**I Musicanti Sunday 3rd June 2018 ‘Alexandra and the Russians’**

**Programme:**

Prokofiev (1891 – 1953) - Quintet in G minor Op. 39

Dmitri Smirnov (b.1948) - Dialogues in the Dark

Alexandra Harwood (b. - Ever After (world premiere)

Glinka (1804 – 1857) - Septet

**Musicians:**

Tomo Keller - VIOLIN

Fenella Humphreys - VIOLIN

Robert Smissen - VIOLA

Richard Harwood - CELLO

Leon Bosch - DOUBLE BASS

Phillip Nodel - OBOE

Leon Bosch - CLARINET

Julie Price - BASSOON

Sibylle Mahni - FRENCH HORN

**Biographies:**

**Tomo Keller**

**Tomo Keller** was born in Stuttgart in 1974, to German-Japanese musicians, and started playing the violin at the age of six. At ten years old he gave his first performances with orchestra. He studied at Vienna’s University for Music and Performing Arts and New York’s Juilliard School of Music.

Numerous top prizes and awards followed, at the Fritz Kreisler Competition, the Johannes Brahms Competition, and the German Music Competition Berlin where he was awarded the Grand Prize. He was also the first instrumentalist to receive the Aalto Stage Prize for young musicians.

He has since performed at major concert halls all around the world, most recently at the new Philharmonic Halls of Hamburg and Paris and has been invited both as soloist and chamber musician to music festivals such as the Schleswig-Holstein Musik Festival, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern Festspiele and Festival de Musica Manuel de Falla. He has also been a frequent guest on radio and television broadcasts on ARD, BBC, NHK and ORF.

As a soloist Tomo has performed with the Beethovenhalle Orchestra Bonn, St Petersburg Camerata, London Symphony Orchestra, Radio Symphony Orchestra Berlin and the Vienna Symphony Orchestra. Concert tours have led him all across Europe, as well as Russia, Asia, America and the Middle East.

Tomo Keller is a much sought-after orchestral leader, having led the London Symphony Orchestra as Assistant Leader from 2009-2015. In 2014 he became first concert master of the Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra. He has also appeared with more than 20 orchestras as guest leader all over Europe, the US and Asia. Tomo was appointed Leader of the Academy of St Martin in the Fields in December 2015.

Tomo’s recordings include solo works by Bach, Bartók and Ysaÿe, orchestral recordings including Stravinsky’s Apollon musagète with Sir John Eliot Gardiner/LSO, and Avant Gershwin with Patti Austin and the WDR Big Band, which was awarded a Grammy in 2008.

He has given violin, chamber music and orchestral masterclasses at all major London Music Colleges as well as at Yale university and numerous other schools in the US and the Far East.

Tomo Keller plays the 1709 ‘Crafoord’ Stradivarius violin, kindly made available to him by the Swedish Järnåker Foundation.

**Fenella Humphreys**

With playing described in the press as ‘alluring’, ‘mesmerising’ and ‘unforgettable’, violinist

Fenella Humphreys has performed widely around the globe and brings a rich depth of chamber music experience to I Musicanti. She was a member of the Lawson Trio has collaborated with artists including Alexander Baillie, Hariolf Schlichtig, Pekka Kuusisto and Martin Lovett, and is regularly invited to take part at the prestigious International Musicians’ Seminar at Prussia Cove by its director Steven Isserlis.

She is Konzertmaster of the Deutsche Kammerakademie and enjoys guest leading and

directing various ensembles in Europe.

As soloist, she made her first concerto recording for Dutton Epoch with the Royal Scottish

National Orchestra performing Christopher Wright’s violin concerto. She has broadcast for

various radio stations and recorded the Walton Concerto at the composer’s home for Canadian TV, at the invitation of the Walton Trust.

A number of eminent British composers have written works for Humphreys, both in her own

right and as part of the Lawson Trio, some of which appear on the CD she made with the

group. In 2014 she launched a project to commission and perform a series of works from

British composers as companions for the six solo sonatas and partitas by Bach.

Her formative training was with Sidney Griller, and later studied with Itzhak Rashkovsky, Ida

Bieler and David Takeno at the Purcell School, Guildhall School of Music and Drama, and the

Robert-Schumann- Hochschule in Düsseldorf. There she was awarded the highest attainable

marks both for the ‘;Diplom’ exam and the ‘Konzertexamen’ soloists’diploma.

