

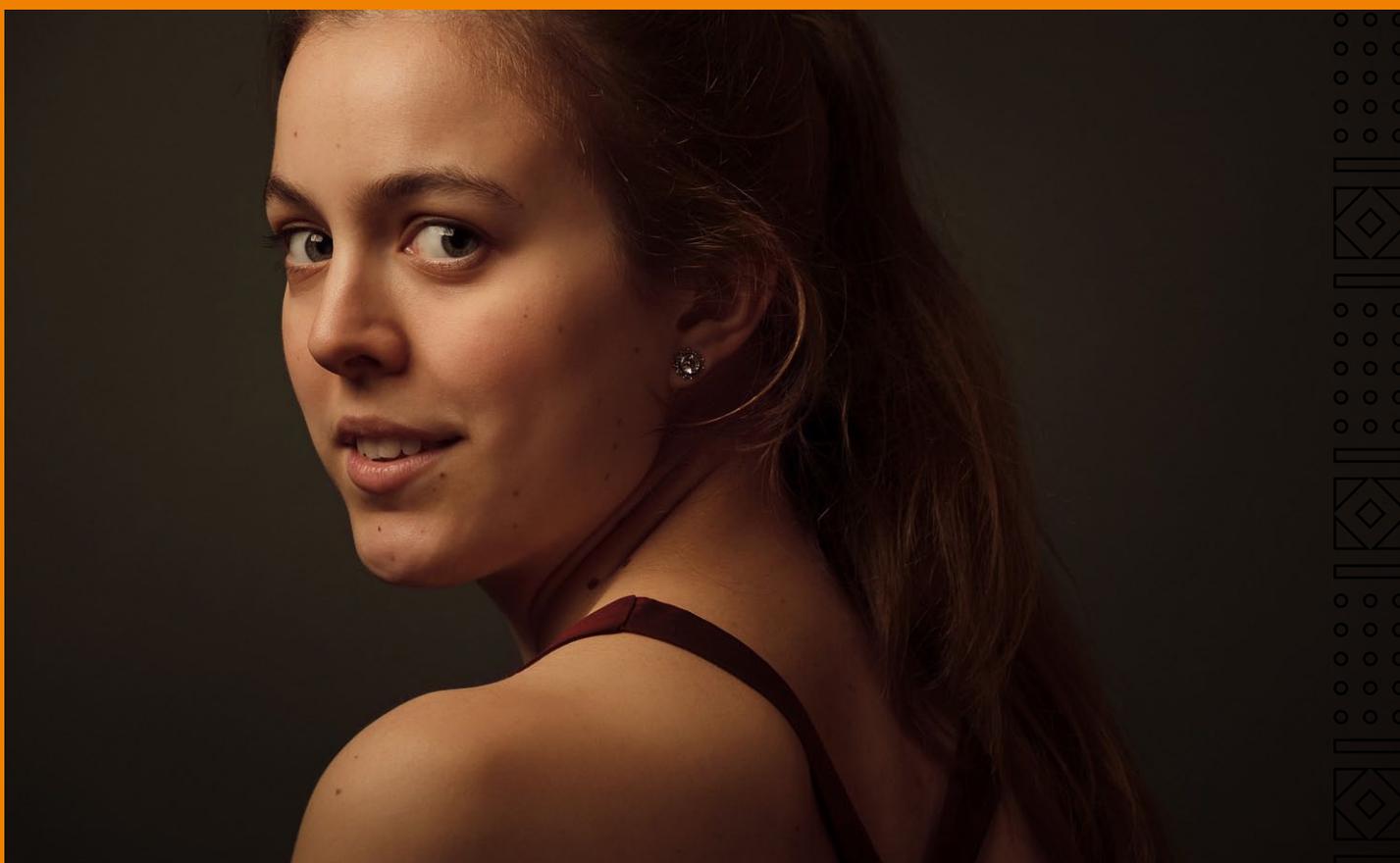


ST JOHN'S
SMITH SQUARE
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PRESS RELEASE

ST JOHN'S SMITH SQUARE ANNOUNCES ITS 2015/16 YOUNG ARTISTS

On Monday 18 May 2015 St John's Smith Square announced the four newest members of its Young Artists' Scheme.



