



February 2020

Borletti-Buitoni Trust Rewarding Musical Excellence

Borletti-Buitoni Trust Announces Awards and Fellowships for 2020

Fourteen exceptional young musicians – a string quartet, two piano trios, a pianist, violinist, violist and percussionist - join BBT's roster of Award and Fellowship winners. Awards of £30,000 and Fellowships of £20,000 are provided for the advancement of their musical careers across a wide range of projects. As always the BBT team offers advice, encouragement and practical support, as well as finance, to help them realise their long held ambitions.

Awards

Aris Quartet
Filippo Gorini
Alexi Kenney

Fellowships

Amatis Trio
Timothy Ridout
Simone Rubino
Trio Sõra



Filippo Gorini
© Marco Borggreve

Award Winners

Aris Quartet

Anna Katharina Wildermuth *violin*

Noémi Zipperling *violin*

Caspar Vinzens *viola*

Lukas Sieber *cello*

Founded in Frankfurt-am-Main in 2009, the quartet has already captured the attention of major organisations around the world, including London's BBC Proms and Wigmore Hall, Hamburg's Elbphilharmonie, Philharmonie de Paris, Musikverein Wien, Concertgebouw Amsterdam and San Francisco Chamber Music Society, among others. Accolades include the Chamber Music Award of the Jürgen Ponto Foundation and no fewer than five awards at the ARD International Music Competition, plus selection for BBC New Generation Artists (2018-2020) and ECHO Rising Stars. Acclaimed recordings include Schubert's *Death and the Maiden* and Shostakovich's String Quartet No 8 with Deutschlandfunk (released Autumn 2018), while 2020 will see another collaboration with Deutschlandfunk (and BBC Radio 3) featuring works by Johannes Brahms.



Filippo Gorini piano

Since winning the First Prize and Audience Prize at the Telekom-Beethoven Competition in Bonn in 2015, Italian pianist Filippo Gorini (24) has enjoyed a steadily rising career. His concert appearances have drawn unanimous acclaim on many stages including the Berlin Konzerthaus, Hamburg Elbphilharmonie, Munich Herkulessaal, Leipzig Gewandhaus, Flagey Brussels and the Samsung Concert Hall in Seoul. His debut disc featuring Beethoven's *Diabelli* Variations, released in August 2017 on Alpha Classics, has garnered critical acclaim including a *Diapason d'Or* Award and 5-star reviews in *The Guardian*, *BBC Music Magazine* and *Le Monde*. His new CD featuring Beethoven's Piano Sonatas Op. 106 & 111 was released in January 2020. After graduating with honours from the Donizetti Conservatory in Bergamo and completing a postgraduate course at the Mozarteum University in Salzburg, Gorini continues his studies with Maria Grazia Bellocchio and Pavel Gililov, and is mentored by Alfred Brendel.

© Marco Borggreve

Alexi Kenney violin

Violinist Alexi Kenney (26) is a recipient of a 2016 Avery Fisher Career Grant and has performed as soloist with the California, Columbus, Detroit, Indianapolis, Oregon symphony orchestras, St. Paul and Lausanne chamber orchestras, and in recital at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, the Phillips Collection, Wigmore Hall and the Mecklenburg-Vorpommern Festival. He has been profiled by the *New York Times* and written for *The Strad*. He regularly performs as a chamber musician at Marlboro, Bridgehampton, ChamberFest Cleveland, Caramoor, Ravinia and Kronberg festivals and as a member of Lincoln Center's Bowers Program (formerly CMS 2). He has also served as Guest Concertmaster of both the Mahler Chamber Orchestra and the Pittsburgh Symphony. Born in Palo Alto, California, he studied at the New England Conservatory with Don Weilerstein and Miriam Fried.

Photo: © Crittani Creative

Fellowship Winners

Amatis Trio

Mengjie Han *piano*

Lea Hausmann *violin*

Samuel Shepherd *cello*

Only weeks after its formation in 2014, the Amatis Trio won the audience prize in Amsterdam's Grachtenfestival-Concours, followed by its debut at the Concertgebouw and selection for both BBC New Generation Artists (2016-18) and ECHO Rising Stars (2016-2018), the latter including its debut at the Concertgebouw. Performances in major concert halls across Europe include BBC Proms and Edinburgh International and Mecklenburg-Vorpommern festivals. As part of its mission to take projects to audiences less exposed to western music, the Trio has toured to Abu Dhabi and India where it performed in Mumbai's National Centre for the Performing Arts. Current residencies include the Irene R. Miller Piano Resident Trio at the University of Toronto's Faculty of Music in 2020 and Resident Chamber Ensemble at Cambridge University, Homerton College (2019/20).