Now, alongside her more conventional classical work, Humphreys can also be found playing

tango with the great Uruguayan bandoneonist, Héctor Ulises Passarella.

www.fenellahumphreys.com

**Robert Smissen**

A long-time colleague of Leon Bosch at the Academy of St Martin in the Fields, where he has

been principal viola for over 25 years.

He has often performed and recorded as soloist with the orchestra, notably as soloist in

Bosch’s 2013 album of double bass music by Dittersdorf (the composer wrote two works

featuring the instruments as unlikely but happy co-soloists).

He has been passionately involved with chamber music throughout his career - performing and recording with the Academy of St Martin in the Fields Chamber Ensemble and the Pro Arte piano quartet, as well as being a regular guest with the Brodsky and Allegri quartets. Recently, Robert has been invited by Julia Fischer to take part in her Julia Fischer and Friends chamber concerts.

Now widely respected as a violist, he was one of the earliest members of the

European Community Youth Orchestra and subsequently the Chamber Orchestra of Europe.

He was made principal viola of the Northern Sinfonia after leaving the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, where he studied with David Takeno. He has also been invited to play in the World Orchestra for Peace under Valery Gergiev.

Robert is especially interested in the repertoire for solo viola and future projects involve

recordings of solo works by Ernest Krenek and Miklos Rozsa.

**Richard Harwood**

Since his acclaimed concerto debut at the age of ten, the award-winning English cellist Richard Harwood has performed concertos and recitals in major venues throughout Europe, New Zealand and the Russian Federation.

A very active chamber musician, he has collaborated with numerous musicians of the highest international standing the Jerusalem and Endellion Quartets, Gidon Kremer, Yuri Bashmet, Olivier Charlier, Benjamin Schmid, Ilya Gringolts, Pekka Kuusisto, Vilde Frang, Chen Halevi, Julian Bliss, Martin Roscoe, Finghin Collins, Ashley Wass, Gottlieb Wallisch and Julius Drake, among others.

Richard has a passion for contemporary music and has premiered solo works written for him by Dominic Muldowney and Martin Butler. He has also worked with Philip Grange, giving the London premiere of his Nocturnal Image, and gave the European premiere of David Horne’s Zip with the composer at the piano.

Richard is regularly heard on the BBC, having made his Radio 3 debut at the age of 13 with a

live recording of the Elgar concerto, and has also given performances for Radio France, the

German station MDR and Radio New Zealand.

His discography includes a critically acclaimed debut disc for EMI Classics, recorded with

pianist Christoph Berner. In addition, Richard can be seen and heard in Phil Grabsky’s 2009 documentary In Search of Beethoven which received its theatrical premiere at the Barbican Theatre, London. It was broadcast on Sky Arts and shown in cinemas worldwide.

Richard plays a cello by Francesco Rugeri, dated 1692.

www.richardharwood.com

**Leon Bosch**

Leon Bosch is an internationally renowned classical double bass virtuoso. With over a dozen solo CDs to his name, he regularly commissions repertoire for the instrument, making recital and concerto appearances around the world.

He is professor of double bass at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance in London. But he also gives masterclasses in the US, Europe, South Africa and the Far East, and coaches young eastern European musicians at the I, Culture Orchestra in Poland and the young South Africans who make up the Miagi Orchestra. He also acts as a mentor for South African musicians worldwide.

Leon Bosch grew up in 1960s and 70s South Africa, the son of the political activist Jonas Fred Bosch – he himself spent time in a police cell for organising protests while at school. He left the apartheid regime there to come to study at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester after achieving the highest ever marks awarded for the B Mus performance examination by the University of Cape Town

Remaining in the UK – he is now a British citizen – he was soon appointed principal double bass with the acclaimed Academy of St Martin in the Fields. He left the post in 2014 to devote himself to his solo career, to teaching and to establishing his now thriving chamber ensemble, I Musicanti. He also conducts and has a passion for researching lost or forgotten music for double bass such as by the Catalan Josep Cervera and the Danish court musician, Franz Keyper.

