**PRESS RELEASE: IMMEDIATE**

**St John’s Smith Square announces its 2017/18 Young Artists**

***“With concert opportunities, marketing advice and financial support, the winners of the St John’s Smith Square Young Artists’ Scheme gain a firm grounding for a life in professional music.”*** Toby Deller, Classical Music Magazine

On **25 May 2017** St John’s Smith Square announced the three newest members of its **Young Artists’ Scheme.**

The 2017/18 Young Artists are:

* Percussion and Piano Duo **George Barton and Siwan Rhys**

* **Bukolika Piano Trio**
* Violinist **Mathilde Milwidsky**

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 Jacqueline du Pré are just a few of the musicians who performed at St John's Smith Square before going on to begin internationally renowned careers.

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.

*“It’s always so rewarding to plan a new season with the Young Artists at St John’s Smith Square. Their talent, both technically and musically, is astonishing, but what really excites me every year are the fresh ideas and approaches to music-making that each group of Young Artists brings. As we now enter the fourth year of the scheme it’s also very pleasing to see how many previous Young Artists have gone on to establish very successful careers for themselves and I have no doubt that Mathilde, George and Siwan, and the Bukolika Piano Trio will follow fast in their footsteps.”* – Richard Heason, Director, St John’s Smith Square

*“I feel honoured and excited to have been selected for such an incredible Scheme. Not only is it giving me the possibility to commission one of my favourite composers, Sally Beamish, but also to perform some of the repertoire that's most meaningful to me in one of the most magnificent halls in the UK. I'm really looking forward to developing my outreach and marketing skills with the guidance and support of the wonderful team at St John's Smith Square.” –* Mathilde Milwidsky, Violinist

*"We are thrilled to become St John's Smith Square Young Artists. We're looking forward to performing some adventurous and fascinating repertoire in this incredible space!"* – Siwan Rhys, Pianist

*“We are honoured and very happy to be part of St John’s Smith Square’s scheme for young artists. The scheme offers exciting opportunities which we are thrilled to be part of. We look forward to growing as an ensemble through the valuable experience of playing concerts and being part of educational events.”* – Roma Tic, Violinist of Bukolika Piano Trio

**St John’s Smith Square Young Artists’ Scheme 2017/18**

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. Each artist or ensemble will perform one Thursday Lunchtime Concert, one Sunday at St John’s afternoon chamber music concert, and one full length evening recital.

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, organising competitions 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 performances 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.

**Application Process for 2017/18**

All applicants, of which there were over 140, were asked to accompany their application with a recording, an artist biography, and a reference from a musician of standing. 20 of those applicants were invited to audition at St John's Smith Square before the 3 successful Young Artists were selected.

**For more information, images and interviews please contact:**

Jo Carpenter Music PR Consultancy. Tel: 07771 538868 E: jo@jocarpenter.com

**Notes to Editors**

Images of the Young Artists can be found through this Dropbox link (credits provided in file names): [https://www.dropbox.com/sh/2dyciaassxeaoph/AADd9LZgqO3HWpLwf3blvDMJa?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/2dyciaassxeaoph/AADd9LZgqO3HWpLwf3blvDMJa?dl=0%20)

**SJSS Young Artists 2017/2018 Biographies**

**GEORGE BARTON & SIWAN RHYS
Percussion & Piano Duo**

Piano and percussion duo Siwan Rhys and George Barton's performance activities encompass the fullest range, from traditional classical festivals at St John's Smith Square and the City of London Festival to crossover engagements at a number of Nonclassical events in London clubs. They have collaborated with both emerging and established composers, as well as with guest performers, dancers, and art galleries.

In 2014 and 2016 they were invited to perform at both the “Occupy the Pianos” and “Principal
Sound” festivals at St John's Smith Square, performing Stockhausen and Feldman, including in the latter case bookending the festival with John Tilbury and the Smith Quartet. In 2017 they took their performance of Kontakte to the Stockhausen biennial in Kürten.

Their work has taken them to late slots at London nightclubs in a number of Nonclassical events at Scala, The Macbeth, and XOYO, including the flagship “Pioneers of Electronic Music” and “Pioneers of Percussion” festivals, and the “John Cage 100” birthday celebrations. They are featured on the “Live @ Nonclassical vol. #1” CD.

In 2014 they were invited to become New Dots artists, commissioning and workshopping new works by emerging composers and performing them at The Forge in Camden. They have also performed with guest collaborators at the Barbican Hall and at the City of London Festival, performing the music of Sir Peter Maxwell Davies in performances warmly complimented by the late composer.

Work with other media includes dance shows at the London Contemporary Dance School at The Place, London, and collaborating with the David Roberts Art Foundation in Camden over a number of years. Siwan and George are also a key part of Rolf Hind and Mahogany Opera Group's immersive chamber opera Lost in Thought, including a duo movement written for them (entitled “A Little Bit of G and S”).

