



CHRIST CHURCH, ESHER  
LUNCHTIME CONCERT

# Trio Lavolta

*violin, cello & piano*

Wednesday 19 April 2023  
at 1.15 pm

*This concert is free to watch on our 'Music on the Green' YouTube channel.  
Online donations welcome on our JustGiving page [www.justgiving.com/campaign/MOTG](http://www.justgiving.com/campaign/MOTG)*

# Programme



## Music on the Green

*Quality music in the heart of Esher*

Music on the Green (MOTG) is the Parish of Esher's musical outreach programme based at Christ Church, overlooking Esher Green. At MOTG we believe that music should be accessible to all. Whilst having our firmest foot planted at the classical end of the spectrum, we seek to offer a rich and varied programme, presenting live music in interesting and rewarding ways so that it can be widely appreciated and enjoyed.

### **Trio Élégiague no. 1 in G minor**

*Lento lugubre – Con anima –  
Appassionato – Risoluto –  
Tempo primo – Con anima –  
Appassionato – Alla marcia funebre*

**Sergei Rachmaninov** (1873-1943)

### **Ribblesdale** (*first performance*)

**Gordon Carr** (b. 1943)

### **Piano Trio no. 1, Op. 7**

- i. Allegro moderato*
- ii. Romance: Andante*
- iii. Scherzo: Allegretto*
- iv. Finale: Allegro*

**Édouard Lalo** (1823-1892)

# Biographies

## Peter O'Hagan

Peter has given numerous recitals of contemporary music at London's South Bank Centre, Wigmore Hall and St John's Smith Square. Abroad, he has given recitals at festivals of contemporary music in Germany, Portugal and the USA, and in 2017 was Visiting Professor of Music at the State University in São Paulo, Brazil, where he gave a series of public lectures and a concert of contemporary European music. He is also a writer on music whose recent publications include the monographs *Pierre Boulez and the Piano* (Routledge), *Pierre Boulez 'sur Incises'* (Contrechamps, Geneva), and the co-edited *Stravinsky Encyclopedia* (Cambridge University Press).



Konservatorium in Germany, before returning to London to continue her studies with Ralph Holmes.

As a freelance violinist she has worked with many of the major symphony and ballet orchestras in both London and the provinces, including the Philharmonia, the BBC National Orchestra of Wales, the New London Orchestra, the Scottish Chamber Orchestra and the Royal Ballet.

She has performed in chamber music recitals in a variety of venues at home and abroad including the Purcell Room, the Houses of Parliament, Lambeth Palace and the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris.

## Felix Buser

Felix Buser was born in the Swiss city of Basel, where he studied at the Konservatorium with Reine Flachot and Thomas



Demenga. In 1981, he was invited to play in workshops with Hans Werner Henze. He performed with the Schweizer Streichorchester and Aargauer Symphony Orchestra in Switzerland and the Chamber Orchester 'La Follia' in France. In 1990, Felix married a British violinist and came to live in the UK, where he follows a freelance career divided between teaching and performing, with an emphasis on chamber music.

## Joyce Fraser

Joyce began her musical training with the Leicestershire Schools' Symphony Orchestra. After gaining a degree in German at the University of Reading, she went to study the violin with Konrad von der Goltz at the Würzburg



# Programme notes

## **Rachmaninov - Trio Élégiique**

The single-movement *Trio élégiaque* no. 1 in G minor dates from Rachmaninov's graduation year of 1892, although it was not published until 1947, four years after his death. The work is full of the melancholic lyricism that was to become such a hallmark of the composer's mature style.

The opening features the violin and cello playing a hushed, frosty figure that seems to grow out of the darkness, then the piano enters with a broad but distinctly sorrowful theme that encapsulates the very heart of the Russian muse. The strings eventually pick up the piano's phrases in a fine solemn procession. A major-mode secondary theme adds a surge of ardour, while a grandiose closing theme is marked by massive flourishes in the piano set against unison statements in the strings. A coda restates the original material as a funeral march with muted strings.

Rachmaninov himself wrote:

*"My constant desire is to give tonal expression to my thoughts... A composer's music should express the country of his birth, his love affairs, his religion, the books that have influenced him, the pictures he loves. It should be the product of the sum total of the composer's experiences... What I try to do when writing down my music, is to make it*

*say simply and directly that which is in my heart when I am composing. If there is love there, or bitterness, or sadness, or religion, these moods become a part of my music."*

## **Gordon Carr - Ribblesdale**

The composer writes:

Not in the Yorkshire Dales, this Ribblesdale was a large Victorian house overlooking Crystal Palace Park, an overgrown green space in which iron dinosaurs emerged from a swamp. For a young child it was a place of mystery and magic. This large house was a refuge for the elderly and infirm run by The Salvation Army. Sometimes our mother would take me and my brother on a visit, believing that we would provide some interest for the residents in their sedentary lives. In truth we were not really up to this task, save on the occasion when the cat was mesmerised by the slide of my younger brother's trombone. We always had orange juice and cake, a big treat. I found the long dark corridors and the garden places of endless fascination.

Now that I have attained the age of some of those 'old people', this is a tribute to them, to my mother and to all those who care for others.

This work is for my good friends, the musicians of Trio Lavolta.

## **Lalo - Trio no. 1 in C minor**

Although Lalo's lasting reputation is based primarily on operatic and orchestral compositions, he demonstrated a lifelong passion for chamber music. He played both violin and viola and was the founding member of the Armingaud Quartet, established in 1855 with the mission of introducing the chamber music of Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Mendelssohn and Schumann to a French public largely obsessed with grand opera.

Lalo's first piano trio (Opus 7) was most likely composed around 1850 when Lalo was 27. The trio comprises four movements in a traditional Germanic style, and the prevailing key of C minor invests the work with a restless, dark and dramatic character full of strong dynamic contrasts and a big, powerful sound.

The opening movement is a crisp sonata form with two prominent themes, the first in C minor and the second in E flat major, a clear contrast of dark and light. The movement begins with a mournful recitative for solo cello, introducing the first theme (and the finale reiterates this distinctive approach, thus giving the work a sense of symmetry). The second movement is a warm "song without words" in G major which begins like a rather dreamy salon piece with an easy demeanour and a nostalgic cast. The lively third movement Scherzo is

marked throughout by a short rhythmic motif that leaps and gallops like a polonaise; it is full of rhythmic vitality and finesse. Beginning with a lonely cello recitative after the manner of the first movement, the Finale seals the tragic-majestic character of this work with a sweeping, dramatic drive highly reminiscent of Mendelssohn's two trios.



## LUNCHTIME CONCERTS AT CHRIST CHURCH

*Third Wednesday of the month*

*Doors open 12.30pm - Concert from 1.15pm*

### 2023 Programme

May 17 James Larter, percussion

Jun 21 Lumas Wind Quintet

Jul 19 Eszter Schütz, violin & Anna Cassü, piano  
*(July concert to be held at Old St George's Church, Esher)*

Sep 20 Belinda Jones & Gamal Khamis (two pianos)

Oct 18 Alastair Penman, saxophone & Jonathan Pease, piano

*Please continue to check our website for up-to-date MOTG news.*

## Music on the Green Weekend Special

The Parish of Esher Choir and the Barisons Singers with guest instrumentalists from the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra will perform

### **MOZART's Requiem in D minor**

Christ Church, Esher  
Saturday 3 June 2023, 7pm

*Tickets £15 (children free) Post concert refreshments*

*To purchase tickets go to: [www.ticketsource.co.uk/parish-of-esher](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/parish-of-esher)*