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LONDON MOZART PLAYERS WIND ENSEMBLE		
LAURA VAN DER HEIJDEN / JÂMS COLEMAN		
SOFYA GULYAK		

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## LONDON MOZART PLAYERS WIND ENSEMBLE

Sunday 8th March 2026 at 3.00 p.m.



**Programme**  
 Beethoven Octet for Winds Op. 103  
 Gounod Petite Symphonie for Wind Nonet Op. 216  
 Mozart Serenade in B flat major 'Gran Partita', K361

*"LMP possess an unfailing professionalism, artistry, and commitment to music". John Suchet*

London Mozart Players are the oldest, freshest and most adventurous chamber orchestra in the UK.

Set up over 75 years ago by Harry Blech to perform the works of Mozart and Haydn, LMP's mission has evolved into creating bold, ambitious and accessible musical experiences for all. LMP are proud to be at the forefront of embedding arts and culture into the life of communities across the UK and beyond, performing both new works and music that stays true to their roots.

LMP work with schools and music hubs around the UK and beyond to inspire the next generation of musicians and music lovers. They're continuing their long tradition of promoting young talent: Nicola Benedetti, Jacqueline du Pré and Jan Pascal Tortelier are just three of many young musical virtuosos championed early in their careers by them.

LMP are based at Fairfield Halls in Croydon and have residencies at St John's, Upper Norwood, Thaxted Festival and Grayshott Concerts. Collaborating with many of the world's greatest soloists and conductors, LMP's work is made in Croydon and celebrated across the globe.



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## LAURA VAN DER HEIJDEN (cello) JÂMS COLEMAN (piano)

Sunday 10th May 2026 at 7.00 p.m.



**'Lumière – Evening'**  
 Nadia Boulanger Three Pieces for Cello and Piano  
 Sohy Les méditations, Op. 18: No.1, Paix  
 Milhaud Elegie for Cello and Piano  
 Chaminade Sérénade, Op. 29  
 Bonis Cello Sonata in F major, Op. 67  
 Lili Boulanger Attente  
 Fauré Sicilienne, Op. 78  
 Massenet Thaïs Meditation  
 Franck Violin Sonata in A major (arr. Delsart for cello)

*"a superstar cellist comes out of the shadows" Richard Morrison, The Times*

**Laura van der Heijden** won the BBC Young Musician Competition in 2012 aged 15 and is recognised as one of the leading cellists of her generation and is the recipient of the prestigious 2025 Royal Philharmonic Society Instrumentalist Award. Forthcoming concerto appearances include with the Brno Philharmonic, BBC National Orchestra of Wales, and Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra. Recent highlights include recitals at the Cello Biennale Amsterdam and Wigmore Hall, the Serios Festival in Helsinki and a chamber project alongside Alina Ibragimova and Ben Goldscheider in Berlin. Laura gave the World Premiere of Frances-Hoad's 'Earth, Sea, Air' which she then performed at the 2024 BBC Proms. Her critically acclaimed first album 'Pohádka', was followed by Mozart Piano Quartets and 'Transfigured' with Kaleidoscope Chamber Collective. In 2024 Laura's highly acclaimed album with pianist Jâms Coleman 'Path to the Moon' was released and Kaleidoscope's first volume of Brahms and contemporaries. Laura's debut album '1948' won the 2018 Edison Klassiek Award and the 2019 BBC Music Magazine Newcomer of the Year Award. Laura regularly plays with Timothy Ridout, Max Baillie, Misha Mullov-Abbado, the Doric Quartet, the Brodsky Quartet and many others.

*"Coleman's playing is outstanding, with thrilling variety...exquisite touch... and imagination at the piano" BBC Music Magazine*

From Anglesey, **Jâms Coleman** performs as a soloist, chamber musician, and vocal accompanist. He regularly plays at festivals and venues in the UK and internationally including recitals at the Aldeburgh Festival, BBC Proms, Champs Hill, Cello Biennale (Amsterdam), Cheltenham Festival, Kings Place, LSO St Luke's, Prussia Cove, The Royal Concertgebouw and Wigmore Hall. Jâms and Laura's album 'Path to the Moon' was described as 'intriguing and beguiling' by The Guardian and as 'gently alluring, enigmatic and romantic' by Gramophone and had two million streams worldwide in the first week. He regularly works with leading singers and instrumentalists including the Elias, Maxwell and Marmen Quartets; recitals with instrumentalists Simon Crawford-Phillips, Brett Dean, Guy Johnston, Braimah Kanneh-Mason, Jack Liebeck, Jennifer Pike, and Timothy Ridout; recitals with singers Nicky Spence, Sir John Tomlinson, Sir Bryn Terfel, and Elizabeth Watts. Jâms read Music at Cambridge before graduating from the RAM and was awarded an ARAM in 2023.