Individually they perform as soloists and chamber musicians, and have also worked with ensembles such as Birmingham Contemporary Music Group, London Symphony Orchestra, Colin Currie Group, Nash Ensemble and many others.

[www.gbsr.co.uk](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Cjoanna%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CTemporary%20Internet%20Files%5CContent.Outlook%5C3A0GCIW4%5Cwww.gbsr.co.uk)
[www.siwanrhys.co.uk](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Cjoanna%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CTemporary%20Internet%20Files%5CContent.Outlook%5C3A0GCIW4%5Cwww.siwanrhys.co.uk)
[www.georgebartonpercussion.com](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Cjoanna%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CTemporary%20Internet%20Files%5CContent.Outlook%5C3A0GCIW4%5Cwww.georgebartonpercussion.com)
Twitter [@siwanrhys](https://twitter.com/siwanrhys)

**Concert Dates & Programmes:**
Sunday 17 September 2017 3.00pm
Open House London: Young Artists’ Showcase
**Francesca Le Lohé** *Father and Son, The Veil, and The Kiss (from Saida Portraits)*
**Georges Aperghis** *Quatre pièces fébriles*
**Howard Skempton** *Dance VI (from Gemini Dances)*
**Howard Skempton** *Duet for piano and woodblocks*

Thursday 5 April 2018 1.05pm
**Patrick Brennan** *New Work (new commission)*
**John Luther Adams** *Four Thousand Holes*

Thursday 24 May 2018 7.30pm
**Eric Wubbels** *doxa (2014)*
**Morton Feldman** *Dance Suite (For Merle Marsicano)*
**Oliver Leith** *New Work (new commission)*

Sunday 24 June 2018 3.00pm
**Cage** *Music for Amplified Toy Pianos*
**Mauricio Kagel** *Transición II*
**Peter McGarr** *Night Scented Stock*
**Vinko Globokar** *Drama*

**BUKOLIKA PIANO TRIO
Roma Tic** VIOLIN **Joanna Gutowska** CELLO **Anna Szałucka** PIANO

Bukolika Piano Trio is an ensemble of Polish origins established in 2014. Anna, Roma and Joanna first came into public attention after performing in the concert series ‘Polish Music Exposed’ at the Royal Academy of Music Piano Festival in 2016. Bukolika Piano Trio have a varied repertoire and are continuously developing their skills by taking part in many masterclasses – most recently with Bengt Forsberg and Guy Johnston. The ensemble is particularly interested in discovering and performing chamber works of the 20th and 21st centuries, especially from their native Poland. The latest concerts included works by Mikołaj Górecki, Hanna Kulenty, Kaija Saariaho and others. One of the most recent achievements of the ensemble is the finalist title of the St Martin-in-the-Fields Chamber Music Competition 2017.

The trio have given many concerts across Europe and the UK including Poland, Germany, France, Austria, Romania and Spain. They performed as part of the Chamber Music Festival in Obersdorf, Ensemble Chamber Music Festival in Ksiaz, and Krakow Cello Spring Festival. The busy concert schedule for this year includes exciting venues, among others St James’s Piccadilly Church, St Peter’s Church and the Wigmore Hall debut on the 22 September. During the Summer Bukolika Piano Trio was invited to take part in the Dartington International Summer School & Festival – an annual renowned music course. They will perform at the Great Hall, Dartington and act as chamber coaches during the day.

All of the ensemble members are currently studying at the Royal Academy of Music in London. Bukolika Piano Trio is working under the supervision of Michael Dussek, Rodney Friend and Christoph Richter.

[www.bukolikapianotrio.eu](http://www.bukolikapianotrio.eu/)

[www.soundcloud.com/user-531931970](https://soundcloud.com/user-531931970)
Twitter: [@bukolikatrio](https://twitter.com/bukolikatrio)

[www.facebook.com/bukolikapianotrio/](https://www.facebook.com/bukolikapianotrio/)