Timothy Ridout *viola*

British violist Timothy Ridout (24), graduate of the Royal Academy of Music and Kronberg Academy, has already clocked up numerous solo engagements with Hamburg Symphony, Baden-Baden Philharmonie, Tonhalle Zürich, Orchestre de Lille, Salzburg Camerata, the Philharmonia, Chamber Orchestra of Europe, Tapiola Sinfonietta, Orchestre National Bordeaux and BBC Symphony. Festivals include Aspen USA, Lockenhaus, Heimbach, Kronberg, Heidelberger-Frühling and Montpelier. Collaborators include Steven Isserlis, Joshua Bell, Jeremy Denk, Quatuor Arod, Isabel Faust, Lars Vogt and Nicolas Altstaedt. Highlights in 2020 include returns to Wigmore Hall, Auditorium du Louvre and London's Southbank, participation in the Marlboro Music Academy (USA) and recitals in Japan. Further recognition includes 1st Prize in the Lionel Tertis Competition and selection by YCAT in 2016 and BBC New Generation Artists in 2019. He records for the Harmonia Mundi Nova series and for Claves.



© Kaupo Kikkas

Simone Rubino *percussion*

Italian percussionist, Simone Rubino (26) is part of a new era of classical music percussionists. He is committed to expanding the percussion repertoire, collaborating with composers such as Carlo Boccadoro, Avner Dorman, Adriano Gaglianello and Aziza Sadikova. As a soloist he has performed with the Wiener & Münchner Philharmoniker, Deutsches Symphonie Orchester Berlin, Symphonieorchester des Bayerischen Rundfunks, hr-Sinfonieorchester, SWR Symphonieorchester, Orchestra dell'Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia and others, alongside Mehta, Gimenó, Sokhiev, Tan Dun, Rouvali, Honeck, Joshua Weilerstein, Elim Chan and Francesco Angelico. Rubino is welcomed at such festivals as 'La Folle Journée' in France and Japan, Rheingau Musik Festival, Schwetzingen Festspiele, Schleswig-Holstein Musik Festival and Pfingstfestspiele in Baden-Baden. Prizes include 2014 ARD Music Competition winner and, at Lucerne Festival in 2016, the Crédit Suisse Young Artists Award.



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Fellowship Winners

Trio Sōra

Pauline Chenais *piano*

Clémence de Fourceville *violin*

Angèle Legasa *cello*

This all-female trio was founded in Paris in 2015 and soon established its own identity and sound. The Trio has performed in venues that include London's Wigmore Hall and Southbank Centre, Bonn's Beethoven Haus, Verbier Festival, Philharmonie de Paris, Auditorium du Louvre, 'La Folle Journée' and Festival d'Aix-en-Provence among many others. In Autumn 2020 it contributes to the celebration of Beethoven's 250th Anniversary and his life-affirming music with the release of its first CD of the complete Beethoven Piano Trios with Naïve Records. The ensemble has won numerous prizes including Special Prize at the 2018 Verbier Festival Academy, Parkhouse Award 2017 and HSBC Prize of the Académie du Festival d' Aix-en-Provence 2017. The Trio is in residence at the Fondation Singer-Polignac, Le Dimore del Quartetto, ProQuartet-CEMC and is supported by the Fondation Boubo-Music, the Günther Caspar Stiftung, Spedidam, the Swiss Life Foundation and Adami.



BBT Communities

Music Changing Lives

In 2019 **BBT Communities** announced its first grants to a range of international charities that, through music, make a real difference to the lives of disadvantaged communities.

The recipients were **City of London Sinfonia Wellbeing Through Music** and **Music as Therapy International** in the UK, **SONG Onlus - Sistema Lombardia** and **Sanitansamble** in Italy, and **MitMachMusik** in Germany.

Their projects are all progressing well – to the immense satisfaction of BBT Founder Ilaria Borletti Buitoni: “All these organisations recognise the power of music to transform; to not only teach music skills that generate feelings of pride, accomplishment and respite from challenging daily lives, but also to engender the sense of inclusion, friendship, communication and self-respect that comes from engaging in music-making as a group.”

The next awards will be announced in 2021.





Borletti-Buitoni Trust

Rewarding Musical Excellence

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