



HELLENSMUSIC

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8 to 14 May  
Herefordshire, UK

# HELLENSMUSIC MASTERCLASS COURSE 2023

Piano, Violin, Viola, Cello, Oboe,  
Bassoon & French Horn





Class of 2021

## ABOUT

Hellensmusic is a festival and masterclass course that takes place every May in and around Hellens Manor, Herefordshire. Its aims are threefold: to create opportunities for world-class musicians to collaborate outside the concert circuit and explore new ideas; to provide a platform for talented music students from all over the UK and beyond to learn from leading experts; and to bring great music to this corner of England, inspiring local audiences.

Hellensmusic Masterclass Programme consists of seven days of intense learning, with individual masterclasses, chamber music classes and music improvisation sessions taught by the Festival's resident artists. During the course students have the opportunity to play alongside their tutors in the festival's main concerts. In addition, the course culminates in two final concerts where students will perform some of the solo pieces they worked on during the week.

Our aim is to create a rich and inspiring musical week that can fast-track meaningful learning. Besides the masterclasses, students perform with their tutors the festival's concerts, engage with them at meals and breaks, and see them in action at rehearsals and performances. We provide a unique setting for informal learning, which sets Hellensmusic apart from other courses.





*"An invaluable experience. I feel I gained so much knowledge from the tutors and learnt so much in such a short time. It has been a wonderful, encouraging environment in which to learn"*

## THE TEAM

We are proud to have a team of resident artists who are not only acclaimed performers but also committed and passionate teachers.

### **Maya Iwabuchi, violin**

Joint Artistic Director of Hellensmusic, Leader of the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, former Leader of the Philharmonia Orchestra. Tutor at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.

### **Máté Szücs, viola**

Joint Artistic Director of Hellensmusic, former Principal Viola of the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra. Professor at the The Geneva Haute école de musique.

### **Alena Baeva, violin**

Internationally renowned soloist. Has performed with the New York Philharmonic Orchestra, Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen, London Philharmonic Orchestra, Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra. Has collaborated with artists like: Martha Argerich, Yuri Bashmet, Steven Isserlis, Daishin Kashimoto, Misha Maisky, among others.

### **Nicolas Dupont, violin**

Professor at the Conservatoire Royal de Bruxelles (CRB). Prize-winning chamber musician.

### **Vicki Powell, viola**

Principal Viola of the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra. As a soloist has performed with the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Milwaukee Symphony, the Aspen Festival Orchestra, and the Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra. Member of the Boccherini String Trio.

### **Bruno Delepelaire, cello**

Principal Cello of the Berlin Philharmonic.



"I've never in my life experienced such a life changing and inspiring week of sharing and making music."

**Matthew Hunt, clarinet**

Solo Clarinetist of Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen, Member of Ensemble 360.

**Christian Blackshaw, piano - Festival Founder**

Soloist; has performed with Valery Gergiev, Simon Rattle, Neville Marriner; his recent triumphant debut with the Philadelphia Orchestra and Yannick Nézet-Séguin, etc.

**Julien Quentin, piano**

Soloist; has appeared at the Concertgebouw (Amsterdam), The Wigmore Hall, the Gewandhaus, the Berliner Philharmonie, Carnegie Hall, and the Verbier Festival Orchestra.

**Sophia Rahman, collaborative piano**

Official accompanist for organisations such as the Lionel Tertis International Viola Competition, the Barbirolli International Oboe Competition, IMS/Prussia Cove and the Samling Foundation.





*"The fact that the Festival isn't too big was great, as it helped us to get to know each other better and cooperate more successfully. I loved the moments when we met over the excellent food to have inspiring conversation."*

## **COURSE STRUCTURE**

Over seven days students will take part in a series of individual masterclasses, chamber music classes and improvisation sessions. They will also rehearse and perform together with their tutors. There are four pianos at Hellens and various spaces that are available for rehearsal at all times.

### **INDIVIDUAL MASTERCLASSES**

Students will have two to three individual masterclasses during the week.

### **CHAMBER MUSIC ENSEMBLES**

A wonderful chance to play side by side with their tutors. There will be different mixed ensembles with students and teachers. Students will have the opportunity to perform chamber music in the festival's evening concerts as well as solo at the festival's closure concerts on Sunday 14 May. All repertoire will be sent in advance.

### **IMPROVISATION SESSIONS**

Máté Szücs, Matthew Hunt and Julien Quentin will encourage students to loosen up and explore music improvisation.