Tabea Debus





THE 2015/16 YOUNG ARTISTS ARE:

Tabea Debus RECORDER
tabeadebus.de

Joo Yeon Sir VIOLIN
jooyeonsir.com

Ligeti Quartet STRING QUARTET
ligetiquartet.com

The Gesualdo Six VOCAL ENSEMBLE
thegesualdosix.co.uk

Ever since its reinvention as a concert hall, St John's Smith Square has played a pivotal role in supporting the most promising young musicians. Simon Rattle, Steven Isserlis, Nigel Kennedy and Daniel Barenboim are just a few of the musicians who performed at St John's Smith Square before going on to begin internationally renowned careers.

The Young Artists' Scheme at St John's Smith Square commenced last year, with four artists or groups selected to participate; the Aurea Quartet (string quartet), Anna Hashimoto (clarinet), Laura Snowden (guitar) and the Zelvova Quartet (string quartet). The intention for the scheme is to provide a performance platform, marketing and development assistance and career support for exceptional young artists on the brink of their professional careers.

"As a concert hall it is crucial that we don't just give voice to established artists but that we also invest in future talent. Through our Young Artists' Scheme we are able to select musicians who have shown themselves to have enormous talent and energy and help them as they shape their careers. The support we give off the concert platform, for marketing, development and outreach work, is just as important as the concert opportunities. We believe this scheme provides a rare opportunity for Young Artists to develop their work in a nurturing environment; being afforded opportunities normally reserved for those who have already 'made it' in the profession, and giving space for them to explore their artistic identities."

Richard Heason
Director, St John's Smith Square





THE ST JOHN'S SMITH SQUARE YOUNG ARTIST SCHEME

The St John's Smith Square Young Artists are each awarded three performance dates in St John's Smith Square over the course of the concert season. The artists are invited to select their repertoire, as well as market the concerts to their own following, and produce programme notes, giving them the independence they need to progress in their professional careers. The concerts range from lunchtime concerts to full evening recitals and Sunday afternoon chamber music concerts.

Alongside this, and working with guidance and support from the staff at St John's Smith Square, the Young Artists also undertake a number of other projects during their year on the scheme. This falls under three main categories: marketing; commissioning; and outreach.

Each group or soloist on the scheme is awarded a grant which they can put towards a marketing initiative, which is then developed with the support of the St John's Smith Square marketing team. Examples for this project include website design, photo or video shoots, design and mailing of flyers or targeted advertising in newspapers and magazines.

For the commissioning project, St John's Smith Square provides a fund for each group or soloist to either commission a composer to write a new work or to work on a new edition of a piece of early music, which will subsequently be performed at one of the three engagements over the course of their year on the scheme.

The project completing the Young Artists Scheme surrounds outreach and education; a skill that is becoming increasingly important for professional musicians to have in their portfolio. As part of this project, the Young Artists are given training in outreach work and are then supported as they engage with communities of varying backgrounds, designing and implementing their own educational workshops, using music as the medium.

The St John's Smith Square Young Artists Scheme aims to develop the career of emerging artists by awarding them the skills, experience and support needed to help them succeed, as well as giving them the opportunity to perform in one of London's finest concert halls.





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APPLICATION PROCESS FOR 2015/16

All applicants, of which there were over 150, were asked to send in a recording of their playing, an artist biography, and a reference from a musician of standing. 34 of those applicants were invited to audition at St John's Smith Square before the 4 successful Young Artists were selected.

