

Moonlight String Trio
Cocktail Hour Musicians

James Flannery



Born in Northamptonshire, James began Viola lessons when he was introduced to the Music Trust in the area at the age of 10. During these early stages James had his first experience of playing chamber and orchestral music, which have remained an important part of his music making.

After deciding that he would like to pursue a career in Music James auditioned for

The National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain. While being a member, he had the opportunity to perform in the UK's most prestigious concert halls including performing at the annual BBC Proms at the Royal Albert Hall.

In September 2016, James began an undergraduate degree at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, learning under the tuition of Matthew Jones. While at the Guildhall, Chamber music has been a huge part of his schedule and he receives frequent masterclasses with artistes such as Levon Chilingirian (OBE), Krzysztof Smeitana, Ursula Smith. In addition, orchestral playing is a huge part of James' music making and he has worked with conductors such as Esa-Pekka Salonen, Edward Gardner, Kristjan Järvi. In 2018 James will undertake many orchestral tours playing at venues such as the Wiener Konzerthaus and Wiener Musikverein in Vienna and the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam.

James is grateful to have been awarded a scholarship at the Guildhall School to support his studying in London and he is also fortunate to play a Helen Mitcheschlager Viola kindly on loan from the Benslow Trust.

Sophie-Louise Phillips



Sophie-Louise Phillips started learning the violin at the age of seven and is currently studying for a masters degree at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama with Krzysztof Smietana. Previously she studied at the Royal College of Music with Ani Schnarch.

Before going to RCM Sophie learnt in her hometown of Northampton where she led their County Youth Orchestra and was also a member of the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain for 3 years. She has played at festivals such as the Bowdoin International Music Festival, Sacconi Festival and the Queen's Coronation Gala at Buckingham Palace.

Sophie plays on a 1898 Eugenio Degani violin, kindly on loan from the Benslow Trust.

Benedict Swindells



his third year.

Born in Ishihara, Japan, Benedict Swindells moved to Stamford in Lincolnshire and first played the Cello at the age of 7. After several years studying with Janet Roberts, he attended Pro Corda, a chamber music course based at Leiston Abbey in Suffolk, where he met his current teacher Tim Lowe. At the age of 12 he had a place in Professor Lowe's class at the Guildhall's Junior Department. After several years he moved to St Edwards Oxford as a music scholar, while continuing to have cello lessons in London. He now continues his studies with Tim Lowe as an Undergraduate at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama in

Gala Performers

Jette Parker Young Artists Programme

The Jette Parker Young Artists Programme is designed to support the artistic development of young professional singers, conductors, directors and répétiteurs. The Young Artists are salaried company members, who work at the opera house on a full-time basis over a two-year period. They receive coaching in all opera disciplines, including music, languages, movement and acting, as well as guidance in related issues and career development. Each artist is given the opportunity to work on productions for The Royal Opera. The Young Artists give an annual performance on the main stage with the orchestra in the pit. Other performance opportunities include a chamber opera, concerts and recitals at Covent Garden and in outside venues. There are currently ten singers, four music staff and a stage director on the Programme. If you would like more information, please visit the JPYAP pages on the ROH website: www.roh.org.uk/about/jette-parker-young-artists-programme

**Jette Parker Young Artists Programme is generously supported by
Oak Foundation**

Susana Gaspar : Soprano



Portuguese soprano Susana Gaspar was a member of the Jette Parker Young Artists Programme in 2011/13, singing Barbarina *Le nozze di Figaro*, Contessa Ceprano *Rigoletto*, Giannetta *L'elisir d'amore*, First Innocent *Minotaur*, Papagena *Die Zauberflöte*, Voce dal Cielo *Don Carlo* and Aurore *Le Portrait de Manon* (Linbury). She studied at Lisbon Music Conservatory, GSMD and the NOS. She represented Portugal in the 2013 Cardiff Singer of the World Competition. Since leaving the Programme, she has sung Mimì *La bohème* at Grange Park Opera, Gilda *Rigoletto* at Nevill Holt Opera, Mimì *La bohème* for Diva Opera, Azema *Semiramide* with Opera Rara at the BBC Proms (also recorded), opera galas for Barrandov Opera, Violetta *La traviata* for Hawkes Bay Opera (New Zealand), title role *Manon* and First Nymph/Foreign Princess *Rusalka* for Valladolid Opera Project, Paride *Elena ed Paride* and Clarice *Il mondo della luna* (Avondano) with Os Musicos do Tejo, Lauretta *Gianni Schicchi* for Dias da Música in Lisbon, Contessa Ceprano/Paggio *Rigoletto* with the LSO, concerts with the BBC Philharmonic, Brighton Philharmonic, CBSO, Colchester Symphony Orchestra, Hastings Philharmonic, Royal Tunbridge Wells Symphony Orchestra, City of Bristol Choir and for Raymond Gubbay, at Teatro Nacional de Sao Carlos, with Le Cercle de l'Harmonie at the Deauville Festival, at Sétubal Music Festival and with Orquestra XXI in Portugal and with Simon Bolivar Orchestra in Venezuela. She has also given recitals in the UK and Portugal. Recordings include Portugal *Matinas do Natal* for Paraty, *Fanny Hensel: The other Mendelssohn* for Champs Hill Records, *Opera Classics* for RPO Live and a recording of songs by Fernando Lopes-Graca.