## SOFYA GULYAK (piano)

Saturday 6th June 2026 at 7.00 p.m.



**Programme**  
 Clementi Sonata in C major op.33 no 3  
 Brahms Variations and Fugue on a theme by Handel op.24  
 Mussorgsky Pictures at an Exhibition

*"The Handel Variations is among the top contenders on record. She keeps you on the edge of your seat, as the music presses ever forward. Sometimes I was reminded of the young Argerich" American Record Guide*

In September 2009 Sofya Gulyak was awarded the 1st prize and the Princess Mary Gold Medal at the Sixteenth Leeds International Piano Competition – the first woman in the history of the competition to achieve this distinction. Since then she has appeared all over the world to great acclaim. Sofya has been praised for her "tremendous precision and coloration...exquisite soft playing ...with delicacy" and described as a "Rach star" (Washington Post).

Sofya Gulyak is a 1st prize winner of William Kapell International Piano Competition in the USA, Maj Lind Helsinki International Piano Competition, Tivoli Piano Competition in Copenhagen, Isang Yun International Piano Competition in South Korea, San Marino Piano Competition, winner of Busoni Competition in Italy and prize winner of Marguerite Long Piano Competition in Paris.

She has performed all over the globe in such venues as La Scala Theatre and Sala Verdi in Milan, Herculessaal in Munich, Salle Cortot, Salle Gaveau and Salle Pleyel in Paris, Wigmore Hall and Cadogan Hall in London, Grand Hall of Moscow Conservatory, Konzerthaus in Berlin, Gewandhaus in Leipzig, Kennedy Center in Washington, Palais de la Musique in Strasbourg, Hong Kong City Hall and many more. She has appeared as a soloist with many of the world's leading orchestras including the London Philharmonic Orchestra, Finnish Radio Symphony, Saint-Petersburg Philharmonic, Rio de Janeiro Symphony and has collaborated with conductors such as Vladimir Ashkenazy, Sakari Oramo, Mark Elder, Vasily Petrenko, Carlo Rizzi, Alexander Lazarev, and others.

Sofya Gulyak's CD recordings have received 5 star reviews in Diapason magazine... outstanding natural pianist", glowing reviews from "Gramophone" ("This is a stunning debut album...") and "Guardian" magazines ("Sofya Gulyak is a fearless pianist, never afraid to scale the most technically demanding heights of the repertoire and equally proud to wear her heart on her sleeve"). For over a decade she has been a professor of piano at the Royal College of Music in London. In 2023 she was appointed as an associate professor at Jacobs school of Music at Indiana University.

**Concertgoers are very welcome to picnic in the grounds before the concert and complimentary Pimms will be served from 6.00 pm.**

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**LA SERENISSIMA**  
**Director: Adrian Chandler**  
**Sunday 5th October 2025 at 3.00 p.m.**



*“The performances by this accomplished ensemble are polished and invigorating. Chandler’s solo violin playing is articulate, warm-toned and communicative...” BBC Music Magazine*

<b>Programme</b>	
Vivaldi	Sinfonia for strings & continuo in G, RV 149
Anon.	Canzoni da battello for mandolin & archlute
Bigaglia	Concerto for mandolin, strings & continuo in B flat
Vivaldi	Concerto per eco in lontano for 2 violins, strings & continuo in A, RV 552
Vivaldi	Concerto for viola d’amore, lute, strings & continuo in d, RV 541
Vivaldi	Concerto for mandolin, strings & continuo in C, RV 425
Anon.	Canzoni da battello for 2 mandolins & continuo
Vivaldi	Concerto for 2 mandolins, strings & continuo in G, RV 532

*“The music-making is top-drawer and joyous’. Gramophone*  
*“They really put the rock into baroque’. Classic FM*

Recognised for ‘whipping up a storm with Vivaldi’, La Serenissima is ‘one of Britain’s best-loved chamber orchestras’ (The Telegraph). The group has uncovered a plethora of neglected music, making it available to all and uniquely the group’s entire repertoire is edited from source material by founder and violinist, Adrian Chandler OSI.

