

Programme

Opening Fanfare "3 trumpets" by James Sexton

"Carmina Burana" (Movements 1, 4 & 2) by Carl Orff. Performed by Xaverian Choir, soloist Joshua Gordon

"Sonatine" by Maurice Ravel. Performed by Rachel Taverner

"Un Sospiro" by Franz Liszt. Performed by Rachel Taverner

"Nagoya Marimbas" by Steve Reich. Performed by Max Heaton & Elliott Gaston-Ross

"scammonden bridge" by Matthew Sergeant. Performed by Mike Cavanagh

"The Queen of the Night" by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Performed by Maureen Brathwaite

"Waltz in A flat, Op 34 No 1" by Frédéric Chopin. Performed by Andrew Wilde

~ Interval ~

Duet. Rabin & Owen Williams

"Gainsborough" Percussion Ensemble

"A Gershwin Fantasy". Performed by Emily McArthur

"Scherzo in B flat minor, Op 31" by Frédéric Chopin. Performed by Andrew Wilde

"Bei Männern welche Liebe fühlen's" duet from *The Magic Flute* by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.
Performed by Maureen Brathwaite & Joshua Gordon

Aria from "*La Bohème*" by Giacomo Puccini. Performed by Maureen Brathwaite

Xaverian college hymn. Performed by Xaverian chamber choir, directed by Leah Fogo,
arranged by Michael doherly.

"Flight of the Foo Birds?" Neal Hefti. Performed by Xaverian College Big Band. Callum Dewar director

"Superstition" Stevie Wonder. arr. Mike Tomaro. Performed by Xaverian College Big Band. Callum Dewar director

Spring Winter



featuring Andrew Wilde and Maureen Brathwaite
with Xaverian College for the Gettalife Project

Thursday 6th December, 2012

7.30pm

at RNCM Concert Hall

The Gettalife Project

The Gettalife Project works to enable skill and talent to become a livelihood that gives joy and self-respect. This unique concert brings together high-profile professional musicians and new talent, in a programme that is dramatic, diverse and of high quality.

The Performers

Maureen Brathwaite



Maureen Brathwaite studied at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama where she won the

Capital Radio Anna Instone Memorial Award and the Ian Fleming Award, which enabled her to continue her vocal studies in Florence. She was also a chosen Soliste de Radio France.

Andrew Wilde



Andrew Wilde has been described by Daniel Barenboim as “a major musical and pianistic talent”.

He studied with Ryszard Bakst at Chetham’s School of Music, Manchester and graduated with distinction from the Royal Northern College of Music.

Andrew has received top prizes at many international piano competitions including the Naumburg in New York (1987), Pozzoli in Seregno (1988), William Kapell in Maryland (1989), Dino Ciani in Milan (1990), and World Competition in London (1991). In 1985 he won First Prize and Special Prize at the Dudley International Piano Competition.

His concerto repertoire exceeds thirty works and he has performed these with major orchestras worldwide such as the London Philharmonic, Philharmonia, Royal Philharmonic, London Mozart Players, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, Bournemouth Symphony, Hallé, National Symphony Washington DC and Dallas Symphony.

Mike Cavanagh



Michael started playing the Baritone Horn at the age of 7. By the age of 15

he had toured Paris and Amsterdam with the Stockport Music Service and achieved Grade 8 distinction.

Aged 16, he reached the final of the BBC Radio 2 Young Brass Soloist of the Year Award, came 2nd in the British Open Slow Melody competition and became the Xaverian Young Musician of the Year in 2011.

Michael is currently Solo Baritone with the Marsden Silver Prize Band and the Stockport Schools Brass Band.

Rachel Taverner



Rachel is a pianist studying for a BMus (Hons) in her final year at the Royal Northern

College of Music. As a late starter she surprised everyone in completing grades 4 to 8 in little over a year just days after gaining her place at the RNCM.

She has taken part in various festivals, such as the Chopin Festival (2008) and many showcase recitals within the RNCM.