### **SUNDAY CONCERTS**

To finish off the course, students will take the stage on Sunday 14 May for two concerts where they will perform the solo and chamber repertoire they have worked on during the week.



*"Meeting the musicians was incredible, one of the musical highlights of my life. I learnt an enormous amount and was more inspired than ever."*

## APPLICATION AND GENERAL INFORMATION

### DATES AND COSTS

The course starts at 2pm on Monday 8 May and finishes on Sunday 14 May 7pm, after the final concert. Students are expected to arrive at Hellens at midday on Monday 8 May and are welcome to remain until Monday 15 after breakfast.

The fee for the course is £200. This includes all costs related to masterclass fees, accommodation and meals during the course. Transportation costs are not covered by Hellensmusic.

### REGISTRATION

In order to apply students need to fill in an online application form where they are required to include their CV and TWO recordings of their playing in MP3 format.

The form can be accessed here: <https://form.jotform.com/223025037788357> or through our website [www.hellensmusic.com/festival/masterclasses/](http://www.hellensmusic.com/festival/masterclasses/)

There are vacancies open for violin, viola, cello, oboe, bassoon, French horn and piano students who are at advanced conservatory level and seriously preparing for a performing career in music, ages 18-26.

Places are limited, so we encourage you to register your interest with us as soon as possible. The deadline for applications is 15 January 2023.





## VENUE & ACCOMMODATION

### VENUE

Hellensmusic takes place in Hellens, a much loved and lived-in 12th century Manor house and home located in Herefordshire. It is no great stately house, but an ancient place where the watch-tower, monastery, fortified manor and farmhouses, Tythe Barns and Georgian stable have served their purposes in turn through the millennium. The knot and cloister gardens, a yew labyrinth, a short woodland and pond walk all contribute to a magical environment that entrances visitors.

Hellens provides an ideal setting for the Masterclass Programme. The beautiful houses, and the stunning surroundings contribute to create a great atmosphere of space, freedom and conviviality during the course.

The Festival's heart is the fine 16th century Tythe Barn with its Steinway D concert grand. Masterclasses will take place there, in the music room and other rooms in the main house, as well as at St Bartholomew's Church at the bottom of the drive.

### ACCOMMODATION

Students will stay in our restored Georgian Stables. The stables are equipped with bath/shower-rooms, a communal kitchen for breakfast and tea and a central common room with piano. Main meals will be shared with musicians and staff in the main house.



## CONTACT INFORMATION


Aixa Figini

General Manager

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*"Amazing! One of the best experiences of my life. Solo masterclasses were absolutely fantastic. I have learnt so much! I'm so excited to process and practice everything that I've learnt here."*

## BIOGRAPHIES

### MAYA IWABUCHI, violin

Maya Iwabuchi began violin lessons at the age of two, her main influences being Professors Alice Schoenfeld and Rodney Friend. Since her first concert at age five, Maya has enjoyed an international career as a solo violinist, chamber musician and orchestral leader.

Her performances have taken her to major concert halls world-wide such as the Royal Festival Hall and Wigmore Hall in London, the Philharmonie in Berlin, Musikverein in Vienna, Royal Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, Lincoln Centre and Carnegie Hall in New York City, and Suntory Hall in Tokyo.

Highlights for Maya as soloist include appearances with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, New York Philharmonic, Philharmonia Orchestra, Royal Scottish National Orchestra and at the Leipzig Gewandhaus. She has appeared in numerous renowned music festivals such as the BBC Proms, Aldeburgh, Bath and Chichester, and the International Musicians Seminar in Prussia Cove. The Strad has hailed her playing as 'simply brilliant' and the Times 'gorgeous'.

A committed chamber musician, Maya was a member of the acclaimed Mobius Ensemble from 2004 to 2017, and she has collaborated with artists such as the Vellinger Quartet, Steven Isserlis and Gil Shaham. She has been regularly invited to lead orchestras such as the Royal Philharmonic, City of Birmingham Symphony, BBC Symphony and the John Wilson Orchestra.

Maya served 18 distinguished years as Leader of the Philharmonia Orchestra from 1994 to 2012, having led for major conductors such as Sir Andrew Davis, Christoph von Dohnanyi, Gustavo Dudamel, Lorin Maazel, Riccardo Muti, Andris Nelsons, Gennady Rozhdestvensky, Esa-Pekka Salonen and Kurt Sanderling.