Konu Kim : Tenor



Korean tenor Konu Kim began his musical education at the age of six, playing piano and violin. He graduated with a Master of Vocal Music degree from Kyung-Hee University in Seoul and continued his studies at the Korean National Opera Academy and in Germany. Competition successes include First prize in the Montreal International Music Competition and Operalia, Second Prize in the Seoul International Music Competition and prizes in the Marmande International Opera Singing Competition in France, the G B Rubini, Marcelo Giordani and Zandonai international singing competitions in Italy and the International Moniuszko Vocal Competition in Poland. Opera includes Nadir *Les Pêcheurs de perles* at the Korean National Opera, Arturo *I puritani* at Teatro Comunale di Modena and Almaviva *Il barbiere di Siviglia* at Landestheater Rudolstadt. He has also sung at Carnegie Hall. He joined the Programme in September 2017 and made his Royal Opera debut as Arturo *Lucia di Lammermoor*, followed by Mitrane *Semiramide*, Fourth Jew *Salome*, A Voice *House of the Dead*, Malcolm *Macbeth*, First Noble of Brabant *Lohengrin* and, in the JPYAP summer performance, Brighella *Ariadne auf Naxos* and Lindoro *L'italiana in Algeri*. He has also covered Idreno *Semiramide* and Fenton *Falstaff*. Next season, he will sing Chaplitsky *The Queen of Spades*, Gastone de Letorières *La traviata*, Maintop *Billy Budd* and Tonio *La Fille du regiment* and cover Ferrando *Così fan tutte*.

Edmund Whitehead : Pianist/Conductor



British conductor and répétiteur Edmund Whitehead has Russian parentage. He studied at Oxford University, GSMD and NOS. He has since worked as Assistant Conductor on *Kát'a Kabanová* for Opéra national de Lorraine, *Un ballo in maschera* for Grange Park Opera and *Don Giovanni* for British Youth Opera. This season, he was a Young Artist at Polish National Opera, conducting an educational adaptation of *Die Zauberflöte*. At GSMD, he assisted on *Le donne curiose* and the *Opera Makers* project and was répétiteur for *The Rape of Lucretia*, *Šelma sedlák*, *Phaedra* and *Alexandre Bis*. At Oxford he was Opera Studio Director at New Chamber Opera, where he conducted *La Giuditta* and *La Calisto* and was répétiteur for *Il re pastore*, *Galileo Galilei*, *Tamerlano* and *L'infedeltà delusa*. He conducted *Boys of Paradise* for Tête-à-tête, has held full-time conducting positions with Central London Orchestra, Oxford University Sinfonietta and the Arcadian Singers and been Conducting Scholar at Schola Cantorum of Oxford. He has worked as répétiteur on *Hansel and Gretel* for Opera Studio Oxford, *La bohème* for Opera24/Grimeborn, *Adriano in Siria* for Opera Settecento, *Bluebeard's Castle* for Cambridge Philharmonic, *Carmen* for EPOC and *English Eccentrics* for BYO. He is an alumnus of the ENOA Workshop Opera Coach at Dutch National Opera and the Académie du Festival d'Aix-en-Provence. With Park Lane Group, he has accompanied song recitals at St John's Smith Square and Wigmore Hall. As chorus master, he has worked for LSSO and Cambridge Philharmonic. He joined the Jette Parker Young Artists Programme in September and in his first season will act as trainee cover conductor *La traviata* and join the Royal Opera music staff for *Siegfried*, *Götterdämmerung*, *Hansel and Gretel*, *La forza del destino* and *Le nozze di Figaro*.

Martin Ludenbach : Double Bass



Double bass player Martin Ludenbach studied at GSMD guided by Kevin Rundell and Tim Gibbs. Directly after graduating, he made his solo debut performing Bottesini *Double Bass Concerto in B minor* with North Wales Camerata. As an orchestral bassist, he is currently trialling with WNO and has performed with the John Wilson Orchestra, London Mozart Players, RPO, BBC NOW, BBCCO, Heritage Orchestra and alongside the LSO in all the major UK concert halls. He has been principal Double Bass of Guildhall Symphony Orchestra, Young Musician Symphony Orchestra and National Youth Orchestra of Wales, all on multiple occasions. Highlights of his chamber work include performances with Sinfonia Cymru, Berkeley Ensemble, Nidum Ensemble, John Adams *Chamber Symphony* in the Barbican and Britten *Owen Wingrave* and *The Rape of Lucretia* at GSMD. Alongside classical music, he has worked in theatre, playing bass guitar and double bass for *Dr Faustus* and *The Alchemist* at the Barbican with the RSC, *The Bubbly Black Girl sheds her Chameleon Skin* at Theatre Royal Stratford East and *Grand Hotel* at Southwark Playhouse. An acting-musician career is developing too with a debut stage performance in the award winning *Ragtime* at Charing Cross Theatre. This has led to collaborative projects with the British Paraorchestra and Mayk in Bristol and the Southbank Centre, an acrobatic improvisation project with actors from GSMD and a movement workshop developing the physical performance of instrumentalists in Beethoven *Symphony 1*. He also occasionally plays jazz, though with increasingly less frequency.