

Strings Showcase

DAVID ELLIS (b.1933)
Double Bass Sonata

EUGÈNE YSAÏE (1858-1931)
Violin Sonata No.3

HENRI VIEUXTEMPS (1820-1881)
Elegy

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN (1770-1827)
Sonata No.1 in D



Mondays at One

12 May 2014

DAVID ELLIS (b.1933)

Sonata for Unaccompanied Double Bass

Rachel Wilson **Double bass**

The David Ellis Sonata for Unaccompanied Double Bass was written in 1978, originally for the bassist Duncan McTier. It is cast in one movement with three definite sections. The first is quite slow and reflective, almost as if it is someone's train of thought, going here and there, swelling up and then coming down again. The second is harsh and agitated, and the third encompasses the feeling of both. What is particularly interesting about this piece is what it does with the instrument. It uses a wide range of techniques, achieving a wide spread of timbres allowing the instrument to be played with no accompaniment. This piece really shows off the double bass and everything it can do.

Rachel Wilson

EUGÈNE YSAÏE (1858-1931)

Solo Sonata No.3 in d minor, Op.27 No.3

Daniel Meszoly **Violin**

In the eyes of his contemporaries, the Belgian violinist and composer Eugène Ysaÿe was regarded as 'The King of the Violin' or as Nathan Milstein put it 'The Tsar'. He was so renowned that he premiered the violin sonatas by both Franck and Debussy, Chausson's *Poème* as well as Debussy's quartet with his string quartet. In his older years he honoured six of his colleagues by composing a sonata for each of them, including Joseph Szigeti, Jacques Thibaud, and Fritz Kreisler. This Third Sonata was dedicated to George Enescu the famous Romanian violinist and composer, who Pablo Casals considered the "the greatest musical phenomenon since Mozart". Ysaÿe's idea was that each of the sonatas be composed in the style of the honoured violinist, and he was so inspired that he composed all of the sonatas in a matter of days. Although the sonatas are written in a very violinistic manner, they are all a challenge for violin players.

In this sonata the performer is required to play in a very detailed fashion as there are many technical challenges, from double stops through playing multiple melodic lines to quarter tone intonation. Although not as approachable as Bach's solo sonatas, Ysaÿe's sonatas are definitely one of the most important works in the repertoire for solo violin and once the listener hears the unique sound world of his pieces, they will be easily recognised afterwards from the beautiful flow between the consonant and dissonant harmonies.

Daniel Meszoly

HENRI VIEUXTEMPS (1820-1881)

Elegy

Yuan Li **Viola**
Liivi Arder **Piano**

Henry Vieuxtemps was a Belgian composer and violinist. His Elegy for viola and piano is full of beautifully emotional expressions of sadness as well as passion.

Yuan Li

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN (1770-1827)

Violin Sonata No.1 in D, Op.12 No.1

- I. Allegro con brio
- II. Tema con variazioni. Andante con moto
- III. Rondo. Allegro

Gongbo Jiang **Violin**

Sinae Lee **Piano**

Gongbo Jiang studies at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, under the tutelage of Gina McCormick and is currently in his first year of a master's degree. Since coming to RCS in 2009, he has won many prizes, including the 2010 Hilda Bailey Prize for Violin, 2011 Ian D Watt Award, and the 2012 Walcer Prize. In 2010 he was also a finalist in the Italian International Violin Competition. In 2013 he was selected to perform in the RCS concerto concert with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, and he travelled to India recently with the BBC Scottish Symphony and the RCS, and performed a duet with Nicola Benedetti, broadcast live on BBC Radio 3.

Gongbo Jiang is the leader of the Aurea String Quartet, who have won many chamber music prizes at the Conservatoire. They went on to win first prize at the First Sandor Vegh International String Quartet Competition in 2012, and this year they were the winners of the St Martin-in-the-Fields chamber competition in London.

Hungarian violinist **Dániel Máté Mészöly** started to play the violin at the age of nine, and studies with Judit Szászné-Réger under whom he would successfully perform in numerous concerts and competitions. Wanting to learn more, he applied to the RCS in 2010 where he began his studies with Peter Lissauer. Currently he is in his fourth year studying with Christopher George and he also studies baroque violin with Ruth Slater. He has attended masterclasses with great musicians such as Rachel Podger, Ilya Gringolts, Jacqueline Shave, Leland Chen, Barnabás Kelemen and the Brodsky Quartet. He has won several competitions within the Conservatoire as well as winning third prize in the Andrea Postacchini International Violin Competition. He is passionate about chamber music and plays violin-piano sonatas with his fiancée, Alina Horváth, as well as regularly working with his string quartet, winners of the RCS Mabel Glover Prize. Dániel has had the opportunity to play with Ilya Gringolts, Rachel Podger, Nicola Benedetti, the Scottish Ensemble, BBC SSO, RSNO and Scottish Opera. Within the RCS he has led the Symphony and Opera Orchestras, String Ensemble and the Baroque Ensemble. He is passionate about teaching and believes strongly that being a teacher is a great responsibility and he knows how much his teachers have helped him on his way; he wants to become a great teacher and help others to improve and achieve their goals and to get as much joy out of music as he does.

Rachel Wilson began her musical studies as a violinist. After realising this was not the right instrument for her she began playing bass guitar and then double bass from the age of fourteen. After a year and a half on double bass she auditioned for the Junior Conservatoire and was successful, spending the next four years studying with Una MacGlone. She then secured a place to study at the RCS with Iain Crawford. She has played with many youth orchestras including National Youth Orchestra of Scotland and the Edinburgh Youth Orchestra and hopes to play in orchestras professionally once finishing her degree.

Forthcoming Musical Events

Big Baroque

Monday 12 May / Ledger Recital Room / 7.30pm

The current strength of our baroque music programme will be on show for this final concert of the year, with a large orchestra exploring some of the great music of the period.

RCS Big Band in Concert

Tuesday 13 May / Stevenson Hall / 7.30pm

Led as always by the irrepressible Chris Grieve, the RCS Big Band explores new directions in music for the large jazz band.

Jean Highgate Scholarship for Singing Competition

Thursday 15 May / Ledger Recital Room / 10.00am

Scottish Music Year End Showcase

Thursday 15 May / Stevenson Hall / 7.30pm

A guaranteed highlight of the year, the stars of the Scottish Music programme gather together with guest artists for a fun night where everyone gets a turn!

Fridays at One: Brilliant Bousfield

Friday 16 May / Stevenson Hall / 1.00pm

Ian Bousfield concludes his post with the Conservatoire this year, but before he goes he will treat us to this final virtuosic recital.

Ye Cronies Opera Award

Sunday 18 May / New Athenaeum Theatre / 3.00pm

Mondays at One: Crowther's Oboe Days

Monday 19 May / Ledger Recital Room / 1.00pm

Led by the inimitable Stephen West, this concert will show double reed playing at its finest, with a few surprises in store as well.

Blue Monday's with Paul Harrison

Monday 19 May / Ledger Recital Room / 7.30pm

Who better to lead the final Blue Monday of the year than the ever classy pianist Paul Harrison.