



ST JOHN'S SMITH SQUARE

Saturday 31st October 2020, 2.00pm



CHINEKE!

FOUNDATION

Chineke! Chamber Ensemble



PROGRAMME

2pm Concert

Florence B Price (1887 to 1953) - Two Folksongs in Counterpoint
Drink to me with thine own eye & Shortnin' Bread

Schubert (1797 to 1828) - Piano Quintet in A D667 (Trout)

- I. Allegro vivace
- II. Andante
- III. Scherzo: Presto
- IV. Andantino – Allegretto
- V. Allegro giusto

7.30pm Concert

Florence B Price (1887 to 1953) - Two Folksongs in Counterpoint
Drink to me with thine own eye & Shortnin' Bread

Vaughan Williams (1872 to 1958) – Piano Quintet in C minor

- I. Allegro con fuoco
- II. Andante
- III. Fantasia, quasi variazioni



Chineke! Chamber Ensemble

Chineke! was founded in 2015 by the double bass player, Chi-chi Nwanoku OBE, to provide career opportunities for established and up-and-coming Black, Asian and ethnically diverse classical musicians in the UK and Europe. Chineke!'s mission is: 'Championing change and celebrating diversity in classical music'

The Chineke! Chamber Ensemble comprises the principal players of the Chineke! Orchestra. Established two years after the orchestra, it has performed in

Manchester in 2017 and made its debut at Wigmore Hall in 2018 before going on to play at the Cheltenham and Ryedale festivals. In the autumn of 2018, the ensemble gave concerts at the Tonbridge Music Club, Wimbledon International Festival, Cambridge Music Festival and at St George's Bristol. In 2019 the ensemble performed at The Africa Center and for WQXR radio station in New York, before returning to the UK for concerts in Chatham for the University of Kent, Wigmore Hall, New College Oxford, Leicester New Walk Museum and Theatre Royal Stratford East. In August 2020, the ensemble performed at Snape Maltings in one of the first live indoor concerts open to the public since the pandemic lockdown.

Chineke!'s founder, Chi-chi Nwanoku OBE, says: 'My aim is to create a space where Black, Asian and ethnically diverse musicians can walk on stage and know that they belong, in every sense of the word. If even one child feels that their colour is getting in the way of their musical ambitions, then I hope to inspire them, give them a platform, and show them that music, of whatever kind, is for all people.'

In 2019, the Royal Philharmonic Society recognised the achievements of the Chineke! Foundation with the very first 'Gamechanger Award', noting its inspirational impact on the classical music industry through providing opportunities for Black, Asian and ethnically diverse professionals and new talent, diversifying audiences and promoting the repertoire of composers of diverse heritage both past and present.

In the words of Sir Simon Rattle: 'Chineke! is not only an exciting idea but a profoundly necessary one. The kind of idea which is so obvious that you wonder why it is not already in place. The kind of idea which could deepen and enrich classical music in the UK for generations. What a thrilling prospect!'

Julián Gil Rodríguez - violin

As a member of the London Symphony Orchestra Julián appears regularly in the most prestigious festivals worldwide in venues such as Suntory Hall en Tokyo, Berlin Philharmonie, Sydney Opera House, Philharmonie de Paris y David Geffen and Carnegie Hall in New York under the baton of Valery Gergiev, Bernard Haitink, Andris Nelsons, Ivan Fischer, Simon Rattle, Danielle Gatti, John Elliot Gardiner among others. As a soloist he has played on different occasions with the Youth philharmonic of Colombia, with the Youth Orchestra of the Americas under the baton of Carlos Miguel Prieto, and with the National Symphony of Colombia as winner of the second 1st prize of the national violin competition Olga Chamorro 2006 .

Julián has been a member of the Colombia Symphony Orchestra, and until 2014 he was Principal of the second violin section of the Galicia Symphony Orchestra in A coruña spain. He also collaborates regularly with orchestras such as City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Malaysian Philharmonic, Royal Concertgebouw Amsterdam, Les Dissonances and Verbier Festival Chamber Orchestra.

Born in Bogotá, Colombia in 1984, He began his musical studies at the Youth Symphony Orchestra Foundation of Colombia at the age of 5 with percussion, which he left 6 years later to devote himself to the study of the violin with his teacher, Mario Diaz with whom he was also a member of the Nuevo Bogotá Quartet.

From 2020 Julián has been appointed Principal Second Violin of The London Symphony Orchestra and performs on a 1709 Carolus Tononi kindly on loan from the orchestra.

