



## CAVATINA Chamber Music Trust

### NEWSLETTER

All the **CAVATINA** activities were buoyant during 2009. The number of School Concerts continued to grow at a remarkable rate. So did the **CAVATINA** Family Concerts. It is most gratifying to note that many of the attendees, children and their parents, have become regular concertgoers. The **CAVATINA** Ticket Scheme is now operational in 27 venues/music societies and festivals. Results are easily measurable – we keep paying more and more – and we are happy to do so. **CAVATINA** Linked Concerts (school events coinciding with concerts given in public venues by the same ensemble) are proving to be very fruitful in terms of attracting young audiences. This is a formula which we intend to develop further. The **CAVATINA** Ambassadors in Universities are doing a very creative and successful job. We are most grateful to them for the enthusiasm and dedication to **CAVATINA** in spite of the constant pressure of academic work which they have to undertake. We are also very grateful to the number of volunteers who share the workload with us in many ways. We would welcome other volunteer helpers to help **CAVATINA** to progress further. There is plenty of work and it is great fun.

*Simon Majaro*

### CAVATINA Ticket Scheme – Great News!

The **CAVATINA** Ticket Scheme has become a very potent tool in attracting young people to chamber music.

At the last count, 27 venues/music societies/festivals were affiliated to the Scheme. They cover most of the UK, ranging from St. Ives in the southwest to Durham in the north. The full list of these venues is shown on our website ([www.cavatina.net](http://www.cavatina.net)) and the number keeps growing constantly. The website also describes how venues can qualify for membership. From its inception, the arrangement was for young people aged 8-22 to have FREE access to chamber music concerts in these venues with **CAVATINA** paying a subsidy for every young person in this age group.

**CAVATINA** Trustees have now decided to increase the upper age limit to 25. This opens the door to post-graduates and all young people in this age range. Since the start of 2009, **CAVATINA** has sponsored free tickets for about 25 specially selected Wigmore Hall concerts given by some of the best musicians in the Master Series. A rolling list of these concerts can be found on our website on the **CONCERTS** page. One of the concerts given by the Quatuor Ébene, (one of the best young ensembles to emerge from France), proved that the **CAVATINA** dream is working. In the audience a large contingent of young faces could be seen. The whole atmosphere in the Hall was different. Even the applause at the end of each piece seemed younger, sometimes coupled with shrieks and whistles of delight reminiscent of pop festivals. It was lovely to watch the happy young faces at the end of the concert, even if one or two of the older brigade wondered if they had come to the right place. Messages and feedback, which give us much encouragement, are received constantly:

*Dear Simon and Pamela,*

*I'm just writing to say thank you for the Hagen Quartet concert at the Wigmore Hall last week. Were it not for Cavatina, I would not have heard the quartet play live, so I'm very, very grateful! Really enjoyed the Beethoven especially - so many interesting ideas!*

*All the best and hope to see you soon,*

*Grace (Cambridge student)*

From Canterbury Music Club (thanks to Prof. Grenville Hancox) we received the following glowing message:

*Thank you so much for telling us about the concert and thank Cavatina for offering FREE tickets. Without this both myself and quite a few of my friends would not have been able to afford to come to these wonderful concerts. The whole concert was sooooo Fab! Christmas came early for me!*

*Coral*

### CAVATINA Family Concert at Wigmore Hall, Saturday November 7 2009

This was a fun-filled concert with the Emperor String Quartet, who delivered a wonderfully imaginative programme of quartet music through the ages, with lots of participative opportunities for the young audience and their parents. Each quartet movement was wonderfully played after an introduction and then interactive activities after the music. For example the audience was asked to share their thoughts during the playing of the second (andante) movement from Schubert's Rosamunde Quartet; in what kind of film would Macmillan's String Quartet No 2 be used? For the