For more information, images and interviews please contact:
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NOTES TO EDITORS

SJSS YOUNG ARTISTS 2015/16 BIOGRAPHIES

Tabea Debus RECORDER

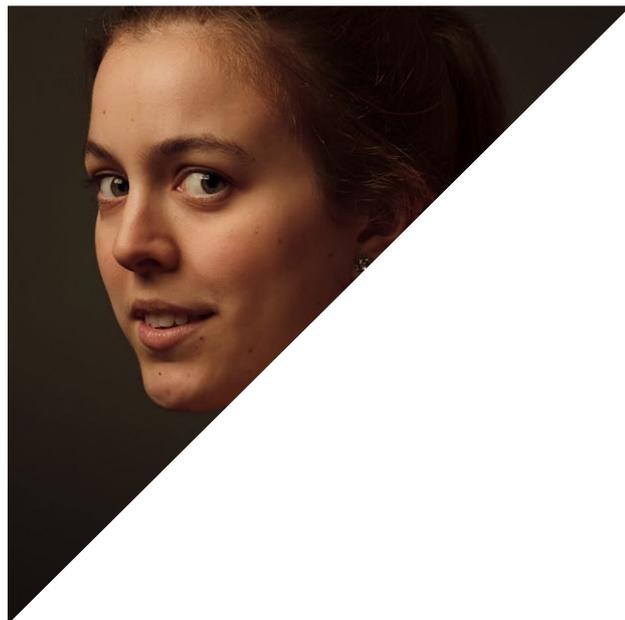
Tabea Debus is currently completing her Master of Music at the Royal Academy of Music under the supervision of Pamela Thorby. She has won numerous scholarships, including awards by the Deutsche Stiftung Musikleben, the Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes and the DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service).

In 2011 she won first prize in the International Woodwind Competition hülsta woodwinds in Münster, following which she recorded her first CD Upon a Ground (ClassicClips, 2012). In 2014 this was followed by a first prize at the eighths international Johann Heinrich Schmelzer Competition in Melk, Austria.

Concert tours have taken her as far as Japan, Malaysia, Singapore and the United States as well as to renowned European concert halls such as the Konzerthaus, Vienna and the Wigmore Hall, London.

Her next recording, *Cantata per Flauto*, is to be released in the autumn. The *Early Music Review* writes: "Tabea Debus's playing is an absolute delight. She plays with a beautiful sense of musical line and phrasing, wearing her obvious virtuosity lightly, and producing results that are first and foremost musical."

tabeadebus.de



Joo Yeon Sir VIOLIN

Described by the Strad Magazine as “exuberant... feline and seductive... bravura and oodles of personality” Korean-born British violinist Joo Yeon Sir is winner of the prestigious The Arts Club Karl Jenkins Classical Music Award 2014 in association with Classic FM and The President's Award presented by HRH The Prince of Wales. She has performed as soloist, recitalist and chamber musician at major venues across the UK including Wigmore Hall, St. Martin-in-the-Fields, St. James's Piccadilly, Fairfield Halls, Victoria and Albert Museum, National Gallery and St. James's Palace in the presence of HRH The Prince of Wales.

In 2006, aged sixteen, Joo Yeon was overall Grand Prix Laureate at the Nedyalka Simeonova International Violin Competition in Bulgaria, where her gala performance was broadcast on Bulgarian National Radio. Since then, she has won numerous competitions including Making Music Philip & Dorothy Green Award for Young Concert Artists, Tillett Trust Young Concert Artist Platform and Royal Philharmonic Society Emily Anderson Award. Joo Yeon has twice won the Concerto Competition at the Royal College of Music, where she currently studies with Dr. Felix Andrievsky on Artist Diploma programme as Constant & Kit Lambert Junior Fellow 2014-2015 awarded by The Worshipful Company of Musicians.

Also a composer, Joo Yeon won the coveted title of BBC/Guardian Young Composer of the Year in 2005 and her works have been performed at Wigmore Hall, Cadogan Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Cheltenham Town Hall and broadcast on BBC Radio 3. At present, she is working closely on own transcriptions and compositions with her violin-guitar duo partner Laura Snowden for Snowden-Sir Duo, supported by International Guitar Foundation Young Artists Platform.

