



**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 19 January 2022
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*

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 pleased to celebrate ten years of concerts at Christ Church in 2022. To mark our exact 10th anniversary this month, we are delighted to introduce our new ensemble-in-residence, Ensemble Pensiero, who will perform one of the great all-time classics of the chamber music repertoire, Schubert's famous *Trout Quintet*.

Piano Quintet in A major, D. 667 (Forellenquintett/Trout Quintet)

- i Allegro vivace*
- ii Andante*
- iii Scherzo: Presto*
- iv Andantino - Allegretto*
- v Allegro giusto*

Franz Schubert (1797-1828)

The Trout Quintet

In the summer of 1819, the twenty-two-year-old Franz Schubert went on a vacation with his friend Johann Michael Vogl to Steyr in Upper Austria. The composer would recall the summer of 1819 as serenely happy, his days filled with hikes and picnics, and his evenings with chamber music at the home of Sylvester Paumgartner. Paumgartner was a great music lover, and was an amateur cellist (though it was said that he didn't play very well!). They spent evenings making music at Paumgartner's home, a building that today is adorned with a historical marker identifying it as the site that gave rise to Schubert's *Trout Quintet*.

Paumgartner asked Schubert if he could compose a companion piece to Hummel's *Quintet in E flat* (composed in 1802 and employing the now unusual combination of piano joined by violin, viola, cello and double bass); the only stipulation, apart from keeping the same instrumentation, was that the new work had to incorporate the melody of Paumgartner's favourite Schubert song, 'Die Forelle' (The Trout), which had been written two years earlier and tells the tale of a fisherman ensnaring a trout to the alarm of an onlooker. While still on vacation, the composer set down some sketches for the composition, completing the piece on his return to Vienna in September.

Schubert's variations on the 'Die Forelle' song appear in the fourth movement, but references can be heard throughout. The opening *Allegro vivace* takes off with a flourish - a grand chord from the ensemble and a leaping 'trout' arpeggio from the piano. The action takes its time moving into full gear, but before long the viola and cello set up a pulse that provides the foundation for Schubert's spacious melodies. Three leisurely tunes form the core of the next movement, an ornamented *Andante* that is filled with a sense of melancholy. At the centre of the work, the *Scherzo* is filled with energy derived from the initial four-note motif. Next comes the set of six variations on the song's opening. The opening statement is reserved for the warm-voiced strings, and the first three variations respectively feature the piano, the viola and cello (as a pair), and the double bass. With the fourth variation, Schubert embarks on a more profound transformation of the melody: its minor-key opening quickly moving to major-key taming. In the fifth variation, the cello further adapts the theme into an emotional highpoint before the final variation (or coda), where the piano finally sings forth with the leaping accompaniment that was original to the song. Schubert ends his quintet with an invigorating finale marked *Allegro giusto*.

Ensemble Pensiero

New *Ensemble-in-Residence* for Music on the Green

The young and vibrant Ensemble Pensiero have accepted our invitation to work with Music on the Green as MOTG's Ensemble-in-Residence, giving them an annual showcase here and kick-starting our own calendar season for the next three years with a major quintet work each January – Schubert's *Trout Quintet* in 2022, Vaughan Williams' *Quintet in C minor* in 2023 and Schumann's renowned *Opus 44* in 2024.

Formed last year 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 for such a long time. 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 today is their inaugural appearance at Esher



Biographies

Weng Soon Tee (piano)

Weng Soon Tee is a Malaysian-born pianist who has recently graduated from the Guildhall School of Music and 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 the 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.



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

Matt Johnstone (viola)

Matt Johnstone leads a varied musical life as both a chamber and an orchestral musician and is currently a Junior Fellow at Guildhall, 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 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 violinists including Lawrence Power and Nobuko Imai, and has received chamber coaching from members of the Takacs, Linsey 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 exceptional final



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, where she currently she holds a Junior Fellowship position.



Alicja is a prize-winner of several international competitions including the Gustav Mahler Prize Cello Competition in the Czech Republic and 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 and Emil Rovner. In Poland, Alicja has performed as a soloist with orchestras in Zabrze, Koszalin and Zielona Gora, and 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. She also held a place on the Foyle Future Firsts 2020/21 - the London Philharmonic Orchestra's 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 (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 *Master of Performance: Orchestral Artistry* course with distinction in 2020, whereupon Guildhall awarded him a Junior Fellowship position for the following academic year. He remains a *Global Talent: Exceptional Promise* visa holder.

Ten Years 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 the recent Beethoven 250th celebration), which give us a chance to put on a more substantial full-length programme two or three times a year.

Over the past decade we think we have 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 these past two years.

Instruments featured over the course of the past decade 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!

It is a source of great joy that the whole MOTG operation is now getting back on its feet again as the pandemic-induced disruptions begin to recede, and we are delighted to welcome you to our official 10th anniversary celebrations today.



FUTURE LUNCHTIME CONCERTS AT CHRIST CHURCH

Third Wednesday of the month
Doors open 12.30pm - Concert from 1.15pm

2022 Programme

- Feb 16 Szasz Piano Trio – Beethoven's Archduke
Mar 16 Trio Pierné (flute, cello & piano)
Apr 20 *No concert (Easter week)*
May 18 Christopher Herrick, organ
Jun 15 The Lawrence Family
Jul 20 Belinda Jones & Gamal Khamis (two pianos)
Aug 17 *No concert (Summer break)*
Sep 21 Toby Hughes, double bass

All MOTG fixtures are being kept under review in the light of the latest coronavirus situation. Please check our website for up-to-date news.

Palm Sunday, 10 April 2022, 7pm

The Parish of Esher Choir & The Otlands Singers present
**Beethoven's Oratorio 'Christ on the Mount
of Olives' and motets for Passiontide**

Tickets £10 each, children free.
Advance booking recommended via the Parish Office.