In 2011 she was awarded the honour of highly commended for accompaniment in the Alexander Young Prize. Rachel is also the founder of the Taverner Trio and Duo who have performed in recitals and competitions in and around Manchester, Southport and North Wales. The trio was given the opportunity to perform Stravinsky's 'A Soldier's Tale' in an evening Spotlight Recital at the RNCM.

Rachel hopes to further her studies with the piano after graduating, especially within the specialism of accompaniment and chamber music.

Andrew Levendis - Director of Music Xaverian College



Andrew Levendis’s passion for music started from an early age, spending many hours

playing Greek Cypriot folk songs on the violin with his grandfather, a renowned Greek Cypriot folk violinist. Andrew graduated from the RNCM after studying the violin under Richard Ireland. Now Director of Music at Xaverian College since 2000, with an undying passion for music and his students development, his motivation and dedication have developed a thriving, dynamic and diverse music department, now one of the leading A level music providers in the northwest. Andrew regularly performs in string quartets playing either viola or violin for orchestras as well as in Greek folk-bands.

Adam Taylor



Originally from Newcastle, Adam Taylor started playing the piano at the

age of eleven. After passing his grade 8 piano with distinction at the age of thirteen he studied privately with David Murray. During this time, Adam performed regularly in the North East of England as part of the Sage Gateshead Weekend School. Performances included concerti by Mozart and Rachmaninoff. At the age of

seventeen he was offered numerous scholarships to conservatoires in the UK, and chose to study at the Royal College of Music under Gordon Fergus-Thompson. Whilst studying in London, Adam had numerous recitals at venues including the Royal Overseas League, Victoria & Albert Museum and St. George Hanover Square. Recent appearances as a soloist have included venues such as Newcastle City Hall, The Bridgewater Hall and The Sage Gateshead. Since graduating from The Royal College of Music Adam has studied with the renowned Russian pianist and teacher, Dina Parakhina. Adam is very grateful for the generous support from the Kathleen Trust and Sammy Johnson Memorial Fund.

Joshua Gordon



Joshua Gordon has had a lifelong passion for music. He first started singing in his local church, (slowly) graduating from choir to solo performances.

With his roots in the time-honoured tradition of gospel music, Joshua has now sung solo in many public performances from weddings to corporate events. This is his first concert appearance.

His real passion for classical singing began while attending Xaverian college. At this sixth form college, he was inspired by his teacher, Andrew Levendis, who enabled him to see the depth and the art of classical

music. Winning a place by audition at the Junior RNCM, Joshua trained for two years under the guidance of Jeff Lawton who gave technical guidance and encouragement. Joshua is now studying at Trinity Laban Conservatoire for Music and Dance.

Junior RNCM



Every Saturday our students travel from as far afield as North Wales,

Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire and the Midlands to be part of our vibrant community, to study in a welcoming and stimulating environment, and to soak up the creative atmosphere of one of the world’s best conservatoires.

RNCM juniors study a personalised timetable including theory, composition, improvisation, musicianship and ensemble sessions and of course individual lessons on their first, second and sometimes even third study instruments. Our teaching staff are highly qualified and supportive and many are experienced performers with such ensembles as the Hallé Orchestra, the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra and the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra; many are also tutors at the senior college. This is an important link and Junior RNCM students are often invited to perform in RNCM festivals and concerts, as well as having the opportunity to regularly attend masterclasses with senior college students.

In addition to their work on Saturdays Junior RNCM students can be invited to perform in our busy external concert series. The juniors travel far and wide over the North West to perform in many venues as soloists and in chamber groups. Other performance opportunities include our termly performance days, formal and informal concerts as well as international exchange partnerships with the Junior Sibelius Academy, Helsinki and the Royal Irish Academy of Music, Dublin.

Owen Williams



Owen is from South Wales and studied at the Junior Royal Welsh College of Music until 2006. During

this time he was a member of the National Youth Orchestra of Wales. He then went on to study at the Royal Northern College of Music and graduated in 2010. He studied with Ian Wright, Paul Patrick, Liz Gillver and Dave Hassell. Whilst at college he won the Sabian Cymbal Scholarship in both 2009 & 2010. Owen is now based in Manchester as freelance percussion/drum kit player and works with the Halle Orchestra and BBC Philharmonic. He also works regularly for Yehudi Menuhin's charity 'Live Music Now' in a saxophone and percussion duo.

