

Scottish violist and violinist Kay Stephen is passionate about ensemble playing in all of its forms, and loves the spontaneity and communication of making music with others.

As a chamber musician, she has been a recipient of numerous awards including the Royal Overseas League Chamber Music Prize and the Audience Engagement Prize at the Franz Schubert and Modern Music Competition, Graz. She has been supported by the City Music Foundation, the Tunnell Trust and twice by the Park Lane Group, performing regularly at major UK venues including Manchester's Bridgewater Hall, the Wigmore Hall, the Cadogan Hall and frequently on BBC Radio 3.

Kay is a member of the Jacquin Trio, alongside clarinettist Jessie Grimes and pianist Charis Hanning. With a line up that allows them the rare freedom of music for both violin and viola trio in a single concert, they have a vast and varied repertoire at their fingertips; from works by Mozart and Kurtag to Stravinsky's virtuosic violin writing in *The Soldier's Tale* or Bartok's *Contrasts*. The trio have performed together all over the world, most recently touring New Zealand at the end of 2019.

Concerto performances have included first viola in *Brandenburg 6*, under the baton of Nicholas Kremer, and *Bosso's 'Towards the Golden Hour'*, both with the Manchester Camerata; *Telemann Viola Concerto* at St. Martin-in-the-Fields, and violin concertos by Brahms, Mozart and Joe Cutler.

For nearly ten years, Kay was violist with the award winning Gildas Quartet, performing with them world wide throughout China, South Africa and Australia, among others and recording for Champs Hill.

She has performed with ensembles such as the Elias, Navarra, Florian and Edinburgh quartets, and the Manchester Collective, the Vonnegut Collective, Ensemble Deva and Red Note Ensemble. Formerly co-principal viola with the Manchester Camerata, she appeared many times as principal and as soloist with the orchestra. She has been invited as guest principal viola with the Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra, the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, Camerata Alma Viva, as co-principal with the BBC Philharmonic, the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, the City of London Sinfonia and the Britten Sinfonia, and as a freelance player with the Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields. She also performs as violinist with orchestras such as the London Contemporary Orchestra, the Royal Northern Sinfonia, the Hallé and the Gabrieli Consort.

Through a long time musical collaboration with clarinettist and composer Jack McNeill, Kay joined twelve piece cross-genre ensemble, Propellor in residency at Snape Maltings. The group's debut recording 'Loom' and subsequent tour received very favourable reviews.

As a teacher, Kay is thrilled to have been invited to curate the chamber music strand of the incredible Aldeburgh Young Musicians programme. This has involved devising and leading residential courses at Snape Maltings, and more recently coordinating a month long online project during the Covid 19 lockdown.