



CHRIST CHURCH, ESHER  
LUNCHTIME CONCERT

# Ensemble Pensiero

Weng Soon Tee *piano*  
Hana Mizuta-Spencer *violin*  
Matt Johnstone *viola*  
Alicja Kozak *cello*  
Cole Morrison *double bass*

Wednesday 18 January 2023  
at 1.15pm

*This concert is free to watch on our 'Music on the Green' YouTube channel.  
Online donations welcome on our JustGiving page [www.justgiving.com/campaign/MOTG](http://www.justgiving.com/campaign/MOTG)*

# Programme



## Music on the Green

*Quality music in the heart of Esher*

Music on the Green (MOTG) is the Parish of Esher's musical outreach programme based at Christ Church, overlooking Esher Green. At MOTG we believe that music should be accessible to all. Whilst having our firmest foot planted at the classical end of the spectrum, we seek to offer a rich and varied programme, presenting live music in interesting and rewarding ways so that it can be widely appreciated and enjoyed.

Music on the Green is very pleased to be celebrating 11 years of concerts at Christ Church this month, and to mark this anniversary we are delighted to welcome back our ensemble-in-residence, Ensemble Pensiero, who will perform two rarely heard works of the piano quintet repertoire by Hummel and Vaughan Williams respectively.

### Piano Quintet in E flat, Op. 87 [1802]

- i Allegro e risoluto assai*
- ii Minuet e trio: Allegro con fuoco*
- iii Largo*
- iv Finale: Allegro agitato*

Johann Nepomuk Hummel  
(1778-1837)

### Piano Quintet in C minor [1905]

- i Allegro con fuoco*
- ii Andante*
- iii Fantasia (quasi variazioni)*

Ralph Vaughan Williams  
(1872-1958)

# Programme Notes

## Hummel - Piano Quintet in E flat, Op. 87

Johann Hummel composed his Piano Quintet in 1802 but it was not until 1822 that the work was published. Its unusual instrumentation of piano, violin, viola, cello and double bass is thought to have inspired Sylvester Paumgartner to commission Schubert to write his famous 'Trout' Quintet.

This Quintet is a relatively short work – particularly in comparison with Schubert's Quintet – and unusual in that despite its major-key designation, E flat minor is the predominant key, both opening and closing the work.

The first movement is a forthright Allegro, the second a fleeting Minuet & Trio, and the third is a little more than a Largo introduction to the tempestuous Finale. Throughout the work, the piano takes a leading role and at times this extends to passages of virtuosic figuration (such as the slow movement's final, cadenza-like flourish). This is unsurprising, given that Hummel himself was known equally as both a virtuosic pianist and a composer during his own lifetime. However, this overt pianism enhances a work that is as effervescent as Schubert's own treatment of the same medium.

## Vaughan Williams - Piano Quintet in C minor

Ralph Vaughan Williams originally completed his Piano Quintet in 1903. The first performance took place at Aeolian Hall on London's Bond Street in 1905, but the piece was never published in the composer's lifetime. The work was only rediscovered in the late 1990s, receiving a performance at the Royal College of Music in 1999, and since then has been recognised as an important part of Vaughan Williams' compositional development.

The first movement is filled with late romantic passion, reflecting on composers such as Brahms, with the quieter sections acting in contrast to mysterious modal harmonies. The second movement's romantic theme resembles the composer's song *Silent Noon* which was composed in the same year. The finale takes the form of theme & variations and opens very simply, the theme being passed back and forth between unison strings and the piano. The movement gradually builds to a huge climax, before fading quietly away.

# Ensemble Pensiero

## Ensemble-in-Residence for Music on the Green

The young and vibrant Ensemble Pensiero accepted our invitation last year to work with Music on the Green as MOTG's first Ensemble-in-Residence, kick-starting our calendar season each January with a major quintet work – with Schubert's *Trout* Quintet last year, Vaughan Williams' Quintet in C minor coupled with Hummel's Piano Quintet this year, and Schumann's renowned Opus 44 Piano Quintet in 2024.

Formed in 2021 by students and fellows from the Guildhall School of Music & Drama, Ensemble Pensiero emerged out of months of pandemic-induced frustration at being unable to play chamber music together. Pensiero have received coaching from Simon Blendis, violinist of the Schubert Ensemble, Caroline Preslind and members of the Gould Piano Trio. They were invited to play Schubert's *Trout* Quintet at the Guildhall Chamber Music Festival in 2021 and gave a triumphant performance of it here to celebrate MOTG's 10th anniversary.



# Biographies

## Weng Soon Tee (piano)

Malaysian-born Weng Soon Tee is a recent graduate from the Guildhall School of Music & Drama. Weng is a versatile keyboard maestro who regularly performs as a chamber musician, orchestral pianist and song accompanist as well as a solo concert pianist. His most recent engagements have included performing Debussy songs at Barbican Hall; chamber music recitals at the Torroella Fringe Festival and at the Esplanade in Singapore; attending the IMS Prussia Cove course, working with Thomas Adès and Gidon Kremer; and performing as a soloist with the Southern Sinfonia under the baton of Simon Chalk.



exceptional final recital and has been continuing her studies at Guildhall as a Fellow in 2022/23. She was accepted onto the Pit Perfect Scheme with the Glyndebourne Touring Orchestra, performing Britten's *The Rake's Progress* in their Autumn 2021 tour, and she recently took part in the 'Mendelssohn on Mull' chamber music festival with the Doric Quartet.