Established in 1994, La Serenissima is recognised for its outstanding recording catalogue, which is regularly featured on BBC Radio 3, Classic FM and international radio. The group has twice won the Gramophone Award for ‘Baroque Instrumental’ for The French Connection (2010) and The Italian Job (2017). La Serenissima topped the UK Classical Chart in 2018 with album Vivaldi x2. The ensemble’s growing online following is evidenced by more than a 1.3 million monthly Spotify listeners; their 2015 recording of The Four Seasons is now ‘potentially the most streamed interpretation ever’ (Gramophone). La Serenissima has performed throughout the UK and internationally in concert series and festivals and celebrates its 30th Anniversary at London’s Wigmore Hall during 2024-5 with a Residency entitled ‘The A-Z of the Italian Baroque’: presenting music from Ariosti to Zavateri. La Serenissima is proud to have as its Honorary Patron, His Excellency The Ambassador of Italy to the UK.

**Raffaella La Raglione** (mandolin) was born in Naples in 1986. As a soloist and chamber musician he has toured throughout Italy, Europe and Asia and has collaborated as performer and recording artist with I Solisti Veneti (Claudio Scimone), Il Pomo d’Oro (Francesco Corti), Seoul Philharmonic Orchestra (Myung-Whun Chung), La Serenissima, Orchestra della Svizzera Italiana, Greek National Opera, Orchestra dei Pomeriggi Musicali Milano, and La Toscanini Parma.

*“On his four-course Neapolitan mandolin, La Ragione is a total joy” Gramophone*

**CALIDORE STRING QUARTET**  
**Saturday 8th November 2025 at 3.00 p.m.**



*“Deep reserves of virtuosity and irrepressible dramatic instinct” New York Times*

<b>Programme</b>	
Haydn	String Quartet Op. 76 no.5 ‘Largo’
Barber	String Quartet in B minor Op. 11
Dvořák	String Quartet No.12 in F major Op. 96 ‘American’

The Los Angeles Times described the Calidore Quartet as “astounding,” their playing “shockingly deep,” approaching “the kind of sublimity other quartets spend a lifetime searching.” The Washington Post noted that “four more individual musicians are unimaginable, yet these speak, breathe, think and feel as one”. For more than a decade, the Calidore has enjoyed performances and residencies in world’s major venues and festivals, released multiple critically acclaimed recordings and won numerous awards.

The New York City based quartet have appeared in venues throughout North America, Europe, and Asia and also at the BBC Proms. 2025 has seen many performances of the Beethoven quartets and other highlights of the 24/25 season include return appearances with San Francisco Performances, the Celebrity Series of Boston, the Philadelphia Chamber Music Society, Spivey Hall in Atlanta, the Warsaw Philharmonic and London’s Wigmore Hall

In their most ambitious recording project to date, the Calidore has released the complete Beethoven’s String Quartets for Signum Records. The Late Quartets was released in 2023 to great critical acclaim winning the BBC Music Magazine Chamber Music Award in May 2023 which stated that the Calidore’s performances “penetrate right to the heart of the music” and “can stand comparison with the best.” BBC Music Magazine described the Middle Period quartets as “highly collectable” and Rob Cowan in Gramophone Magazine praised the Early Quartets as being “Very highly recommended.”

The Calidore String Quartet first made international headlines as winner of the 2016 M-Prize International Chamber Music Competition and the quartet was the first and only North American ensemble to win the Borletti-Buitoni Trust Fellowship; was a BBC Radio 3 New Generation Artist and is currently in residence with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center in New York.

The Calidore String Quartet was founded at the Colburn School in Los Angeles in 2010. Within two years, the quartet won top prizes in virtually all the major US chamber music competitions. An amalgamation of “California” and “doré” (French for “golden”), the ensemble’s name represents its reverence for the diversity of culture and the strong support it received from its original home: Los Angeles, California, the “golden state.”

**NORTHERN CHORDS**  
**Sunday 7th December 2025 at 3.00 p.m.**



*“The playing is marvellously poised...Baker and Lehardt tell four very human stories, each of them flawed. I was on the edge of my seat throughout.” - Norman Lebrecht 2023*

<b>Programme</b>	
Mozart	Divertimento in E Flat major K 563 for violin, viola and cello
Dvořák	Piano Quartet No. 2 in E flat major, Op. 87

This compelling ensemble of international musicians was formed through collaboration at the acclaimed Northern Chords Festival, founded in 2009 by Artistic Director Jonathan Bloxham.