Maya moved to beautiful Scotland in 2010 where she was appointed as Leader of the Royal Scottish National Orchestra in 2011, and is currently a faculty member of the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.

Maya plays on a violin by Fabrizio Senta from Turin, circa 1680.

## ALENA BAEVA, violin

Baeva's career as an international soloist of the highest renown has grown at an extraordinary pace over recent seasons. Highlights of her recent performances include debuts with the Alte Oper Frankfurt, Ensemble Resonanz, Göteborgs Symfoniker, Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra, New York Philharmonic Orchestra, Orchestre National de Lyon, and the Orchestre National du Capitole de Toulouse, as well as returns to such leading ensembles as the Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen, Gävle Symfoniorkester, Orchestre National de Lille, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Tonkünstler-Orchester.

She now enjoys a particularly strong artistic partnership with Paavo Järvi, with whom recent and future collaborations include performances with the Estonian Festival Orchestra, New York Philharmonic Orchestra, NHK Symphony Orchestra Tokyo, and the Tonhalle- Orchester Zürich. Another regular collaborative partnership is that with Vladimir Jurowski. She also enjoys regular work with such world-renowned conductors as Teodor Currentzis, Charles Dutoit, Marek Janowski, and Tomáš Netopil.

Chamber music has always held a special place in Baeva's musical life. She has collaborated with esteemed artists as Martha Argerich, Yuri Bashmet, Steven Isserlis, Daishin Kashimoto, Misha Maisky, Lawrence Power, Julian Steckel, and Yeol-Eum Son. Her regular sonata partner is the celebrated Ukrainian pianist Vadym Kholodenko (2013 Van Cliburn Winner).

Baeva's wider discography is extensive – with recordings ranging from Szymanowski, to Debussy, Poulenc, and Prokofiev. Her Paris performance of Shostakovich Violin Concerto No.2 features as part of the Mariinsky Theatre/Valery Gergiev collection, released by Arthaus Musik in 2015. In 2018, she made a recording of both the Karłowicz Violin Concerto with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, and of the Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto with London Philharmonic Orchestra/Vladimir Jurowski, to be released on the LPO Live label. 2020 saw the release of her recording of the Schumann Violin Concerto and the original (1844) version of the Mendelssohn Violin Concerto in E minor – released worldwide on Melodiya Records and receiving wide-spread critical acclaim.

Born in Russia to a musical family, Baeva took her first violin lessons at the age of five under renowned pedagogue Olga Danilova. In addition to her formal education, she studied in France with Mstislav Rostropovich, in Switzerland with Seiji Ozawa, in Israel with Shlomo Mintz (at Keshet Eilon Music Center), and in Paris with Boris Garlitsky. Aged 16, Baeva won the Grand Prix at the 12th International Henryk Wieniawski Competition (2001), as well as the Prize for Best Performance of a Contemporary Work. Following this, she went on to take the Grand Prix at the Moscow International Niccolò Paganini Competition (2004), including a Special Prize allowing her to perform on the 1723 Wieniawski Stradivari for one year, and was awarded both the Gold Medal and the Audience Prize at the Sendai International Violin Competition (2007).

Alena Baeva plays on the "ex-William Kroll" Guarneri del Gesù of 1738 – on generous loan from an anonymous patron.

## NICOLAS DUPONT, violin

*"With over ninety concerts a year, Nicolas Dupont (°1992) is one of the most active Belgian chamber musicians of his generation."* (El Diario Montanes)

As a member of Kugoni Trio, Roeland Hendriks Ensemble, Urban Piano Quartet, Carousel Ensemble, Ensemble K and Duo Andaluza, he has premiered over eighty pieces in close collaboration with composers and has made recordings for Belgian, Danish, French, Swiss, Italian, English, Scottish and Dutch radio and television.



Based in Brussels since 2017, Nicolas frequently travels as a soloist or with his chamber music partners across Europe and beyond. Amongst the concert halls that have shaped his career are Wigmore Hall, St Martin-in-the-Fields (UK), BOZAR, Flagey, deBijloke, AMUZ, deSingel, Concertgebouw Brugge (BE), la Seine Musicale (FR),...

Nicolas draws much inspiration from new musical collaborations and has performed alongside Yuzuko Horigome, Justus Grimm, Máté Szűcs, Mihaela Martin, Pascal Moragues, Frans Helmerson, Rohan De Silva, Michel Arrignon, Bruno Philippe, Gaby Van Riet, Michel Béroff, Gérard Caussé and Vineta Sareika, amongst others.