Owen started teaching Rabin in 2010. Rabin has always been a natural drummer and is quick to absorb new styles and music. Recently he has taken on the

task of learning tuned percussion to audition for Junior Royal Northern next year. Rabin continues to push himself and is now studying Grade 8 Drums.

Rabin Joseph



Rabin Joseph is a Year 11 pupil at Archbishop Temple School in Preston and a student of

Owen Williams. He has been playing the drum kit for 5 years and performs regularly in school as well as ATS Jazz and Concert Band. He had already been on three foreign tours. Rabin also plays with Lancashire Schools Jazz Orchestra and his church band and is working towards his Grade 8 drum kit, Silver Arts Award and GCSE Music.

He leads a samba group at a local primary school each week. This year he has performed the solo in a drum concerto with the concert band at Preston Guild Hall and returned in September to perform in the show 'Metropolis' as part of the Preston Guild celebrations.

Michael Doherty – Composer



Having worked as assistant composer to Gabriel Yared (The English Patient, Cold

Mountain) on several film and radio projects, Michael is now frequently in demand as a composer and orchestrator for

BBC Television. While doing this, he maintains his own compositional pursuits and writes for a variety of classical ensembles in the UK, Spain and Portugal. He also works regularly as an arranger for Irish and Australian bands. He has had his work performed by several of the world's leading ensembles including the Bratislava Philharmonic Orchestra, the RTE Vanbrugh String Quartet, the Liverpool Philharmonic's Ensemble 10/10 and the Apollo Saxophone Quartet. Michael has also worked as a composer and orchestrator in Spanish cinema over the past two years, scoring for films that have won awards at the Berlinale and San Sebastian film festivals.

Matthew Sergeant



A graduate of the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester, Matthew Sergeant's

music is frequently performed throughout the UK, continental Europe and the USA. His work has been commissioned and/or performed by leading international performers and ensembles including, the BBC Concert Orchestra, the BBC Singers, Birmingham Contemporary Music Group, Divertimento Ensemble (Italy), Ensemble 10/10, Ensemble Plus-Minus, EXAUDI, the London Symphony Orchestra and the Nieuw Ensemble (Netherlands).

Matthew's music has also featured at major international

festivals, including the BMIC Cutting Edge Series (London, UK), Festival Musica (Strasbourg, France) and HCMF (Huddersfield, UK). Matthew is also the recipient of a silver medal from London's Worshipful Company of Musicians and a former member of the SPMN Composers' Shortlist.

Now a member of teaching staff at the Royal Northern College of Music and the University of Huddersfield, Matthew is currently in the final stages of an AHRC fully-funded PhD at the latter institution, supervised by Bryn Harrison and Liza Lim. His music is available through University of York Music Press (UYMP).

Callum Dewar: Guitarist & Composer



Described by Classical Guitar Magazine as "clearly a name to remember",

Callum Dewar is currently in high demand as a performer, composer and teacher. Educated at St. Mary's Music School in Edinburgh, then subsequently at Manchester's Royal Northern College of Music, he has enjoyed a varied and successful career working with many of the country's leading figures in music.

As a performer he has played at many of the major concert halls in the U.K. including Edinburgh's Usher Hall, The Sage in Gateshead and Manchester's Bridgewater Hall, as well as having given several live broadcasts on both local and national radio he has been a

featured guest and performer on BBC Radio Scotland's "Classics Unwrapped". He has also had the pleasure of performing with many renowned musicians and ensembles ranging from the late Sir John Dankworth to the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra.

As a composer, his works have been broadcast on BBC Radio 3 and Classic FM, and are frequently played in concert across the U.K. and Europe. His music has also seen commercial success when it spent six weeks at number one on the U.K. Classical Music Charts when recorded by world-renowned guitarist Craig Ogden on his Brit Award nominated album "The Guitarist".

