

Concert

## Rising Stars of Orion

An evening of chamber music introduced by Artistic Director Toby Purser

Tuesday 24 March 2015 at 7 pm  
at the Embassy of Switzerland,  
16–18 Montagu Place, London W1H 2BQ



### The Orion Orchestra

Patron HRH Princess Michael of Kent

President Lady Solti

Conductor Toby Purser will introduce members of the Orion Orchestra. The audience will be able to enjoy music from Schubert, Mozart, Mendelssohn, Brahms as well as Ernest Bloch, Swiss composer. We are very pleased to welcome back amongst the talented musicians of the Orion Orchestra, Samuel Justitz, Swiss pianist and cellist.

## The concert will be followed by a reception

I/we would like to attend the event on **Tuesday 24 March 2015 at 7 pm** at the Embassy of Switzerland, 16–18 Montagu Place, London W1H 2BQ.

Entry price: £12.00 for NSH members. £20.00 per person for non-members.

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel.No.: \_\_\_\_\_

As booking is essential, please return this slip with your cheque made payable to New Helvetic Society to Daniel Pedroletti, 16 Thorne Way, Buckland, Aylesbury HP22 5TL.

Queries to: [info@newhelveticsociety.org.uk](mailto:info@newhelveticsociety.org.uk)

**Registration deadline: 19 March 2015.** Please note that no tickets or confirmations of booking are issued.

**The Orion Orchestra**  
**Patron HRH Princess Michael of Kent**  
**President Lady Solti**

The Orion Orchestra has built a reputation as one of the most dynamic orchestras on the UK's music scene. The orchestra exists to promote the best young musicians in the country, with its performances recognised for their vitality, energy and imaginative programming.

With Orion's players selected from the most talented music college students and recent graduates, it gives its members the experience of working under professional conditions at all of London's leading concert venues. As orchestra in residence at the Aberystwyth International MusicFest, the orchestra provides unique experience to student conductors and composers. It awards annually both a Conductor's prize Young Conductor's Bursary, supported by the Richard Carne Trust. Additionally, in 2012 and 2015 it awarded Composers Prizes.

Since the orchestra's formation ten years ago for 'A Night Under the Stars', notable soloists have included Joanna MacGregor, Miloš Karadaglić, Julian Lloyd Webber, Tasmin

Little, Susan Gritton, Anne Murray, Nicola Benedetti, Valeriy Sokolov, Jack Liebeck, Charlie Siem, Tom Poster and Guy Johnsto. They were recently conducted by Edward Gardner at the Royal Festival Hall, and other guest conductors have included Gianluca Marciano, Paul Mann, and Guy Prothero.

They have recorded an acclaimed CD of Rachmaninov's Piano Concerto No.3 with the young virtuoso Panos Karan, while a live recording of British music was released by Cameo Classics in 2012. Aside from classical repertoire, they have recently toured and recorded Rick Wakeman's Journey to the Centre of the Earth, a CD of Pink Floyd, and a further DVD released this year of music by John Lord, recorded live at the Royal Albert Hall.

One of their key initiatives is the special concert series for children, 'Noisy Notes', presented and conducted by Sue Perkins. Aimed at inspiring the next generation of young musicians, their next Noisy Notes performance is on October 29th at the Royal Festival Hall.

**Toby Purser**

Toby Purser first came to prominence following recognition in the 2002 Leeds Conducting Competition, and was appointed Assistant Conductor of L'Ensemble Orchestral de Paris for 2007 following his participation in the Vendome Academy with Janos Furst and John Nelson.

