

## BIOGRAPHY

Born 1971 in Plovdiv, Bulgaria, **EUGENIY CHEVKENOV** started to study violin at age of 6, at 13 gave his first solo-recital and played as a soloist with an orchestra. At age 17 won 1st prizes at both National Violin Competition and National Chamber Music Competition. After studies in Sofia continued his education in Vienna, where still a student he played several years in Vienna Philharmonic and Vienna Staatsoper. Winner of numerous international awards he has given concerts as soloist and conductor in nearly 40 countries worldwide. In 2000 he was awarded Honor Citizenship of Austria for his extraordinary achievements as a musician. In the same year he became Professor at Gustav-Mahler Conservatory Vienna, 2012-14 deputy director. Since 2013 Professor at "Wiener Musikseminar", since 2014 at "Richard Wagner Conservatory" Vienna. Numerous master-classes in Europe, America and Asia, member of International juries at competitions. Since 2014 chairman of the Culture Committee of Vienna Economic Forum. Founder and music director of Ensemble Concertante Vienna.

**DR. DEVORINA GAMALOVA** graduated the State Academy of Music in Sofia, 'Hochschule für Musik' Dresden, Royal College of Music and GSMD in London and in 2008 was awarded a PhD degree at the University of West London. She worked as principal leader of a symphony orchestra in Saxon Germany and later moved to UK focusing on solo and chamber performance as well as devoting herself to teaching (currently at Trinity Laban and Birmingham Conservatories, at LCM and Goldsmiths). She has CD's, books, broadcasts and worked also as recitalist for Yehudi Menuhin's "Live Music Now!", which mission she transmits worldwide. Together with her piano partner Krassimir Taskov she is winner of the 'Crystal Lyre' award in 2013 for their recital "Eight strings and Piano".

**ALEXANDER SOMOV** was born in Sofia and studied at the National Music School with Stefan Rounevsky. At the age of 15, he made his concerto debuts in Bulgaria and Germany, recorded the Tchaikovsky Rococo variations and premiered Angel Escudero's Concierto de Espana on consecutive tours of Spain with the National Youth Orchestra. Winning several national competitions, Alexander also performed in Greece, Italy, Serbia and Israel. At the invitation of Professor Stefan Popov, he continued his studies at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama (London) where, in 1998, he became the first East-European recipient of the Gold Medal - Guildhall School's highest award, previously won by Jacqueline du Pre, Bryn Terfel and Tasmin Little. In 2006 Alexander Somov took up the position of Violoncelle Super Soliste of the Strasbourg Philharmonic Orchestra. He was the Principal cellist of Northern Sinfonia from 2000-06. An eclectic artist, he enjoys combining styles and expanding musical horizons whether performing with fellow co-founders of the Robertsau Buskers, in concert with Salonorkester Baden-Baden, or playing the guitar, gadulka or percussion in his spare time.

**JULITA FASSEVA**, born in Veliko Tarnovo, Bulgaria, moved at the age of 9 with her parents to Germany. She makes her first musical experience as a 6-year old in the class of Svetlana Arnoudova in Veliko Tarnovo. After a career as a cellist, at the age of 18, she changes the cello for the double bass. Julita obtains the orchestral diploma at the Hochschule für Musik und Darstellende Kunst in Frankfurt in the double bass class of Prof. Günter Klaus. While still a student, she was associated with leading German orchestras, among others, the "Symphonieorchester des Saarländischen Rundfunks", the "Rundfunkorchester des Bayerischen Rundfunks", the "Rundfunkorchester des Südwestfunks" and the orchestra of the Opera Frankfurt/Main. Since 1999 she is a member of the bass section of the Royal Flemish Philharmonic in Antwerp (Belgium). In addition to her orchestral work Julita is active in various national and international orchestras and ensembles such as the National Orchestra of Belgium, the Orchestre Philharmonique du Luxembourg, Ictus Ensemble, Spectra Ensemble, the Belgian Kammerphilharmonie and "Les Dissonances" in Paris. In 2010 she founded with her husband Dimitri Mestdag the chamber music festival "Arbanassi summer music"

Steinway Artist **SIMON CALLAGHAN** performs internationally as a soloist and chamber musician. His recent tours have taken him to Japan, Malaysia, Thailand and on two occasions to the Banff Centre in Canada. He has performed at all of the UK's major concert halls. 2016-17 will see Simon undertake concert tours in the UK, Austria, Germany, Holland and Switzerland. His interest in rarely-performed works has led to invitations to perform concerti by Françaix, Tippett and the first UK performance since 1946 of Medtner's 3rd Concerto. In 2016 he will make his debut concerto recording for Hyperion with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra and Martyn Brabbins. Simon puts great value on teaching and in 2016 will give regular masterclasses, lead a course at Benslow Music and continue his work as Head of Piano at the Ingenium Academy (Winchester). He is co-producer of MusicUpClose, a series that aims to introduce classical music to non-musicians and is also regularly invited to give lecture-recitals, presenting rarely-performed music to enthusiastic audiences, enhanced by extensive research and engaging introductions. In addition to his performing schedule, Callaghan is Director of Music at Conway Hall, where he oversees the longest-running chamber music series in Europe.

## NEXT AT CONWAY HALL

Sunday November 13th 2016

*Children's Workshop at 2:00pm*

**ALENA LUGOVKINA (FLAUTIST)**

Alena will take the children on a musical journey including familiar and not-so-familiar pieces.