Clifton Harrison - viola

Viola and viola d'amore player Clifton Harrison has performed as a chamber musician, recitalist, and orchestral player throughout the UK, Europe, United States, Central America, and Asia. He studied violin and viola at the Juilliard School and Royal Academy of Music. Clifton is the violist in the acclaimed Kreutzer Quartet with whom he has recorded extensively. As a member of the quartet, Clifton has been artist-in-residence at Oxford University, Goldsmiths University, and Southampton University, with close ties to the Royal Northern College of Music. He has given masterclasses across the globe and has worked with the London Symphony Orchestra, Royal Opera House, London Chamber Orchestra, London Sinfonietta, Scottish Chamber Orchestra, Aurora Orchestra, Chineke! Orchestra, Britten Sinfonia, and most of London's period performance ensembles. An active London session musician, Clifton can also be heard on many film and television soundtracks. As a researcher, Clifton focuses on two distinct areas: 17th and 18th century viola d'amore music from the Germanic region, and Black and Minority Ethnic classical and contemporary composers/sound artists. Recent releases are on the Hyperion, Universal Music, Sony, NAXOS, Warner Music, Navona Records, NMC Records, Métier, and Signum Classics labels.

Ashok Klouda - cello

Ashok Klouda started to learn the cello at the age of eight, after requesting to learn the double bass, but being told that the family car was too small and that the repertoire for the cello was much better. Chamber music is a particular love of Ashok's and has formed a large part of his life. Ashok has performed in ensembles such as the Artea Quartet, the Jigsaw Players, cello octet Cellophony, Chineke! Chamber Ensemble, the Fibonacci Sequence, Ensemble 360 and the Barbirolli Quartet. As a cellist he has won various competitions and prizes, but the biggest 'achievement' by far is raising two children – Enzo & Anoushka – with his wife Natalie Klouda, whilst both of them continue to be performing musicians and Directors of the Highgate International Chamber Music Festival. Ashok is proud to have been a member of Chineke! since its inception in 2005. Ashok has recorded for Nimbus Alliance, Edition Classics, Ambache Recordings and Champs Hill Records and performs on a cello made in 2012 by Tibor Szemmelveisz.

Chi-chi Nwanoku OBE - double bass

An ex-sprinter half the size of her double bass, Chi-chi Nwanoku has gained a reputation as one of the finest exponents of her instrument today.

The eldest of five children from Nigerian and Irish parents, Chi-chi was seven when she discovered the piano at a neighbour's. She returned to their house daily to play until the neighbours got so fed up they wheeled the piano up the road and gave it to her! Meanwhile, she was spotted by an athletics coach and trained as a 100-metre sprinter, eventually competing at National level. This career ended abruptly due to a knee injury aged 18, which is when (and why) she took up the double bass and actively pursued a career in music. She studied at the Royal Academy of Music and with Franco Petracchi in Rome, and soon found herself in demand internationally.

Chi-chi is the Founder, Artistic and Executive Director of the Chineke! Foundation, which supports, inspires and encourages Black, Asian and ethnically diverse classical musicians working in the UK and Europe. The Chineke! Foundation celebrates diversity in the classical music industry through its two orchestras, the Chineke! Orchestra and Chineke! Junior Orchestra, as well as its educational and Community engagement work. Ultimately, the Chineke! Foundation aims to give Black, Asian and ethnically diverse classical musicians a platform on which to excel, and by such methods increase the representation of Asian, Black and ethnically diverse musicians in British and European orchestras.

Chi-chi was a founder member of the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment and held the position of Principal double bass there for 30 years. She is Professor of Double Bass Historical Studies at the Royal Academy of Music, where she was made a Fellow in 1998.

Chi-chi's range of musical interests have resulted in a broad career performing and recording in a diversity of styles from authentic baroque through to 21st century and new commissions, with many of Europe's leading chamber orchestras and ensembles. Some of her notable chamber recordings include Schubert's Trout Quintet (recorded

three times), and Octet, Beethoven Septet, Hummel Piano quintet and Boccherini Sonatas. Her solo recording of Dittersdorf and Vanhal Concertos with the Swedish Chamber Orchestra (Hyperion) received critical acclaim.

In 2012 Barrie Gavin directed a documentary film about Chi-chi's career, called Tales from the Bass Line.