Orchestras he has conducted include the English Chamber Orchestra, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, London Concert Orchestra, L'Ensemble Orchestral de Paris, Kotorart Chamber Orchestra, the Orchestra of Opera North, the Orpheus Sinfonia, Oxford University Orchestra, Sinfonia Viva, Kammerphilharmonie Graz, St Petersburg Camerata and the St Petersburg Festival Orchestra. From 2002 until 2011 he was principal conductor of the London International Orchestra. A CD of bel canto arias recorded with tenor Jesús León and the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic is due for release April 2016. In November 2014, he made his company debut at ENO conducting two performances of The Marriage of Figaro. He is a regular guest at Grange Park Opera where he has conducted Madama Butterfly, Eugene Onegin, Rigoletto and Fortunio, which was also performed at the Buxton Festival. Recent engagements also include Donizetti's

The Daughter of the Regiment for Opera Della Luna at Iford Arts, Haydn's La Canterina for Bampton Classical Opera, Sister Act for Pimlico Opera, and concerts at Cadogan Hall, the Queen Elizabeth Hall, the Royal Festival Hall and Symphony Hall, Birmingham.

Working for Pimlico Opera each winter since 2008, he has conducted productions in various prisons, with a cast of inmates performing alongside professionals in repertoire include Carmen the Musical, Les Misérables, Sugar, Sweeney Todd and West Side Story.

Having studied himself with George Hurst, Ilya Musin, and at the Royal Academy of Music with Colin Metters, he was invited in 2010 by the Aberystwyth International MusicFest to direct its first conductors' class, following which the class is now established as an annual event. He was assistant to the late George Hurst at the Canford Summer School of Music, where he remains a tutor, and was co-director of the Graz Conductors' Summer School 2008-9.

## Rising Stars of Orion

An evening of chamber music introduced by  
Artistic Director Toby Purser

Tuesday 24 March 2015 at 7 pm, at the  
Embassy of Switzerland, 16–18 Montagu  
Place, London W1H 2BQ



### PROGRAMME

**Schubert: B-flat string trio, D.471, 1st movement**

Violin: Michael Gurevich  
Viola: Meghan Cassidy  
Cello: Reinoud Ford

**Mozart: 'Kegelstatt' Trio K.498, 1st movement**

Clarinet: Anna Hashimoto  
Viola: Meghan Cassidy  
Piano: Toby Purser

**Brahms: Scherzo op.4, for violin and piano**

Violin: Michael Gurevich  
Piano: Toby Purser

**Rachmaninov: Vocalise, for cello and piano**

Cello: Reinoud Ford  
Piano: Toby Purser

**Mozart: Clarinet Quintet K.582, 2nd movement**

Clarinet: Anna Hashimoto  
Violins: Michael Gurevich, Maciej Burdzy  
Viola: Felix Tanner  
Cello: Samuel Justitz

**Mendelssohn: Octet op.20, 1st movement**

Violins: Michael Gurevich, Roberts Balanas, Algirdas Galdikas, Maciej Burdzy  
Violas: Felix Tanner, Meghan Cassidy  
Cellos: Reinoud Ford, Samuel Justitz



## Michael Gurevich – Violin

A member of the London Haydn Quartet and the Rhodes Piano Trio, Dutch violinist Michael Gurevich performs regularly as a chamber musician and orchestral leader, and is a passionate teacher.

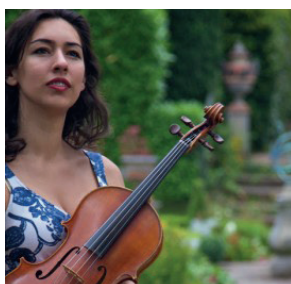
With his chamber groups he has presented performances at Carnegie Hall, Wigmore Hall, Purcell Room, the Royal Concertgebouw, Melbourne Recital Center and at Prussia Cove Open Chamber Music, the Aldeburgh, Aix-en-Provence, Schwetzingen, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern and Verbier Festivals, collaborating with artists such as Anthony Marwood, Gaby Lester, David Waterman and Jonathan Manson amongst many others.

As a guest leader, director and soloist, Michael has appeared with ensembles such as Manchester Camerata and Glyndebourne Orchestra.

Radio broadcasts include regular appearances on BBC Radio 3 as well as SWR2, ABC Classic FM, CBC Radio and radio stations in Spain, the Netherlands, Belgium and Hungary.