Nicolas' discography includes over fifteen CD's with music by Brahms, Franck, Debussy, Saint-Saëns, Vasks, Piazzolla, Janáček, Poulenc as well as many Belgian composers.

Nicolas is currently the leader of the Ataneres Ensemble and has worked as guest concertmaster with Orchestre National de Lille, Symfonieorkest Vlaanderen, Antwerp Symphony Orchestra, Santander Festival Orchestra,...

His teachers have included Dejan Mijajev, Yuzuko Horigome (Royal Conservatory of Brussels), Itamar Golan (chamber music, CNSM of Paris) and Rodney Friend (Royal Academy of Music, London).

Nicolas is a violin professor at the Conservatoire Royal de Bruxelles (CRB).

## **MÁTÉ SZÜCS, viola**

Hungarian born Máté Szűcs is an award winning viola soloist, chamber musician and orchestral player. He was first principal viola at the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra between 2011 and 2018, where he has appeared as a soloist playing the Bartók Viola Concerto in September 2017.

He has also played as soloist with orchestras such as the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra of Flanders, the 'Bamberger Symphoniker', the "Sächsische Staatskapelle Dresden", Frankfurt Radio Orchestra, and "Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen".

Máté has worked with prominent musicians such as Janine Jansen, Frank-Peter Zimmermann, Christian Tetzlaff, Vadim Repin, Ilja Gringolts, Vladimir Mendelssohn, László Fenyő, Kristof Baráti and István Várdai, Camille Thomas, Kirill Troussov, and Julien Quentin.

Since the summer of 2006, he has been a regular professor at the "Thy Masterclass" chamber music summer festival in Denmark. From 2012 to 2014 he taught at the Britten-Pears Festival in Aldeburgh, for two years at the University of Music in Saarbrücken, from 2014 to 2018 at the Karajan Academy of the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, between 2015 and 2018 at the "Hanns Eisler" University of Music in Berlin, and at the Music Academy of Budapest.

Máté gives masterclasses all over the world including New York, Los Angeles, Michigan, London, Berlin, Brussels, Shanghai, Taipei, Seoul and Tokyo. Since 2018 he is viola professor at the Geneva University of Music in Switzerland, since September 2020, viola professor at Pécs University of Music in Hungary, and since 2021 visiting professor in the chamber music department of the Franz Liszt Academy of music, Budapest.

In 2020 Máté was awarded a Doctorate of Arts.

## **VICKI POWELL, viola**

Praised by the New York Times for her “probing introspection”, and by the Philadelphia Inquirer as “a star” with “a voluptuous tone,” violist Vicki Powell has appeared as soloist with the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Milwaukee Symphony, the Aspen Festival Orchestra, and the Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra, and has been a featured artist at the Verbier, Ravinia, Caramoor, Moritzburg, and Marlboro Music Festivals.

Ms. Powell is the recipient of a Gold Award in Music from the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts. Other awards include Third Prize and the Sonata Prize at the 2011 Primrose International Viola Competition, as well as First Prizes of the Philadelphia Orchestra Greenfield Competition, the Johansen International Competition, and the Aspen Low Strings Competition.

An avid chamber musician, Ms. Powell performs throughout Europe with the Boccherini String Trio. She has toured with Musicians from Marlboro, Musicians from Ravinia's Steans Institute, and Curtis on Tour, and performs with the Jupiter Symphony Chamber Players in New York City. Recent highlights include performances at the Rheingau Music Festival, Zurich Tonhalle, and Konzerthaus Berlin as well as with Christian Tetzlaff and Steven Isserlis at Kronberg Academy's Chamber Music Connects the World.

Since 2018 Ms. Powell has held the position of Principal Viola of the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra. She has also been invited to play as Guest Principal of the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra, the Gewandhausorchester, the Australian Chamber Orchestra, and Camerata Bern, among others.

In addition to her pursuits as a violist, Ms. Powell is passionate about using music to engage communities from diverse backgrounds in order to strengthen social ties, as well as to raise awareness for humanitarian efforts across the world. As Director of the Verbier Festival Academy's "Reaching Out" program, she helped enable musicians to harness and broaden their outreach, business, networking, and leadership skills in order to be innovative and active participants within their own communities.

