International Record Review*. Andreae's piano concertos, recorded with the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra under Marc Andreae, have just been released, and another disc of piano concertos with the RSNO will be issued later this year. Radio broadcasts include regular appearances on BBC Radio 3, All-India Radio with Mstislav Rostropovich and for CBC with the North-American premiere of 'La Trahison Orale' by Mauricio Kagel. A committed and sought-after teacher with many international prize-winning students, Fali Pavri is currently Acting Head of Keyboard at the RCS.

Since settling in the UK in 1984, **Professor Aaron Shorr** has established an international career as soloist, chamber musician and educator. As well as appearing as soloist at London's South Bank in over thirty concertos, he has toured extensively as a recitalist and chamber musician worldwide. More recent performances have included tours of Italy, Germany, France, Spain, Italy, Portugal, Holland, Turkey, Australia, China, Japan, Korea, Mexico and the USA. He has performed appeared in concerti, solo recitals and chamber music concerts at the Wigmore Hall, St Martins in the Field and St John's Smith Square and festivals throughout Britain. He has also appeared in major European Festivals including the BBC Proms, Menuhin Festival, Munich Biennale, Hanover Expo, Paganiniana in Genoa, Venice Biennale, Instrumenta Festival Mexico, Skopje Days of New Music, Cyprus International Contemporary Music Festival and the Istanbul Biennale. He has broadcast frequently for radio, including BBC Radio 3, BBC Scotland, Classic FM, Bavarian Radio, Swiss Classical Radio, ABC Australia, and WQXR New York. Aaron Shorr has recorded for Naxos, Mettier, Olympia, NMC and Meridian. His recordings of Beethoven with duo partner, Peter Sheppard Skaerved, have won universal acclaim. Research on composers in Beethoven's inner circle of friends and contemporaries has yielded modern recording premieres of works by Mayseder, Ries and Archduke Rudolph as well as unknown chamber version of Beethoven's Third Symphony. He has also enjoyed close associations with composers and has given countless premieres and performances of works, including those by Hans Werner Henze, George Rochberg, Sadie Harrison, David Matthews, Paul Moravec, Elliott Schwartz, Jorg Widmann, Michael Alec Rose, Jeremy Dale Roberts, Judith Bingham, Rory Boyle, Marek Pasieczny, and Sidika Ozdil. Aaron Shorr studied at the Manhattan School of Music in New York and the RAM, where he received their most prestigious prizes for performance. His teachers have included Alexander Kelly, Solomon Mikowsky, Gary Graffman, André Watts, John Browning and chamber music with Joseph Seiger, former duo partner of legendary violinist Mischa Elman. Aaron Shorr was a professor and researcher at the RAM in London from 1992. His students have gone on to win major prizes at international competitions including the Munich, St Petersburg, Tokyo, Redding-Piette and the Schubert Competition in the Czech Republic. His students have also won prizes in major UK competitions, including the Royal Overseas League, Park Lane Debut Series and the Moray Piano Competition. He is also artistic director and chair of the jury for the 2014 Scottish International Piano Competition. He is currently Professor and Acting Dean of Music at the RCS.

After living in the USA for ten years, cellist **Martin Storey** returned to the UK in May 2010 to become Principal Cellist of the BBC SSO. Martin was born in Norwich and studied at the RAM with teachers Florence Hooton and David Strange, and then as a Fulbright Scholar he continued his studies at New England Conservatory in Boston, USA where his teachers were Laurence Lesser and Colin Carr. He was a

founding member of the highly successful Gould Piano Trio which won three international chamber music competitions. During his fourteen years with the trio he toured to many countries playing in major concert halls, radio broadcasts and music festivals including the BBC Proms Chamber Series. Martin has recorded several CDs of chamber music for labels such as EMI, ASV and Naxos and his recording of the Brahms Cello Sonatas was released on the Oxford Classics label. While living in London he had the chance to work with many orchestras including the Chamber Orchestra of Europe and the English Chamber Orchestra, and he served as a guest principal cellist with orchestras such as the London Symphony, Philharmonia, Royal Philharmonic, BBC Symphony, and London Sinfonietta. In 2000 Martin moved to Kansas City, Missouri to join his wife, Japanese violinist Kanako Ito, who had been selected to be Leader of the Kansas City Symphony. During their ten years in Kansas City Martin and Kanako played together in a string quartet Quartet Accorda. Martin and two colleagues formed the International Center for Music at Park University in Parkville, Missouri. This new music department was for advanced piano and string students and Martin was the cello professor from 2005 to 2010.

Xander Van Vliet started to play the violin at the age of seven. Two years later, he entered the Enschede Conservatory in Amsterdam where he studied with Maarten Veeze, Jaap van Zweden, Ilya Grubert, and Jan Repko. Between 2002 and 2007 Xander completed his Bachelor's, Postgraduate and Masters in Performance degrees at the RNCM. In July 2004, he won the Rodger Raphael Prize, the chamber music award for violin at the RNCM and in 2005 Xander was awarded the RNCM's Professional Performance Diploma with distinction. Xander is a tutor of violin and chamber music at Chetham's School of Music in Manchester. Xander has gained international recognition as a chamber musician as one of the founder members of the Navarra Quartet, winners of the first prize in the Vittorio Gui Competition in Florence, second prize in the Melbourne International Chamber Music Competition, the MIDEM Outstanding Young Artist Award in Cannes and a Borletti Buitoni Fellowship. He has recorded and broadcast for BBC Radio 3, RAI 3 (Italy), Radio 4 (Holland), SWR (Germany), Radio Luxembourg, Swiss Radio and ABC Classic FM (Australia). Festival appearances include the Verbier and Bellerive Festivals, Switzerland; Haydn Festival at Wigmore Hall; RNCM Chamber Music Fest; City of London Festival; Rheingau and Mecklenburg-Vorpommern Festivals, Germany; Aix-en-Provence Festival, France; Kattegat and Sandviken Festivals, Sweden and the Huntington Festival, Australia. Xander joined the Scottish Ensemble in April 2010 as Principal Second Violin, and in November 2010 was appointed Principal Second Violin of the RSNO.

Forthcoming Musical Events

Fridays at One: French Fancy - Fauré Chamber Music IV

Friday 28 February / Stevenson Hall / 1.00pm

This concert marks the conclusion of the two year project to explore the wonderful wealth of chamber works by that most important of French composers, Gabriel Fauré. Aaron Shorr is joined for this final Fauré flourish by a remarkable quartet of string players, violinists Jackie Shave and Greg Lawson, violist Scott Dickinson and cellist Martin Storey.

RCS Chamber Choir - Fauré's Requiem

Wednesday 19 March / Paisley Abbey / 7.30pm

Our wonderful Chamber Choir explores some of the glories of French choral music in the spectacular setting of Paisley Abbey. Frikki Walker leads them through a programme including music by Vierne, and culminating with one of the great masterworks for choir, Gabriel Fauré's *Requiem*.