Violinist **Benjamin Baker** won 1st Prize at the 2016 Young Concert Artists International Auditions in New York and was described by the New York Times as bringing ‘virtuosity, refinement and youthful exuberance’ to his debut performance. He is much sought after as soloist and chamber musician with regular appearances at Wigmore Hall and on BBC Radio 3. Born in New Zealand, Benjamin studied at the Yehudi Menuhin School and the Royal College of Music. He has made solo recordings with the BBC Concert and Royal Philharmonic Orchestras and two critically acclaimed CDs with pianist Daniel Lehardt.

Cellist **Alice Neary** is the winner of many international prizes including the distinguished Pierre Fournier Award in 1998. She enjoys a varied performing career as a chamber musician and principal cellist of the BBC National Orchestra of Wales and tutor at the Royal Northern School of Music. Alice has recorded some 25 CDs and is regularly heard on Radio 3. Her festival performances include BBC Proms chamber series, Marlboro, Bath International and others. She is a regular concerto soloist and after many years with the Gould Piano Trio is now cellist with the London Haydn Quartet.

In 2014 **Daniel Lehardt** won 1st Prize at the Young Concert Artists International auditions in Paris and New York. He was invited to record for Decca and in 2016 was a prize-winner at the Sydney International Competition. In 2020 Daniel made his debut with The Hallé followed by performances at the Barbican and Symphony Hall, Birmingham. He has made recital debuts in Dublin, Kiev, Lucerne, Tallinn and Miami and has received re-invitations to Wigmore Hall, the Auditorium du Louvre, and Merkin Concert Hall in New York. Recent highlights in 2025 include solo and recital performances at Wigmore Hall and Beethoven’s Emperor Concerto with the RPO. Daniel studied in Budapest then at the RAM and Royal Birmingham Conservatoire.

Violist **Rosalind Ventris** performs internationally as both a soloist and chamber musician. As a recitalist, she has performed at the Royal Festival Hall, Wigmore Hall, Dublin Chamber Music Festival, Aldeburgh Festival and the Concertgebouw. As a concerto soloist, she has worked with the European Union Chamber Orchestra, Sinfonia Cymru and London Mozart Players. Her CD ‘SOLA’ was nominated for the BBC Music Magazine’s 2024 Premiere Award in 2024. She performs as part of the Kaleidoscope Chamber Collective and Trio Anima and has collaborated with renowned artists such as Mitsuko Uchida, the Nash Ensemble, the Endellion Quartet and Barry Douglas. Rosalind is Director of Musical Performance at the University of Oxford and a Professor of Viola at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama.

**ENGLISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA**  
**Director: Stephanie Gonley**  
**Sunday 8th February 2026 at 3.00 p.m.**



*“One of the world’s greatest ‘living’ orchestras.’ Classical Public radio, USA*

<b>Programme</b>	
Holst	St Paul’s Suite in C major Op. 29 no. 2
Mozart	Bassoon Concerto in B flat major K.191
Britten	Simple Symphony Op. 4
Haydn	Symphony 45 in F Sharp minor ‘Farewell’

**Patron: HM King Charles III**

The English Chamber Orchestra is the most recorded chamber orchestra in the world, its discography contains over 900 recordings of over 1,500 works by more than 400 composers. The ECO has also performed in more countries than any other orchestra and played with many of the world’s greatest musicians. The American radio network CPRN has selected ECO as one of the world’s greatest ‘living’ orchestras. The illustrious history of the orchestra features many major musical figures. Benjamin Britten was the orchestra’s first Patron and a significant musical influence. King Charles III’s patronage of the ECO spans nearly 50 years, beginning during his tenure as Prince of Wales and he has played a crucial role in promoting the orchestra’s artistic endeavors, attending and hosting performances that have significantly elevated its profile.

The ECO’s long relationship with Daniel Barenboim led to an acclaimed complete cycle of Mozart piano concertos as live performances and recordings, followed later by two further recordings of the complete cycle, with Murray Perahia and Mitsuko Uchida. ECO tours have included the USA, Bermuda, China, Finland, France, Greece, Slovenia and Austria as well as concerts across the UK and at London’s Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Kings Place and Cadogan Hall. The Orchestra has been chosen to record many successful film soundtracks including Dario Marianelli’s prizewinning scores for Atonement and Pride and Prejudice, and several James Bond soundtracks, and has taken part in a variety of other film and television projects. The ECO is proud of its outreach programme, Close Encounters, which is run by the musicians in the orchestra and takes music into many settings within communities and schools around the UK and abroad.

**We are extremely grateful to the following sponsors who have generously supported this season’s concerts:**

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