Also in demand as an educator, he has previously been invited as a guest speaker to the National University of Ireland where he has lectured and given master classes in composition. He has also given presentations to the Royal Northern College of Music Composition Department about composing for the guitar and currently holds teaching positions at Xaverian College, Manchester and the Sheffield Music Academy.

Leah Fogo



Leah Fogo is a freelance composer, lyricist and music teacher based in the North West. After

graduating from The Royal Northern College of Music in 2012 Leah founded the Top Note Arts Academy, providing music tuition to pupils of all ages.

As a composer, Leah has received commissions from a range of different ensembles including Sheffield Philharmonic Orchestra, RNCM Day of Song and RNCM Wind Ensemble. Her most recent project is Perception, a brand new musical for which she has written the book, music and lyrics. It was performed to high acclaim in association with the University of Manchester Musical Theatre Society in March 2012 and is currently being revised with plans for a second production in 2014.

As well as private tuition, Leah teaches music at Sacred Heart Primary School in Gorton and runs the Chamber Choir at Xaverian College. Leah is also a member of the Prestwich Amateur Dramatic and Operatic Society and has been involved in several productions including Jesus Christ Superstar and Jekyll and Hyde.

As well as treading the boards, Leah has enjoyed working as part of a creative team, as musical director and choreographer of several primary school productions.

The Music

Polaris Regina

– James Sexton

When writing Polaris Regina, I wanted to create a trumpet fanfare with a difference. I have tried to retain as many typical fanfare attributes as possible, but I wanted to approach the harmony in a very different way. The centre trumpet acts as a pivot point which the other two trumpets rotate around, creating the chords which quickly move between large, open chords to small clusters. I would like to say thank you to Karen Humphreys for asking me to write the piece, which I really enjoyed writing.

Nagoya Marimbas

– Steve Reich

Written in 1994 by minimalist composer Steve Reich for two players, Nagoya Marimbas reflects the style of some of the composer's earlier compositions from the 1960s and '70s. It features repeating patterns played on both marimbas, one or more beats out of phase, creating a series of two part unison canons. However, these patterns are more melodically developed, change frequently and each is usually repeated no more than three times, which is typical of Reich's more recent works.

Gainsborough

– Thomas Gauger

1st movement – Allegretto
Thomas Gauger's 'Gainsborough' is one of the most popular pieces for percussion ensemble ever written. It is a melodic piece written with a clear jazz influence based on the works of 18th century painter Thomas Gainsborough.

Sonatine (II. Mouvement de menuet)

– Maurice Ravel

Although the piece is titled 'Sonatine' rather than 'Sonata', this refers to the length of the piece and not to any simplicity, either in structure or technical difficulty. While this movement of the work is structurally based on the minuet, Ravel's use of accents and changes in tempo stop the movement from turning into a waltz. The Sonatine was written between 1903-05 and is often thought to be one of Ravel's defining works.

Un Sospiro

– Franz Liszt

This work is the final piece in a set of three Concert Etudes written between 1845-9. 'Un sospiro' is Italian for 'a sigh' and although this subtitle was not added by Liszt it is often how the work is referred to today. The work is technically complex and requires the passing of the melody between the two hands with a flowing accompaniment whilst it is interspersed with short cadenza passages requiring a delicate fingerwork. The impressionistic melody is one which the listener can easily recall.

Carmina Burana

– Carl Orff

Carl Orff is chiefly remembered for his far-reaching contribution to music education – his Orff-Schulwerk, published in 1930, and for his dramatic cantata, 'Carmina Burana', written in 1936. He became fascinated with the power of primitive rhythms and simple melodies. With 'Carmina Burana' he finally turned his back on

complex polyphony for a deliberately simplified style, characterised by its rhythmic energy and the repetition of short melodic phrases supported by elemental block harmonies.

The text of 'Carmina Burana' is a selection from a large collection of secular poems of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, preserved in a manuscript at the Bavarian monastery of Benediktbeuren. The poems are mostly in Latin, the international language of the day, though some are in old French or Middle High German and come from a wide variety of sources, extolling the delights of the senses, sexual love and wine being just two!