Performance highlights in the current season include debut recital at Bridgewater Hall as part of Manchester Mid-day Concert Society's Centenary Season as well as concerto appearances supported by Making Music. Joo Yeon will also be appearing in four rush-hour recitals at RCM throughout the year, showcasing the complete 10 Sonatas for Violin and Piano by Beethoven with 10 different pianists as illustrator of violin repertoire.

Joo Yeon plays on a Matteo Goffriller violin kindly provided by Georg von Opel.

jooyeonsir.com





Ligeti Quartet STRING QUARTET

Formed in 2010, the Ligeti Quartet is dedicated to performing modern and contemporary music, commissioning new works, and engaging a diverse audience. Comprising graduates from the Royal Academy of Music, Royal College of Music and the University of Oxford, the quartet has established a reputation as leading exponents of new music, with engagements taking them throughout the UK and abroad. They have performed at prestigious venues such as the Wigmore Hall, Purcell Room, St James's Piccadilly and international festivals including the Pablo Casals Festival (France), Musik 21 Nachwuchsfestival (Germany) and 'HellHot!' New Music Festival (Hong Kong).

The Ligeti Quartet regularly works with artists outside classical music; they have performed with musicians such as Wadada Leo Smith, Shabaka Hutchings, Laura Jurd, and You Are Wolf. They have gained a reputation for an innovative approach to new music, through work with performance artists, video, actors and DJs. They also maintain a particular interest in education, regularly leading workshops and recording pieces by student composers.

In 2015 the quartet will release a CD for Signum Classics featuring a collection of new British works for string quartet and trumpet which cuts across genres. This includes Peter Maxwell Davies's Trumpet Quintet, and new commissions by Anna Meredith, Mercury nominee Seb Rochford, Neil Cowley, and Thomas Armstrong.

ligeti quartet.com





The Gesualdo Six VOCAL ENSEMBLE

- Pat Dunachie** ALTO
Guy James ALTO
Joseph Wicks TENOR
Hiroshi Amako TENOR
Michael Craddock BARITONE
Jonathan Pacey BASS
Owain Park DIRECTOR

The Gesualdo Six are a vocal sextet specialising in the performance of renaissance music, directed by Owain Park. The ensemble is made up of current and former members of Cambridge choirs, with the choirs of King's, St John's and Trinity colleges all represented.

Formed in March 2014 for a performance of Gesualdo's Tenebrae Responsories for Maundy Thursday (Feria Quinta), the ensemble has since gone on to perform eight concerts in under a year, with repertoire spanning the last thousand years of music. The most recent performances have included Ligeti's Nonsense Madrigals juxtaposed with madrigals by Monteverdi and Gesualdo, and programmes of English and Italian renaissance music.

thegesualdosix.co.uk



Owain Park is a conductor, composer, singer and organist. As well as directing The Gesualdo Six, he also co-conducts The Trinity Consort and Trinity's resident Choral Society, the Trinity Singers. Recent projects have included a series of Bach Cantatas, a performance of Purcell's opera Dido and Aeneas, and Warlock's Capriol Suite. This year, Owain is a Senior Scholar on the Conducting Programme of Queens' 2014-2015. Forthcoming events include a performance of Mozart's timeless Requiem in Trinity College Chapel on 28th February at 8pm.

Owain is also a prize-winning composer, published by Novello. His music has been performed internationally, by ensembles including the Tallis Scholars, the Aurora Orchestra and the RSCM Millennium Youth Choir. Recent works include Beati quorum via, commissioned by the Wells Cathedral Chorister Trust for The Countess of Wessex, and Shakespeare Songs of Night-Time for the Holst Singers. This season, Judas mercator pessimus was included by The Choir of Trinity College Cambridge in their tour programme to Canada. His compositions have won awards from organisations including the NCEM, and his music has been broadcast on BBC Radios 3 and 4, and Classic FM.

Holding the FRCO diploma, Owain is currently an Organ Scholar at Trinity College Cambridge and was formerly Senior Organ Scholar at Wells Cathedral.

owainpark.co.uk