**Concert Dates:**
Sunday 17 September 2017 3.00pm

Open House London: Young Artists’ Showcase

**Haydn** *Trio C Hob.XV*

**Hanna Kulenty** *The Cradle Song*

Monday 23 April 2018 7.30pm
**Panufnik** *Piano trio Op. 1*

**Górecki** *6 Bagatelles*

**Polish Composer** *New Work (commissioned piece)*

**Schubert** *Piano Trio No. 2 in Eb Op. 100*

Thursday 3 May 2018 1.05pm
**Dvořák** *Piano Trio No. 4 in E minor Dumky*

**Martin** *Piano trio on Irish folktunes*

Sunday 17 June 2018 3.00pm
**Debussy** *Piano trio in G*

**Boulanger** *D'un soir triste*

**Boulanger** *D'un matin de printemps*

**Messiaen** *Quartet for the end of time*

**MATHILDE MILWIDSKY
Violin**

Mathilde Milwidsky was born in London in 1994. Described as “an exceptional talent” by Maxim Vengerov, she recently won the string section final of the 2017 Royal Overseas League Music Competition. Solo performance highlights include Mozart Concerto No. 5 at St John's Smith Square, Mendelssohn Concerto at King's Lynn Festival with the Orchestra of St John's, recitals at the Royal Festival Hall, Wigmore Hall, the Royal Albert Hall's Elgar Room, Three Choirs Festival and the State Rooms at the House of Commons as well as across Europe in Sweden, Switzerland, Greece, Spain, Ireland, Poland, Belgium, Germany, France, the Netherlands and Portugal. She has been featured live on BBC Radio 3 as part of the 2015 BBC Proms Composer Portrait Series, performing solo and chamber works by Hugh Wood, and has also been broadcast solo on BBC Radio 4, BBC World Service and appeared live on the BBC One Show.

Mathilde is regularly invited to festivals across Europe such as Cheltenham, East Neuk, Prussia Cove, Musique à Marsac, Musikdorf Ernen, Peasmarsh, Roman River, Wye Valley and Lewes, collaborating with eminent musicians such as Avi Avital, Huw Watkins, Tom Poster, Christoph Richter, Ksenija Sidorova, Alec Frank-Gemmill, Alasdair Beatson, members of the Florestan Trio and Michelangelo Quartet, as well as woodwind principals of the Philharmonia and die Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen.

Her successes include First Prize at the 2011 Madeira International Violin Competition held at the Escola das Artes in Funchal, awards from the Hattori Foundation, the Philharmonia Orchestra's Martin Musical Scholarship, the Drake Calleja Foundation, the Tillett Trust and the Sir John Cass Foundation. In 2016 Mathilde was one of twenty selected from three hundred to participate in the international Menuhin Competition and in 2015 she was a finalist in the Royal Academy's prestigious 'Patron's Award' and Orchid Classics' Young British Soloist Competition, held at the Wigmore Hall.

Her studies began at the Royal College of Music Junior Department where she was a Tsukanov Scholar, taught by Viktoria Grigoreva and then David Takeno. During her time there she won the Ian Stoutzker Violin Prize and the Hugh Bean Violin Competition, and, upon leaving, the Esther Coleman Prize for outstanding contributions to the RCM. Mathilde was subsequently awarded full scholarships to all of the London conservatoires and a place to read Music at Cambridge University (Trinity College). She chose the Royal Academy of Music, studying under Professor György Pauk, where she is currently a fourth-year undergraduate student and holds the Albert and Eugenie Frost Music Trust Scholarship. A principal player of the Sainsbury Royal Academy Soloists, she has also led the Symphony and String Orchestras and won the Academy’s John Waterhouse Violin Prize and James Wright Award.

Additional inspiration has come from invitations to the International Musicians Seminar at Prussia Cove, the International Holland Music Sessions, the London Master Classes, IMUSE Enghien and Aurora Festival Masterclasses, studying with renowned professors and soloists such as Leonidas Kavakos, Maxim Vengerov, Pierre Amoyal, Mihaela Martin, Miriam Fried, Igor Ozim, Mi-kyung Lee and Gerhard Schulz. Mathilde has also received invaluable advice and mentorship from members of the London Haydn Quartet, Anthony Marwood, Tasmin Little and Alina Ibragimova.

[www.mathildemilwidsky.com](http://www.mathildemilwidsky.com)
Twitter: [@MMilwidskyVln](https://twitter.com/MMilwidskyVln)

**Concert Dates:**Sunday 17 September 2017 3.00pm
Open House London: Young Artists’ Showcase
**Debussy** *Violin Sonata*
**Brahms** *Scherzo from the F.A.E Sonata*
**Ysaÿe** *Solo Sonata No. 4*

Sunday 7 January 2018 3.00pm
**Janáček** *Sonata*
**Arvo Pärt** *Fratres*
**Ysaÿe** *Solo Sonata No. 2*
**Ravel** *'Sonate posthume' No. 1*
**Strauss** *Violin Sonata in Eb Op. 18*

Thursday 19 April 2018 1.05pm
**Tartini** *Violin Sonata in G minor 'Devil's Trill'*
**Grieg** *Sonata No. 3 in C minor*
**Bartók** *Romanian Folk Dances*

Thursday 31 May 2018 7.30pm
**Sally Beamish** *New Commission*
**C. Schumann** *Romances Op. 22*
**Beethoven** *Violin Sonata No. 8*
**Elgar** *Violin Sonata in E minor*
**Ravel** *Tzigane*