

The London Schubert Players

Invitation to Composers

A ground-breaking project for the European Commission – invites you to attend a remarkable musical journey.

As You Like It

An evening of carnivalesque effervescence, colour, instrumental dialogue, intense emotions, humour, piquanterie and folk tunes from the Balkans.

Presented by the London Schubert Players Trust and the Romanian Cultural Institute in London

**Thursday 8 July 2010 at 8pm
Romanian Cultural Institute, 1 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PH**

The event includes public workshops with Romanian composer Lucian Zbarcea, Serbian composer Ivan Božičević and American composer Rodney Waschka.

With the participation of the London Schubert Players, pianist Anda Anastasescu and guest pianists Eralys Fernandez (Cuba) and Lachezar Stankov (Bulgaria).

Presenter: Pianist and Project Director, Anda Anastasescu

Invitation to Composers is a unique, two-year project, funded by the European Cultural Fund, that encourages modern-day composers to write new works, inspired by celebrated musical ideas of the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries and enhanced by cultural elements from the composers' own indigenous heritage.

The Invitation to Composers workshops are musical journeys that combine performance with music analysis and give audiences the chance of interacting closely with the dialogue between composers and performers. They present a stimulating and informal opportunity to meet, work together and discuss ideas, aesthetics and experiences.

The London
Schubert Players
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As You Like It

Romanian Cultural Institute, Thursday 8 July 2010 at 8pm

London Schubert Players Septet

Programme

Saint-Saëns Septet Op. 65 in E flat

Lucian Zbarcea *A Lover's Promise* World Première

Ivan Božičević *Marittimo* World Première

Uberto Pieroni *Foglie d'autunno* World Première

Rodney Waschka II *Winter Concerto* World Première

With the participation of the London Schubert Players Septet

Violins Ivo Stankov and Lisa Oberg

Viola Ricardo Zwietisch

Cello Sebastian Millett

Double Bass Mihai Cretu

Trumpet James Woods-Davison

Piano Anda Anastasescu

Guest pianists Eralys Fernandez and Lachezar Stankov

About the composers:

Saint-Saëns (1835 -1921) was born in Paris and had one of the longest careers in music history, stretching from Beethoven's traditions to the modernism of the 20th century. In his lifetime he was acclaimed as a genius. He had been a child prodigy comparable to Mozart and remained a most conscientious performer (organist and pianist) until the end. At 86, he was still practising the piano every day and a short while before his death in Algeria, he played the piano part in the Septet in a concert in Paris. Sometimes labeled the French Mendelssohn, Saint-Saëns had a gift for mixing instrumental timbres and creating colourful textures.

Lucian Zbarcea (1983 -) was born in Bucharest, Romania. He studied piano and composition at the National University of Music and, following his graduation, was offered a scholarship by the Indonesian Government to study at the High Institute of Arts in Denpasar in Bali. Zbarcea won several important prizes in national competitions and some of his works are influenced by harmonic and rhythmic elements of traditional Indonesian music.

Ivan Božičević (1961 -) was born in Belgrade and graduated from the Belgrade Faculty of Music where he also obtained a Master's degree. He attended courses in Darmstadt and studied the organ at the Frankfurt Music Academy. He received numerous composition awards and he taught counterpoint, analysis and harmony at the Belgrade Faculty of Music and at the Academy of Arts in Novi Sad. He now lives in Croatia and is a founder member of the Split Society for Contemporary Music.

Uberto Pieroni (1952 -) was born in Correggio, Italy. He graduated from the Arigo Boito Music Academy in Parma with a degree in choral music and choir conducting. Later he attended courses in music analysis and composition with Franco Donatoni, Aldo Clementi, Witold Lutoslawsky and André La Porte. He won several international composition prizes and is president of the Città di Reggio Emilia Orchestra and Choir, and of the Ferruccio Tagliavini Cultural Association. Pieroni is head of the Information Laboratory at the Institute of Higher Music Studies in Reggio Emilia, where he also teaches recording techniques and music information technology.

Rodney Waschka II (1958) was born in Memphis, USA. He received his doctorate from the University of North Texas and also studied at the Institute of Sonology in the Netherlands Royal Conservatoire. He is a Professor of Arts Studies at North Carolina University where he teaches composition, computer music, and directs the Arts NOW Series. Waschka's works are recorded on American, Portuguese and Canadian labels and published by Borik Press and American Composers Editions. His music has been promoted worldwide by the National Endowment for the Arts, The North Carolina Arts Council, the Fundacion Valparaiso (Spain) and the Texas Composers' Forum.

More about Invitation to Composers

This visionary and educational project is the brainchild of concert pianist Anda Anastasescu, founder and artistic director of the London Schubert Players Chamber Orchestra.

'For 18 years, as a professional performing group we encountered difficulties in programming a number of great chamber works by Schubert, Mendelssohn, Saint-Saëns, Messiaen and Enescu – because they are each written for a specific instrumental combination for which no other noted composer has so far written. Additionally, we would like to perform interesting combinations which the standard European repertoire does not offer.

The motivation behind the project (to enrich the European chamber music repertoire for the sake of audiences and performers alike) has the potential for creating opportunities for many contemporary composers simultaneously. It also provides new challenges for composers and performers, and promotes cross-cultural dialogue between composers, musicians and the public.' (Anda Anastasescu)

The project is a partnership between the UK, France and Romania and over the next two years, concerts, seminars, workshops and conferences will take place in all three countries, with performances and presentations of the most inspired of the new works submitted to the project.

Each year of the project, composers are invited to respond to a selection of chamber music models to use as the inspirational basis for their new works.

2009 – 2010 Inspirational Musical Models

Quintet for Piano, Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass
(Schubert's Trout Quintet)

Septet for Trumpet, Piano and String Quintet
(Saint-Saëns' Septet)

Quartet for Violin, Clarinet, Cello, Piano
(Messiaen's Quatuor pour la fin du temps)

Concertante work for Solo Violin and Solo Piano with String
Quintet (Mendelssohn's Double Concerto)

2010 – 2011 Inspirational Musical Models

Chamber work for 12 Solo instruments (Enescu's Chamber
Symphony)

Chamber work for Voice, Piano and String Quintet (new
combination)

Concertante work for Piano four Hands and String Quintet
(new combination)

Concertante work for Solo Viola and Solo Piano with String
Quintet (new combination)

The 'call' for the first year of the project (2009-2010) resulted in a selection of 21 works from 11 different countries, which will be performed and discussed in Britain, France and Romania, November 2009-2010.

The second 'call' (2010-2011) has the deadline for submission of works by September 2010 and the selected works will be promoted November 2010-2011.

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