first movement of Beethoven's Opus 18 No 4, the task was to watch carefully what each musician was doing and how they worked together. Then a young member of the audience was invited on to the platform to direct the players to stop and start at any point of the music so that we could hear what it was like when some parts were missing. We heard how Little Tich, a music hall performer who lived a hundred years ago, inspired Stravinsky to write a very descriptive piece about his antics. Whilst the music was being played we saw fantastic original photos of Little Tich on a screen on the platform. We heard two movements of the mind-blowing string quartet by Ravel and learned to listen out for the repeated theme in the rondo section of Haydn's Opus 33 no 2 'The Joke'. At one point everyone in the audience joined in a four-part piece to emulate the separate activities of each member of a string quartet; singing, rubbing hands together, making a buzzing noise, clapping, pounding the chest and shouting 'pizzicato' all in rhythm! A big coordinated noise and a lot of fun! Altogether a huge success!

*Next concert at the Wigmore with the Carducci Quartet on December 4, 2010*

## Continued Success of our Family Concerts

The monthly family concerts at both Blackheath Halls and Swiss Cottage Library are now firmly established and proving very popular with large audiences at both venues. Here is a report of just one of the concerts at Swiss Cottage Library.

### *Brodowski Quartet at Swiss Cottage Library, Sunday January 10<sup>th</sup> 2010*



*Maestro Felix teaching conducting*



*Even adults gave it a try*



*Badke Quartet at Swiss Cottage Library*



*Everyone joining in*

It is especially difficult to devise a programme of chamber music to engage a room full of young children-many of them pre-school (and their parents) for a full 45 minutes. This the Brodowski quartet did on January 10<sup>th</sup> with great success. They pitched the level of music and games just right and had many children eagerly joining in with 'starting the music with a breath in'; conducting the quartet; bringing cards with the composers' names and the flag of his country to the music stand at the front; the cards, beautifully made, having been distributed at the start of the concert. In between, the quartet played some well chosen short pieces from quartets across time and from different countries. The children learned about 'piano', 'forte', 'pizzicato' and 'arco' and everyone joined in a four-part invention using those words with actions, and much else. It was well worth the effort on that cold wintry day coming on icy pavements in flurries of snow for adults as well as the children.

After the concert Pamela received this letter of appreciation from one family who had been present:

*'Hi there, just wanted to thank you so much for the fantastic chamber music concert at Swiss Cottage Library this past weekend! The Brodowski Quartet were fabulous and our two kids (aged 6 and 4 1/2 years old) loved the performance. When they came home, the kids were talking about how "the violin is the best instrument in the world" and "no, the cello is the best instrument in the world!" It was very cute! This is our third family concert at Swiss Cottage Library we've attended and we just think they are absolutely wonderful. We are telling all our friends about them! Please can you extend our appreciation to the organisers and the quartets (Brodowski, Sacconi, etc.) who take time out of their busy weekends to come play for the kids. It really means a lot to the kids (and to the parents, too)!'* See **CAVATINA** website for details and booking at both venues

## New University Ambassadors for **CAVATINA**



Julian Azkoul joined Grace Chatto as our second Cambridge University Ambassador in 2009. From an early age Julian, a violinist, exhibited a passion for music and performance. He keeps a busy concert schedule alongside his studies at King's College, Cambridge, performing as a soloist with orchestra, as first violin of the Halcyon String Quartet (formed when he was a student at Trinity College of Music) and alongside members of the Allegri String Quartet, as well as giving recitals with the pianist Thibaud Epp and with his father, guitarist Jad Azkoul. He travels regularly to perform in France, Switzerland, the US, and the Middle East. He is delighted to represent **CAVATINA** within Cambridge University and to further promote chamber music on its behalf.



Alisa Liubarskaya was chosen as **CAVATINA** Ambassador at Trinity College of Music following a talk given there by Tom Hancox, our very committed Ambassador in Oxford. Alisa received her early musical training at the Belarus State Music College in Minsk. She performed as a soloist with the Belarus State Symphony Orchestra and represented her country at International Festivals. She has also received prizes at Junior International competitions, including the Heran and Beethoven competitions in the Czech Republic. In 2006 Alisa was selected for the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra Scheme and awarded a scholarship to Manchester Music Festival in Vermont, USA. Since September 2007 Alisa is a scholarship student at the Trinity College of Music studying with Natalia Pavlutskaya.