With the London Haydn Quartet, he has recorded on the Hyperion label, including a critically acclaimed disc of Haydn's op. 20 quartets as well as Haydn's op. 33 quartets to be released in 2013, and with the Rhodes Piano Trio on Champs Hill Records, a disc of Schumann's piano trios released in 2013.

Michael is a tutor in violin and chamber music at Chetham's School of Music in Manchester and has given chamber music masterclasses at the Juilliard School, Yale University, Oxford University, the Royal Academy of Music, the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory in Singapore and at the Domaine Forget in Canada.



## Meghan Cassidy – Viola

Meghan was born in London in 1988. She studied the viola with Garfield Jackson at the Royal Academy, graduating in 2010. She continued her studies with Tatjana Masurenko at the Hochschule für Musik und Theater, Leipzig, with Nabuko Imai in Hamburg and Hartmut Rohde at IMS Prussia Cove.

Meghan is both chamber musician and orchestral principal. She is a member of the Solstice Quartet, first-prize winners in the 2009 Royal Over-seas League Competition and

Principal Violist with the Orion Symphony Orchestra, a platform for especially talented young soloists. She has guest led the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra and the Royal Scottish Orchestra and she regularly plays with the Royal Philharmonic, the City of Birmingham and the Aurora Orchestras.

She has been praised in *The Strad* for her 'fine tone ... and good feeling for chamber music'.



## Samuel Justitz – Cello

Samuel Justitz was born 1989 in Zürich. The first cello lessons he took was at the Music School in Wettingen (AG). Samuel finished his undergraduate studies with distinction in Bern at the 'Hochschule der Künste Bern' with Louise Hopkins (Head of strings at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama). Samuel Justitz is a passionate chamber musician and played in many concert halls in the whole Europe. He was principal cellist of the Bern Youth Symphony Orchestra

and principal cellist of the Swiss Youth Symphony Orchestra (SJSO). As a soloist he performed with many orchestras including the Budweis Philharmonic Orchestra. Since 2012 he has been substitute in the Argovia Philharmonic Orchestra (Switzerland). At the moment Samuel Justitz is undertaking his postgraduate studies at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London with Louise Hopkins.



## Anna Hashimoto – Clarinet

Anna Hashimoto was born in Japan in 1989, and moved to London six months later. She made her London concerto debut at the age of fifteen playing Weber with the English Chamber Orchestra at the Barbican Centre. She has since been regularly invited to perform as a soloist with the orchestra, most recently at London's Cadogan Hall. She was the winner of the International Clarinet Competitions in Kortrijk (Belgium) in 2010, in Carlino (Italy) in 2009, and the Young Clarinetists Competition in Tokyo in 2003.

Anna has performed in major venues in the UK, Europe, USA, Mexico and Japan, including the South Bank Centre and Wigmore Hall in London, Dvorák Hall in Prague and Suntory Hall in Tokyo. She has played concertos with orchestras such as the English Chamber Orchestra, Brussels Philharmonic, Filharmonie Hradec Králové, Japan Philharmonic, New Japan

Philharmonic, Nagoya Philharmonic, and the Chamber Orchestra of the NHK Symphony. She has appeared on BBC Radio 3's 'In Tune', NHK-FM's 'Best of Classic' and NHK TV's 'Classic Club' (joint recital with Michael Collins). Anna's debut solo album 'A Touch of France' has had very favourable reviews in UK, USA and Japan.

The musicians Anna has collaborated include Vladimir Ashkenazy, Paul Watkins, Douglas Bostock, Michael Collins, Leon McCawley and Tsuyoshi Tsutsumi, and string quartets such as Solstice, Alberny, Ciurlonis, Kodaly and Prazak Quartets. As an orchestra player, Anna has been a guest principal with the BBC Symphony Orchestra and E flat clarinet with the English National Opera. Forthcoming concerts include concerto performances in the Osaka, Hiroshima, Yamagata and Tokyo Symphony Orchestras.