## Matt Johnstone (viola)

Matt Johnstone is a violist who leads a varied musical life as both a chamber and orchestral musician. He was a Junior Fellow at Guildhall in 2022, having graduated from



his Masters studies with Distinction and with the award of a Concert Recital Diploma. Prior to his time at Guildhall, Matt travelled to China to study at the Shanghai Conservatory of Music, receiving tuition from Professor Sheng Li. He completed his Bachelor's degree at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, where he studied with Dr Louise Lansdown and won the Herbert Lumby Prize. He has participated in Masterclasses with leading violists including Lawrence Power and Nobuko Imai, and has received chamber coaching from members of the Takacs, Lindsay and Skampa Quartets.

## Hana Mizuta-Spencer (violin)

Hana Mizuta-Spencer is a British violinist. Having completed a BA in History at University College London, she went on to study for a Masters in Violin Performance at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama with Professor David Takeno. She was awarded a Concert Recital Diploma in recognition of her



# Biographies

## Alicja Kozak (cello)

Polish cellist Alicja Kozak is already much in demand as a chamber, orchestral and solo performer. She began her musical education at the age of six and completed her studies at the Frederic Chopin University of Music in Warsaw and the Guildhall School of Music & Drama in London.



Alicja is a laureate of several international competitions including the Gustav Mahler Prize Cello Competition in the Czech Republic, as well as the Danczowski Cello Competition, the oldest competition of its kind in Poland. She has taken part in a variety of masterclasses, where she has had the opportunity to work with artists such as Jens Peter Maintz, Peter Bruns, Reinhard Latzko, Emil Rovner, Jerome Pernoo and Romain Garioud. In her native Poland, Alicja has performed as a soloist with orchestras in Zabrze, Koszalin and Zielona Gora, and she has given solo recitals at the Chamber Halls of the National Polish Radio Orchestra in Katowice. Her London appearances have included concerts at Southwark Cathedral and St John's Smith Square, and she also held a place on the 2020/21 Foyle Future Firsts-LPO development programme.

## Cole Morrison (double bass)

Born in the Canadian city of Calgary, Cole Morrison started playing double bass at the age of 15. In 2012 he graduated from the Mount Royal Music Academy and went on to study music at the University of Calgary. In 2013/14 Cole was one of the youngest members ever invited to participate in the National Academy Orchestra of Hamilton, Ontario. After earning his Bachelor degree, Cole was a much sought-after freelancer in Western Canada before moving to the UK in 2018 to pursue a Masters Degree at the Guildhall School of Music, which was supported by an Individual Project Grant awarded to him by the Alberta Foundation for the Arts. During this time he was a Guildhall Scholar and served as an assistant to Professor Rinat Ibragimov before the latter's untimely passing. Cole graduated from the Guildhall's M.Perf Orchestral Artistry course with distinction in 2020, whereupon he was awarded a Junior Fellowship position for the following academic year. He remains a *Global Talent: Exceptional Promise* Visa holder.



# History of Music on the Green

Music on the Green in its present incarnation was launched in January 2012, growing organically out of 'Esher Music' which had been started up by Tom Bell, the predecessor of our present Director of Music. What began as basically a monthly organ recital series was developed into a more general chamber music series by Stuart Whatton, under the oversight of a committee including the then Rector William Allberry and chaired by Richard Marshall.

After some experimentation we settled into a pattern of varied lunchtime recitals on the third Wednesday of every month, with the snack lunch beforehand becoming almost as much of an attraction as the music itself, to the extent that we regularly attracted audiences of 60-80 before the pandemic.

In addition to the monthly lunchtime series, MOTG is also the umbrella brand for more occasional weekend concerts (such as last year's Beethoven Oratorio performance), which give us a chance to put on a more substantial full-length programme two or three times a year.

Over our first decade we think we hosted 92 weekday lunchtime concerts (including six virtual ones during the pandemic), at least 15 'weekend specials' and ten 'Come & Sing Carols' events – the latter happening in the run-up to Christmas each year without even a pause for the coronavirus crisis.

This is without counting our parallel but separate Music in the Tower series, held annually during Holy Week, which (together with its predecessors Bach in the Tower and Baroque in the Tower) has been running since 2010, albeit with an enforced interruption during the pandemic.

Instruments featured over the course of the past 11 years include:

- Organ, piano, harpsichord
- Violin, viola, cello, double bass, folk fiddle
- Guitar, electric guitar
- Piccolo, flute, baroque flute, alto flute
- Oboe, clarinet, bass clarinet, bassoon
- The whole saxophone family (sopranino, soprano, alto, tenor, baritone, bass)
- Trumpet, horn, trombone, tuba
- Chromatic harmonica
- Classical accordion
- Bouzouki
- Theorbo
- Marimba, tubular bells, tambourines and a panoply of other percussion!

We are delighted to welcome you to our 11th anniversary concert today, and hope to see you for more of our concert series as 2023 unfolds.



## **FUTURE LUNCHTIME CONCERTS AT CHRIST CHURCH**

*Third Wednesday of the month*

*Doors open 12.30pm - Concert from 1.15pm*

### **2023 Programme**

- Feb 15 Lola Green, oboe & Maxim Artyomenko, piano  
Mar 15 Hannah Shilvock, bass clarinet & Viola Lenzi, piano  
Apr 19 Trio Lavolta (violin, cello & piano)  
May 17 James Larter, percussion  
Jun 21 Lumas Wind Quintet  
Jul 19 Eszter Schütz, violin & Anna Cassú, piano  
*(July concert to be held at Old St George's Church, Esher)*

*Please continue to check our website for up-to-date MOTG news.*