Alice Murray is our new Ambassador at the Royal Academy of Music, where she is studying for an MA in performance having obtained her first degree at Trinity College of Music. She has performed as a soloist and is a keen chamber music player. Both she and her twin sister, violinist, Harriet, are members of the Massey Quartet and Gemini Trio (both formed when they were students at Trinity College of Music), with whom they have performed at the Handel House Museum, the Schumann Festival at Trinity College of Music, St Martin's in the Field and the Royal Festival Hall. She also plays in a cello ensemble and has toured with a piano quartet. She has recently performed at the Wigmore Hall as part of a chamber music festival celebrating Rostropovich's life. Alice participated in an identical twin project at the Dartington International Summer School working with composer Orlando Gough. She is delighted to be our ambassador at the Royal Academy.

Details of Holly Grant our Ambassador at Kings College, London/RAM, who has just joined us, will appear in the next newsletter.

## News from CAVATINA University Ambassadors

A CAVATINA Schubertiade took place on Friday 6 November in the Cambridge Union. CAVATINA Ambassadors, Julian Azkoul and Grace Chatto were joined by talented fellow students in a vivacious performance of Schubert's Quartettsatz and Octet at the Cambridge Union in November. The performance pulsed with life and adrenaline in the hands of the young players and was wildly applauded by the audience, most of whom were also students. The Union chamber proved the perfect setting for the Octet, being intimate enough to give a delightful authenticity to the chamber music, and large enough for the great dimensions of Schubert's immense Octet. CAVATINA is proud to report that chamber music is alive and kicking in Cambridge and looks set to gain greater support thanks to the efforts of our Ambassadors and their fellow students. We thank Julian Azkoul for organising the event.

Naomi Miller, one of our Ambassadors in Oxford, has set up a special CAVATINA page in Facebook. It already has about 250 'friends'. It is a well-used site and is spreading the news about local concerts.

## CAVATINA Chamber Music Competition, Trinity College, London



The 2009 CAVATINA Chamber Music Competition took place on Sunday May 17<sup>th</sup> and provided a lovely afternoon's entertainment for a large audience in Trinity College's Peacock Room. Three ensembles (a trio of flute, cello and piano, a string trio of violin, viola and cello and a piano trio) were the finalists. They played some interesting and exciting pieces, by Martinu, Dohnányi and Fauré, respectively. All performances were of an exceptionally high standard and impressed the adjudicators, Charles Owen, pianist and Sally Pendlebury, cellist, who gave especially detailed and helpful comments to the young players. The **Erdesz String Trio** (Tadasuke Iijima, violin, Yohei Nakajimi, viola and Joas Cardoso, cello, fourth fifth and sixth from the left in the

photograph) won the CAVATINA Prize and the audience prize went to the **Proust Piano Trio** (Fuensanta Zambrana, violin, Arturo Serna, cello and Mikako Sugamura, piano). The next Competition at Trinity College of Music will take place on May 23, 2010 at 2.30 pm in the Peacock Room. All are welcome.

## CAVATINA Intercollegiate String Quartet Competition at the Greenwich International String Quartet Festival



Trinity College staff achieved their long-time dream of holding a major string quartet Festival at the college in April 2009. It is the intention for this to take place every three years. The three days of the festival were packed from morning to late night with concerts, masterclasses, installations, competitions and talks at the highest possible level. Some of the UK's most accomplished groups, e.g. The Wihan, Allegri and Smith Quartets, gave inspiring performances and the large audiences proved the immense success of the festival, which was reported in glowing terms in the London Evening Standard! The Carducci and Wihan Quartets were in residence, sponsored by CAVATINA. The Intercollegiate String Quartet Competition, also sponsored by CAVATINA, attracted outstanding groups from all eight of the UK's leading conservatoires. The adjudicators,

Martin Lovett (cellist of the Amadeus Quartet), Adam Gatehouse (Radio 3) and Pamela Majoro had an enjoyable, but difficult task to choose a winning group. It was the **Kallisto Quartet** from the Royal College of Music (violins Joshua Burke and Faidon Miliadis, viola Natalia Czerska, cello Benjamin Havas) who received First Prize, with the **Halcyon Quartet** from Trinity College of Music (violins Julian Azkoul and Leslie Townsend, viola Laurie Collingwood, cello Seth Branum) taking the Audience Prize.