As a broadcaster, Chi-chi presented BBC Radio 3 Requests for four years, she guests for the TV Proms and was a Jury member of BBC 2 TV Classical Star. She presented a two-part series for BBC Radio 4 in 2015 which brought to life the stories and music of black composers and musicians from the 18th century, whose vivid presence on the classical music scene have slipped through the net. Chi-chi was also the 'mentor' for the 2016 BBC 4 TV series All Together Now, the Great Orchestra Challenge. Chi-chi is featured in the BBC Radio 4 series Only Artists, and was Kirsty Young's guest on BBC Radio 4, Desert Island Discs in February 2018. Starting in October 2020, Chi-chi will present Chi-chi's Classical Champions, a 6-part series for Classic FM radio which will shine the spotlight on Black, Asian & ethnically diverse composers and performers – those who have enjoyed success, as well as those yet to receive recognition.

Chi-chi is a trustee of the London Music Fund, Tertis Foundation, a Council Member of the Royal Philharmonic Society. She served on the board of the Association of British Orchestras (ABO) from 2008–13 and National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain 2000-18. She created the ABO/RPS Salomon Prize, which celebrates the 'unsung heroes' working in the ranks of British orchestras.

Chi-chi was awarded the OBE for Services to Music in 2017 and the MBE in the 2001 Queen's Birthday honours. She was one of the 100 – Happy List in the Independent on Sunday 2011. In 2016 she was appointed as an Honorary Fellow of Trinity Laban Conservatoire in recognition of her 'pioneering contribution to music, in particular the inspiration she provides, the commitment she has shown, and the contribution she has made to addressing inequalities within classical music in the UK, most recently through the Chineke! Foundation'.

Chi-chi was awarded the Black British Business Awards, Person of the Year 2016 and was the recipient of the ABO Award 2017, which is awarded for 'the most important contribution to the orchestral life of the UK'. She was named in the Top 10 of the BBC Woman's Hour, Women in Music Power List 2018 and, in 2018, was awarded the inaugural Commonwealth Cultural Enterprise Award for Women in the Arts at the Commonwealth Business Women's Awards. Also in 2018 Chi-chi was made an Honorary Doctor Music at the University of Chichester. She is featured in the Royal Academy of Music exhibition 'Hitting the Right Note: Amazing Women of the Academy'. She was awarded the Creative Industries Award at the Variety Catherine Awards 2018 and shortlisted for the Groucho Maverick Award. Chi-chi was voted to the 'Power List of Britain's 100 Most Influential Black People 2019 and 2020, and most recently included in Patrick Vernon's book 100 Great Black Britons.

St John's Smith Square

The coronavirus pandemic has had a devastating effect on people's lives and their livelihoods. St John's Smith Square is a registered charity, We receive no regular public funding with all our revenue provided for by hiring out the hall, ticket revenue, catering receipts and generous donations. When we closed our doors on 16th March 2020 we immediately lost over 80% of our income.

We are delighted to now be able to re-open and to start to share the joy of live music in these challenging times whilst providing a vital base for artists to once again perform. Ticket sales alone only cover approximately 30% of the operating costs for these concerts. If you have enjoyed today and are able to consider making an additional donation your support would be greatly appreciated. Details of ways in which you can help can be found on our website at: <https://www.sjss.org.uk/donations>. You can also make a simple donation by TEXT MESSAGE:

Text STJOHNS to 70450 to donate £10

Texts cost £10 plus one standard rate message

Thank you for your support.

In accordance with the requirements of Westminster City Council persons shall not be permitted to sit or stand in any gangway.

The taking of photographs and use of recording equipment is strictly forbidden without formal consent from St John's Smith Square.

Smoking is not permitted anywhere in St John's Smith Square.

Please ensure that all digital watch alarms, pagers, and mobile phones are switched off.

Please stay in touch with us online

Twitter: @StJohnsSmithSq
Facebook: /StJohnsSmithSquare
You Tube: /StJohnsSmithSquare
Instagram: /StJohnsSmithSquare
Vimeo: /StJohnsSmithSquare

info@sjss.org.uk
www.sjss.org.uk

Administration

Richard Heason – Director
Lydia Brookes – General Manager
Kelly Etridge – Box Office Manager
David Hackney – House Manager
Mary Clements – Bookkeeper

Board of Trustees

Dr Martin Smith – Chairman
The Countess of Chichester – Vice-Chairman
Lady Brewer
Professor Peter Holgate
Claudia Pendred
Jessica Simor QC

Registered Office: St John's Smith Square Charitable Trust, St John's Smith Square, Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HA

Registered in England | Company No. 3028678 | Registered Charity No. 1045390