'Carmina Burana' was first performed at the Frankfurt Opera House. The work begins and ends with a powerful hymn to the goddess Fortuna, the Empress of the World, seen as a monstrous whirling wheel carrying its victims first to the heights, and then dashing them to the ground, a reminder of the uncertainty of fate in human affairs.

Xaverian College hymn

2012 is Xaverian College's 150th Anniversary. Michael Doherty, one of Xaverian's resident composers, arranged the college hymn for the chamber choir. Leah Fogo directs the chamber choir.

Chopin – Waltz opus 34

The waltz in A flat minor. Opus 34 was one of three waltzes composed by Frédéric Chopin 1834-1838 and was published as 'Valse Brillante'. The key signature modulates from major to minor evoking a dream-like effect before a coda brings the piece to an end.

Chopin– Scherzo

This piece, the Scherzo, No. 2 in B-flat minor, opus 31 was published in 1837 and dedicated to Countess Furstenstein. The beginning opens in B flat minor. However most of the work is written in D flat major or A major. The dance motif is decorated with the use of two arpeggiated pianissimo chords and an arpeggio section. Delicacy, romance and a lithe life combined with passion mark out this work.

'Bosh and Bosher'

– Rabin Joseph & Owen Williams

The word 'Bosh' is a technical term used by musicians when describing their drumming colleagues. 'Bosh and Bosher' is a piece for 2 drummers on multi percussion set-ups and is based around a style called 'New Orleans 2nd line'. The opening is an attention grabbing conversation between the 2 percussionists, which then moves into the repeating foundation rhythm of the 'New Orleans groove' based on the 'Cuban 3:2 clave'. This rhythm was taken to New Orleans through the music of the slaves. It has a carnival vibrancy and gives that new Orleans 'strut'!

'Flight of the Foo Birds?'

– Neal Hefti

'Flight of the Foo Birds' was originally recorded by the Count Basie Orchestra on what is arguably their most famous recording, 'The Atomic Mr. Basie'.

Hefti's writing helped create a more up-to-date sound for the band in the 1950s, and according to Miles Davis, If it weren't for Neal Hefti, the Basie Band wouldn't sound as good as it does!

“Superstition”

– Stevie Wonder

arr. Mike Tomaro

Written by Stevie Wonder in 1972, Superstition is one of his most well-loved and famous songs. Mike Tomaro's arrangement features that instantly recognisable Clavinet groove, Wonder's vocal line being divided between the horns and featured solos for Alto Saxophone and Trumpet.

scammonden bridge

– Matthew Sergeant

scammonden bridge is a brutal concrete structure situated over a motorway cutting in the peak district, near Huddersfield. At the time of writing it is the largest concrete arch bridge in the UK, with a span over 200m. Despite the modernism of the bridge's architecture lying in absolute contrast to its organic and rural surroundings, I have always found vistas of the bridge extremely impressive. My short piece, cast in two contrasting movements, seeks to integrate angular and more organic musical materials in a manner reminiscent of this landscape.

A Gershwin Fantasy

In 1924, when George teamed up with his older brother Ira, "the Gershwins" became the dominant Broadway songwriters. George Gershwin was asked by Paul Whiteman to write an original work for a concert of modern music to be presented at Aeolian Hall in New York on February 12, 1924.

With the solo clarinet's spine-tingling ascending scale, 'Rhapsody In Blue' caught the public's imagination and opened

a new era in American music. In 1926 'Porgy and Bess' (co-written with Heyward and Ira) Gershwin integrated unforgettable songs with dramatic incident drawn from DuBose Heyward's novel of the South Carolina Gullah culture.

'A Gershwin Fantasy2' was arranged by Ralph Martino for Dale Underwood, internationally recognised as one of today's foremost classical saxophonists. In 1993, Dale Underwood made his Carnegie Hall debut in a programme featuring Claude T. Smith's 'Fantasy' and 'A Gershwin Fantasy'.

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Andy Darbyshire

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