Ms. Powell began her musical studies in Madison, Wisconsin with Eugene Purdue and Sally Chisholm. She is a graduate of the Hochschule für Musik "Hanns Eisler" Berlin, the Juilliard School, and the Curtis Institute of Music, and studied with Máté Szűcs, Misha Amory, and Roberto Diaz. She plays on a copy of the Primrose Guarneri by Samuel Zygmuntowicz.

## **BRUNO DELEPELAIRE, cello**

Bruno Delepelaire owes the fact that he became a cellist to his grandmother, an enthusiastic amateur cellist. As a five-year-old, he also wanted to learn the instrument. The cello lessons with his first cello teacher Erwan Fauré were formative experiences for him. Bruno Delepelaire later studied at the Paris Conservatoire under Philippe Muller. In 2012 he went to Berlin to continue his training under Jens Peter Maintz at the University of the Arts and under Ludwig Quandt at the Orchestra Academy of the Berliner Philharmoniker. He also attended master classes with Wolfgang-Emanuel Schmidt, François Salque, Wen-Sinn Yang and Wolfgang Boettcher.

Bruno Delepelaire gained orchestral experience with the Verbier Festival Orchestra, the Gustav Mahler Youth Orchestra, and as a student of the Orchestra Academy of the Berliner Philharmoniker. As a soloist, he has performed with the Münchner Rundfunkorchester and the Württembergische



Philharmonie Reutlingen. He has won several awards, including the first prize at the "Karl Davidoff International Cello Competition" (2012) and the Markneukirchen International Instrumental Competition (2013).

Bruno Delepelaire has been principal cellist with the Berliner Philharmoniker since 2013. Reading and birdwatching are among the musician's favourite pastimes. Bruno Delepelaire plays a cello made by Matteo Goffriller, on loan from the Karolina Blaberg Foundation.

## **MATTHEW HUNT, clarinet**

One of Britain's leading clarinetists, Matthew Hunt is a distinctive musician, renowned for the vocal quality of his playing and his ability to communicate with audiences. He holds the position of solo clarinetist with the Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen, and is a member of the Sheffield based chamber group Ensemble 360. A very keen chamber musician, he appears regularly with Meta4, the Chiurascuro and Elias quartets, Thomas Adès, Pekka Kuusisto, Emily Beynon, Nicholas Altstaedt, Alina Ibragimova, and La Bande de La Loingtaine. He has also appeared as a guest of the Berlin Philharmonic as a soloist in their series at the Berlin Philharmonie Kammermusik Saal.

Matthew's plans for this season include appearances at festivals including Lockenhaus (Austria), Kaposvar (Hungary), Kuhmo (Finland) and Charlottesville (United States), and concerto appearances with the Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie and Paavo Jarvi, and with the Georgian Chamber Orchestra, Ingolstadt. As an orchestral musician, Matt a regular guest principal with the Academy of St Martin in the Fields and has appeared as a guest principal with the Concertgebouw and BBC Symphony Orchestras and the Chamber Orchestra of Europe.

Matthew's recording for ASV of Mozart's Clarinet Quintet with the Elias quartet was met with critical acclaim, with the BBC Music Magazine hailing it with five stars as "the Benchmark recording of this much recorded work".

## **CHRISTIAN BLACKSHAW, piano**

A deeply passionate and sensitive performer, Christian Blackshaw is celebrated for the incomparable musicianship of his performances. His playing combines tremendous emotional depth with great understanding and, in the words of one London critic, "sheer musicality and humanity".

Following studies with Gordon Green at the Royal College Manchester and Royal Academy, London and winning the gold medals at each, he was the first British pianist to study at the Leningrad Conservatoire with Moisei Halpin. He later worked closely with Sir Clifford Curzon in London. Christian Blackshaw has performed with many leading orchestras including London Philharmonic, Hallé, City of Birmingham Symphony, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, Royal Scottish National, BBC Philharmonic, BBC Symphony, Academy of St Martin in the Fields, St Petersburg Philharmonic, Moscow Philharmonic, Mariinsky Orchestra, New York Philharmonic, San Francisco Symphony, Baltimore Symphony, Israel Philharmonic, Dresden Staatskapelle, Rotterdam Philharmonic and RAI Torino. Conductors with whom he has collaborated include Sir Simon Rattle, Valery Gergiev, Gianandrea Noseda, Yuri Temirkanov and Sir Neville Marriner.

Recent notable debuts include Berliner Philharmoniker, Tokyo and the Aldeburgh Festival. Valery Gergiev invited him back to the White Nights Festival to perform the Mozart sonata cycle and he returned to the South Bank International Piano Series.