## The 2009 *CAVATINA* Friends' concert



The Wu Quartet (Qian Wu, violin; Mathieu Van Bellen, violin; Matthew Kettle, viola; Magda Pietraszewska, cello) were chosen by Pamela to give the *CAVATINA* Friends' concert on May 30<sup>th</sup> in the newly refurbished Netherhall House. Qian invited Georgy Pauk, her violin teacher, to the concert. He was most impressed by the outstanding performances of works by Schubert, Mozart and Brahms. Highly recommended by the Wihan Quartet, they have recently been enjoying much success. They were 'Quartet in Residence' at Repton School, where they gave concerts and masterclasses, and chosen by the Park Lane Group in May 2009 for the next concert series which took place in the Purcell Room in January 2010. Their first performance was given outstanding reviews in the National Press. They also won a Martin Music Scholarship Fund award from the Philharmonia Orchestra and were invited to be the 'orchestra' for the Conductors' course at the London Masterclasses in 2009.

**STOP PRESS:** a Friends' concert has been arranged for Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at 8pm at Netherhall House to be given by the up-and-coming Finzi Quartet, which consists of four delightful young ladies. More details to follow soon.

## New Patron for *CAVATINA*



Derek Aviss, Principal of Trinity College of Music, has kindly agreed to become a patron of *CAVATINA*. His career began in the diverse arena of the freelance performer. His 'cello playing found employment within the orchestral, musical theatre, early music, recording and chamber music worlds and he was particularly well-known as a member of the Ariosti Piano Trio and the Cantilena Soloists Ensemble. As a recitalist he performed at all the major British concert halls and festivals, often premiering compositions especially written for him. An early interest in music education led to his appointment as Professor of 'Cello and Chamber Music at Trinity College of Music. Within this role, Derek Aviss trained many talented young 'cellists who went on to hold positions with some of the world's leading symphony orchestras. He subsequently held posts at the College as Head of the String Faculty, Head of Performance Studies, Deputy Principal and Director before he was appointed Principal of Trinity College of Music and Joint Principal of Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance, in 2006.

Amongst his current Directorships, he is Company Secretary and a Director of Conservatoires UK. He is also a Vice-President of the Ernest Bloch Society. Derek Aviss holds an honorary fellowship of Trinity College, London and is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. His life-long interest in pedagogy and transformational learning led to his recent acceptance of the Chairmanship of the Academic Council of the Learning Skills Foundation.

## Simon's 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday Concert

At Netherhall House, on Thursday June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009 a very large group of Simon's relatives and personal friends were treated to a special concert given by the Wihan Quartet to celebrate Simon's birthday. The programme, chosen by Simon consisted of Haydn Op.54 No 1, Dvorak's Op.34 and to finish, his Cavatina Op.75a, a beautiful haunting melody known to all. Simon treated us to an amusing synopsis of his life, illustrated with a very enlarged photo of himself as a lovely chubby baby to start the proceedings. His grandson, Ben Pilgrim, gave an equally amusing tribute to his grandfather after the performance. Clearly Simon has passed on the gene for oratory! The reception, efficiently organized by his daughter, Nadine, followed-a great social event with Simon greeting everyone in his usual energetic and animated way-can you really be 80, Simon? A wonderful evening, enjoyed by all.

## Winner of the 2008/2009 post card design Competition



We warmly congratulate Noga Inspector, aged 10, of St Michael's Primary School, Highgate on winning our prize for the best picture out of all those submitted from all the schools where a *CAVATINA* concert was enjoyed this year.

## Meet our Trustees



*Pauline McAlpine, Simon Majaro, Marion Friend, Pamela Majaro, Huw Davies  
(Alan Rabin was unable to attend)*

## *CAVATINA* Chamber Music Trust

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