

## Opus 1: Sara Bitloch (violin), Amy Norrington (cello) and Daniel Tong (piano)

Sara, Amy and Daniel met and first performed by a crackling log fire at the Wye Valley Chamber Music Festival in works by Haydn and early Beethoven, from which they take their name. The rapport established during this initial collaboration inspired them to form a piano trio in 2011 that would continue to make music together. Their performances to date have been met with an incredibly enthusiastic response and the trio has already received invitations to perform as part of concert series at St Johns, Smith Square in London and St Georges in Bristol, as well as several music societies in the UK.

**Sara Bitloch (violin)** Born of French and Catalan parents Sara Bitloch studied with Clothilde Munch at the Vivaldi Association, Grenoble, with Christian Rouquié at the Perpignan Conservatory, with Peter Norris, WhenZhou Li, Margaret Norris and Mauricio Fuks at the Yehudi Menuhin School, London, with Alberto Lysy at the Menuhin Academy, Switzerland, and with Rafael Druian at the Curtis Institute, Philadelphia. In 2003 Sara became the leader of the Elias String Quartet, resident at the Wigmore Hall, former BBC New Generation Artists, and the recipients of a Borletti Buitoni award. Sara has been a participant at the chamber music festivals of Ernen (Switzerland), Kuhmo (Finland), Ravinia (Chicago), Caramoor (New York), Moulin d'Andé (Paris), Music from Salem (New York), and regularly attends the IMS Prussia Cove. Winner of the Szigeti Competition, Budapest, and the Renata Molinari Competition, Switzerland, Sara has performed throughout France, England, Spain and Switzerland, as a soloist with orchestras such as the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, the Budapest Radio Symphony Orchestra, the Camerata Lysy, and has played alongside Yehudi Menuhin, Leon Fleischer, Miriam Fried, Alberto Lysy, Steven Isserlis, Ivry Gitlis, Christoph Richter, Jean Jacques Kantorow, Vladimir Mendelssohn and Martin Lovett.



**Amy Norrington (cello)** Amy studied with Alexander Baillie at the Royal Academy of Music in London and with Steven Doane at the Eastman school of music in USA. She lives in Brussels and is a member of the Belgian ensemble Oxalys and of the Arioso piano quartet based in Cologne. Her chamber music partners have included Pekka Kuusisto, Anthony Marwood, Philippe Graffin, Christoph Pregardien and Christiane Stotijn. She regularly plays as guest principle cellist with La Monnaie, De Filarmonie and the Flemish Opera orchestras in Belgium. As a soloist Amy she has performed concertos by Haydn, Schumann, Brahms (Double Concerto), Dvorak, Saint-Saens and Elgar. In recital Amy has worked with the pianists Alasdair Beatson, Simon Crawford-Phillips and Boyan Vodenitcharov. Amy was a founding member of the Quince Quartet and enjoyed their 6 years of work and concerts that took them to many of the major concert halls in Europe. A personal highlight was the opportunity of an intensive period of study with Ferenc Rados on Bartok's 5th string Quartet. Amy is the Artistic Director of the international chamber music festival, 'Resonances', in Belgium.

**Daniel Tong (piano)** Daniel's musical life is spent performing as soloist and chamber musician, as well as directing two chamber music festivals and teaching. Outside the UK he has performed in Sweden, France, Belgium and Portugal. He recently recorded a solo CD of works by Schubert, soon to be released on the Quartz label. Daniel has appeared at many of the foremost British venues and festivals – Wigmore Hall, South Bank Centre, St Georges Bristol, Birmingham Town Hall as well as the Cheltenham, Aldeburgh and Edinburgh Festivals. He is frequently heard on BBC Radio and has broadcast throughout Europe. The recordings by his London Bridge Ensemble have been praised and recommended in the press and during 2012 the ensemble returns to the Wigmore Hall, appears at Kings Place in London, and launches its own series "Songs without Words". The group also present their annual festival: Winchester Chamber Music Festival. Daniel's latest project, 'unravelling' in collaboration with musicologist Richard Wigmore, has seen a series of lecture-recital weekends on Beethoven and Schubert piano sonatas. Later in 2012 he curates a festival of Elgar's music at Kings Place in London. Each year Daniel plays with an array of wonderful artists, often at his own chamber festival in the Wye Valley.