*Main Recital at 6:30pm*

**LONDON FESTIVAL OF BULGARIAN**

**CULTURE: CONCERT 2**

**Dohnányi** Serenade for string trio Op. 10

**Smetana** Macbeth and the Witches

**Pancho Vladigerov** Bulgarian Rhapsody 'Vardar' Op. 16

**Brahms** Piano Quintet in F minor Op. 34

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CONWAY  
HALL  
SUNDAY  
CONCERTS

**Patrons** - Stephen Hough, Prunella Scales CBE, Roderick Swanston, Hiro Takenouchi and Timothy West CBE

**Artistic Director** - Simon Callaghan

Sunday November 6th 2016, 6:30pm

# LONDON FESTIVAL OF BULGARIAN CULTURE: CONCERT 1

VIOLIN  
VIOLA  
CELLO  
DOUBLE BASS  
PIANO

**EUGENIY CHEVKENOV**  
**DEVORINA GAMALOVA**  
**ALEXANDER SOMOV**  
**JULITA FASSEVA**  
**SIMON CALLAGHAN**



We are hugely grateful to the CAVATINA Chamber Music Trust for their support in providing free tickets for those aged 8-25

Conway Hall Sunday Concerts are an integral part of the charitable activities of Conway Hall. Conway Hall's registered charity name is Conway Hall Ethical Society (no. 1156033).

Please turn off all mobile phones and electronic devices. No recording and photographing allowed at any time.



## PROGRAMME

### **Joseph Haydn (1732-1809)**

TRIO IN G HOB. XV:25 'GYPSY' (1795)

I. Andante

II. Poco adagio, cantabile

III. Rondo a l'Ongarese: Presto



### **Frantisek Drdla (1868-1944)**

SOUVENIR & SERENADE IN A MAJOR (1904 & 1901)



### **Dobrinka Tabakova (1980-)**

REFLECTIVE - LIVELY - STRETTO (2002)



### **Fritz Kreisler (1875-1962)**

LA GITANA & SCHÖN ROSMARIN (1917 & 1910)



### **INTERVAL**

(15 mins)



### **Franz Schubert (1797-1828)**

QUINTET IN A D667 'TROUT' (1819)

I. Allegro vivace

II. Andante

III. Scherzo: Presto - Trio

IV. Theme: Andantino - Variations: Allegretto

V. Finale: Allegro giusto

## PROGRAMME NOTES

### **HAYDN TRIO IN G HOB. XV:25 'GYPSY' (1795)**

Acquainted with Hungarian folk music for much of his career, Haydn flavoured his Trio in G with various Gypsy folk characteristics. The Andante is a string of variations based on a stately theme introduced by the violin, transformed with many rhythmic, tonal and melodic twists and turns. The Poco Adagio shines a bright E major aura with tranquil, ornamented melodies in the piano and violin over a rich, stable bass line. The trio's 'Gypsy' energy comes to light in the Rondo as the ensemble plays around in zestful melodic gallops and theatrical tempo and tonal changes, before dashing seamlessly to the final cadence.



### **DRDLA SOUVENIR & SERENADE IN A MAJOR (1904 & 1901)**

Frantisek 'Franz' Drdla is a hidden treasure of Czech music. Concert violinist and composer of light Romantic music, his short violin pieces Souvenir and Serenade No. 1 in A are perhaps his best known works from his extensive catalogue of 'salon pieces', the popular music of 19th century Europe. His penchant for portamenti (slide from one note to another) is clearly conveyed in the yearning and joyful violin melodies of both Souvenir and Serenade, while influences of folk music traditions can be heard in the rhythmic and expressive freedom taken in his music.



### **DOBRINKA TABAKOVA REFLECTIVE - LIVELY - STRETTO (2002)**

British/Bulgarian composer Dobrinka Tabakova has garnered a considerable reputation winning numerous international awards for her rich, sensuous and original musical language, and has been commissioned by the Royal Philharmonic Society and BBC Radio 3. Insight for string trio features in her debut album String Paths. Traces of Pärt's holy minimalism blend with Tabakova's glowing string writing to coax a familiar yet no less compelling and refreshing sound world. When writing this piece, she was "most fascinated to explore string techniques transforming the trio sound to one of a completely different instrument (with suggestions of an accordion sound or brass fanfare)... The title is a reminder that aiming to visualise sound is one of the most satisfying experiences our imagination can give us through music."



### **KREISLER LA GITANA & SCHÖN ROSMARIN (1917 & 1910)**

While the Czech had Drdla, Austria-Hungary at that time had Friedrich 'Fritz' Kreisler to show off his boldly expressive and flamboyant performing and compositional style. Written after an 18th century Arabo-Spanish Gypsy song, La Gitana ('The Gypsy') shines a dazzling Romani spirit from the opening fiery melodies and chords to the valiant skipping rhythms, sparkling glissandi and exotic colours that dance away. Schön Rosemarin ("Lovely Rosemary") is equally infectious to the ears with its waltz-like pulse and skittish melodies, and is often played as an encore by solo violinists.



### **SCHUBERT QUINTET IN A D667 'TROUT' (1819)**

Schubert's 'Trout' Quintet is one of the most celebrated works of the chamber music repertoire. Based on the melody from his song Die Forelle ('The Trout'), its good-natured, light and elegant music has captured the imaginations of performers and audiences around the world. The young Austrian composer was spending the summer holidays in Steyr, Upper Austria. It was during this time when a wealthy patron named Sylvester Paumgartner, commissioned the quintet with a request to compose a set of variations (the fourth movement) on the melody in Die Forelle he most adored. With luxurious harmonies, rustic folk themes and compelling melodic narratives, the 'Trout' Quintet truly reflects the summer joy Schubert enjoyed, and draws listeners into the minds of one of the most wonderful storytellers in classical music.

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**Tonight's performance will finish at approximately 8:30pm.**