His hugely acclaimed Wigmore Hall Mozart sonata series concluded in early 2013 and subsequently Wigmore Hall Live have issued Volumes One and Two of this four double CD cycle. Critics have been unanimous in their praise, describing the “landmark” recording as “captivating” and “magical”.

## **JULIEN QUENTIN, piano**

French pianist Julien Quentin has established himself as a profoundly versatile and sensitive musician. His remarkable depth of musicianship and clarity of sound coupled with flawless technique, make him an artist in demand as both soloist and chamber musician.

Touring internationally in America, Australia, Japan, the Middle East and throughout Europe, he has appeared at the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, the Wigmore Hall in London, the Louvre in Paris, the Baden-Baden Festspielhaus, the Berlin Philharmonie, the Gewandhaus in Leipzig, the Konzerthaus in Vienna, the Mariinsky Theatre in Saint Petersburg, in Avery Fisher, Alice Tully and Carnegie Halls in New York. He has recorded for EMI, Channel Classics, Sony RCA, Hungaroton, Decca & Deutsche Grammophon.

Julien Quentin is a keen chamber musician and has collaborated with artists such as Nicolas Altstaedt, Emanuel Ax, Lisa Batiashvili, Gautier Capuçon, Corey Cerovsek, Martin Fröst, Sol Gabetta, David Garrett, Nelson Goerner, Ilya Gringolts, Gary Hoffman, Lawrence Power, Dmitry Sitkovetsky, Sayaka Shoji, Kirill Troussov, and István Várdai.

Born in Paris, Julien Quentin started his studies at the Geneva Conservatory with Alexis Golovine. He completed his Artist Diploma under the tutelage of Emile Naoumoff at Indiana University, where he held a one-year teaching position as Assistant Instructor. He then received his Graduate Diploma from the Juilliard School, where he studied with György Sándor. He has also worked with Paul Badura-Skoda, Nikita Magaloff, György Sebök and Earl Wild.

Julien Quentin now lives in Berlin. With ‘Musica Litoralis’ at Piano Salon Christophori, he has managed to create an increasingly successful concert series reminiscent of the salons of the Roaring Twenties. With visual artists, he explores new artistic visions bringing various art forms together. He also pursues his interest in other genres of music through his collaboration with pianists Kelvin Sholar, Kaan Bulak and Francesco Tristano, or producers Adrien de Maublanc and Cesar Merveille in projects ranging from improvisation to producing electronic music, most notably within their new projects Midiminuit & Les Coeurs Brisés.

## **SOPHIA RAHMAN, collaborative piano**

Sophia Rahman made the first UK recording of Florence Price’s piano concerto with the BBC National Orchestra of Wales, broadcast on BBC Radio 3. She has recorded Shostakovich’s piano concerto Op. 35 with the Scottish Ensemble for Linn Records and over thirty-five chamber music discs for a host of international labels including CPO, Guild, Resonus, Dutton/Epoch, ASV and Champs Hill.

Sophia has appeared in recital with distinguished musicians including cellist Steven Isserlis, violinist Augustin Hadelich, oboist Alex Klein, clarinettist Karl Leister and tenor Mark Padmore, as well as working frequently with her partner the violinist, violist and conductor Andres Kaljuste.

Sophia has coached junior chamber music at the Sibelius Academy, Finland and Lilla Akademien, Sweden, and on courses she has specially designed at the Arvo Pärt Centre for young Estonian chamber musicians and for those entering the brand new Tallinn Music and Ballet School, MUBA.



She is also known for her work as a class pianist at IMS Prussia Cove where she has played for the classes of Kim Kashkashian, Atar Arad, Thomas Riebl, Hartmut Rohde and, for more than a decade, Steven Isserlis. Her interest in this field began as a class pianist for the legendary William Pleeth at the Britten-Pears School.

After early tuition with Antonietta Notariello, Sophia studied at the Yehudi Menuhin School under Peter Norris, with additional guidance from Vlado Perlemuter and Louis Kentner. She took a first-class honours degree in English from King's College, London and completed her piano studies at the Royal Academy of Music with Alexander Kelly and Malcolm Martineau. She was the winner of the Royal Overseas League's Accompanist Award and the Liza Fuchsova Memorial Prize for a chamber music pianist in consecutive years.

Sophia is the Artistic Director of the Whittington Festival in Shropshire, held annually in the third week of May.