



Originally from Switzerland and now based in London, Helena Ricci is a virtuoso harpist, praised for her insightful, memorable playing and engaging personality. A trailblazing ambassador for the harp as a solo instrument, she is championing a repertoire of her own transcriptions of masterworks as well as of original harp gems.

Helena graduated from London's Guildhall School of Music and Drama where she studied with Imogen Barford and is now in demand as a harpist and collaborator. Despite the pandemic, she made her West End debut with the London Musical Theatre

Orchestra last December. Helena plays a unique Swiss red pedal harp from Sainte-Croix.

The poetry and passion of the playing of Yuki Negishi has captivated audiences around the world. From Europe to concerts and recitals in Japan, China and the USA, and over 500 performances in the UK, Yuki's virtuosity has illuminated the traditional classical repertoire and introduced listeners to the delights of little-known composers and contemporary compositions. Yuki has been broadcast on BBC Radio 3, Channel 4 and ITV and channels in Holland, France, Poland and Romania. Her recent online series of performances entitled "Piano Music by Women" was singled out by Pianist magazine as exceptional. Yuki has maintained an energetic schedule, including appearances in the Concertgebouw Amsterdam, Toppan Hall Tokyo and the Southbank Centre.



A few weeks after the 66th season's programme of events had been finalised and details published, we were contacted by Michael McHale with news of The Romantic Piano Tour, a special recital he will be touring during the early part of next year to mark his 40th birthday. A date has been fixed for 27th January and will increase the season's number of recitals to six.

Belfast-born Michael McHale has established himself as one of Ireland's leading pianists and has developed a busy international career as a solo recitalist, concerto soloist and chamber musician. He has performed at some of the most well-known concert halls in the world such as the Wigmore Hall, Berlin Konzerthaus, the Boston Symphony Hall, the Pesti Vigadó in Budapest and the Lincoln Center in New York. He has performed and recorded as a soloist with the Hallé Orchestra, London Symphony Orchestra, City of London Sinfonia, London Mozart Players, BBC Symphony Orchestra, Minnesota Orchestra, Moscow Symphony Orchestra and all five of the major Irish orchestras. He has played at many of the most prestigious festivals such as the BBC Proms, the Tanglewood Festival and the Tokyo Spring Festival. Michael collaborates

regularly with Sir James Galway, Dame Felicity Lott and Michael Collins with whom he has recorded eight duo recital albums.

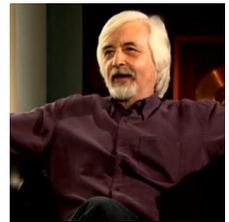
The London Mandolin Quartet consists of four members of the London Mandolin Ensemble and is the UK's only classical mandolin quartet. They have a wide repertoire ranging



from Baroque to contemporary music. Anna Lombardi {mandolin}, Tom Newell {octave mandolin/tenor mandola}, Tom Smith {guitar} and Maxine Wiltshire {mandolin} are all classically trained musicians who have studied at conservatoire level, and with a number of virtuoso mandolinists. They have performed individually and as a quartet in the UK, USA,

Germany, Spain, Japan and Italy.

Andrew Dalton has worked in the Classical Recording Industry since 1969, when he first joined the Decca Record Company as Assistant Advertising Manager. He subsequently became Classical Press and Promotions Manager, first with Decca and later with Philips Classics and



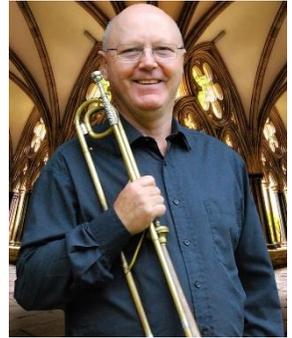
Harmonia Mundi (France). Andrew still regularly undertakes projects for Decca on a free-lance basis. In his talk entitled *All Hands On Decca*, Andrew will share memories of many of the great musicians with whom he was privileged to work, vividly illustrated by recordings which both artistically and sonically he believes remain unsurpassed to this day.



Ensemble Hesperis is a London-based Early Music ensemble, dedicated to showcasing Baroque music. The members met during their studies at the Royal College of Music in London. Individually, they perform regularly with leading period orchestras and chamber ensembles throughout the United Kingdom and further afield. Over the past two years, the ensemble has developed a strong reputation for championing rarely-heard music by 18th century Scottish composers. In 2020, Ensemble Hesperis was selected as Britten Pears Young Artists on the Chamber Music Residence Scheme, and in

November that year, won 1st prize at the London International Festival of Early Music's Young Ensemble Competition. In 2021, the ensemble released its first CD for EM Records, *Full of the Highland Humours*.

Crispian Steele-Perkins began playing the trumpet at the age of 10 and, after training at the Guildhall School of Music, he became a member of the English National Opera, the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and the English Chamber Orchestra. On 10th October 2015 the BBC's CD Review concluded that, of all the available recordings of Haydn's Trumpet Concerto worldwide, his is 'the one to have'. Crispian collects and restores antique trumpets upon which he has performed and recorded with The Academy of Ancient Music, The Kings Consort and The English Baroque Soloists. Appropriately, he plays the theme tune to one of the BBC's longest-running and most popular TV programmes, Antiques Roadshow.



You'll remember that pianist and composer Jonathan Pease visited the Society in March with Nicola Hands for a concert of oboe/cor anglais and piano music. He graduated with an MA in Music from Cambridge University in 2010 before undertaking further study as a pianist. He has worked with groups including the Royal Opera House, Garsington Opera, Glyndebourne Youth Opera, Opera Holland Park, Chelsea Opera Group and the Orpheus Sinfonia, and has musically directed opera from the piano for Devon Opera and Opera Anywhere.