Away from music, Leon Bosch is a regular runner of marathons and ultra-marathons (winning silver medal for his age group in the 2017 86-mile Ridgeway Challenge) and holds a master’s degree in intelligence and international relations from Salford University. ‘I’ve always had a very wide range of interests,’ he says. ‘For example, the thing I’m highest qualified for in my life is international relations, not music. But this is a part of who I am: I’m not just a musician, I’m a human being.’

www.leonbosch.com

**Philip Nodel**

Philip Nodel finished the Moscow Conservatory, where he studied with prominent oboe professor Alexey Utkin. From 2000 on he collaborated with many Russian orchestras and ensembles - Russian National Orchestra, National Philharmonic of Russia, Tchaikovsky Symphony Orchestra, Moscow Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra, Musica Viva Chamber Orchestra, Ensemble Hermitage and many others.

Musician performed with such famous musicians as Natalia Gutman, Eliso Virsaladze, Alexander Rudin, Valery Popov, Alexey Utkin. From 1999 he also started to play the baroque oboe and studied with Alfredo Bernardini, Marcel Ponseele and Ku Ebbinge.

In 2003 Philip Nodel became a founding member of the first Russian early instruments orchestra Pratum Integrum together with the producing company Essential music. During the last decade he has recorded around 20 CDs for the company Caro Mitis together with Pratum Integrum and also with Alexey Utkin and Ensemble Hermitage.

In 2006 Philip Nodel together with his colleagues, playing wind intruments founded the

ensemble ‘L’esprit du Vent’, that specializes on performing music written for wind instruments from 1700 to now. Philip Nodel played in many cities in Europe and USA as well as in Russia - St.-Petersburg, Novosibirsk, Petrozavodsk, Krasnoyarsk, Chita, Orenburg, Kaluga, Perm and Ufa. In many of these towns he also regularly gives master-classes and exhibitions of oboes and reed-making accessories.

Philip Nodel is teaching at the Moscow State Tchaikovsky Conservatory and also at the College and Music School under Moscow Conservatory. He also is one of the founders of the first Russian website about oboe and moderates the Internet oboe group, uniting more then 900 oboe players all over Russia.

In the last several years Philip Nodel has taken part as a Jury member in oboe competitions, he has closely collaborated with «I’Culture Orchestra» of Eastern Europe Partnership as an oboe tutor and has represented F.Lorée at the International Double Reed Society (IDRS).

Philip Nodel plays on a Lorée ROYAL oboe, and also an oboe d’amore and English horn by Lorée.

**Leon Bosch (Clarinet)**

Leon Bosch (born 1959) has been teaching Clarinet at Conservatorium Maastricht since 2008. In addition, he coaches students at various other academies of music. He studied Clarinet, E-flat Clarinet and Conducting at Conservatorium Maastricht. He started his musical career as a substitute at the Limburg Symphony Orchestra and later performed with orchestras such as the Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra, the WDR Symphony Orchestra in Cologne, and De Nederlandse Opera. Since 1989 he has been a solo clarinettist for the Netherlands Philharmonic Orchestra. As an orchestral musician, he has performed with countless famous conductors, musicians, and singers, and as a soloist with opera singers such as Vesselina Kasarova, Anna Bonitatibus, Nienke Oostenrijk, Charlotte Margiono, and Danielle de Niese.

He has also performed in various chamber ensembles and currently plays the clarinet with the Holland Wind Players, Ensemble Musica Rossi, Complesso Musicale Cartizze and Amsterdams Blazers Octet ‘008’. For many years he has been performing as a duo with pianist Ian Gaukroger. Leon Bosch has always been active as a conductor of wind ensembles, and regularly combines these with choruses and choirs, including the Royal Choir Society Mestreechter Staar. He also enjoys lighter genres, and has led a big band for some years. Currently, Leon Bosch is the principal conductor of the Philharmonisch Orkest Mozart in Amsterdam and Symfonisch Blaasorkest Heemstede, and the artistic director and

conductor of the Domstad Blazers Ensemble, a group of excellent amateur and professional wind instrumentalists founded over 30 years ago.

**Julie Price**

Julie Price began her career as Principal  Bassoonist in the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra in 1987. She joined the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House in 1990 and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in 1998.

The English Chamber Orchestra appointed her in 1994. She has been Principal bassoonist of ECO since then and co-Principal in the BBC Symphony Orchestra since 2001.

She studied at Manchester  University and the Royal Northern College of Music with Edward Warren and William Waterhouse, continuing her studies in Switzerland with Roger Birnstingl.

Julie is an experienced chamber musician and appears regularly as a soloist, particularly with the English Chamber Orchestra with whom she has recorded the Mozart Concerto and Elgar Romance.

She gives masterclasses regularly and has been on the teaching

staff at the Royal College of Music for many years.

**Sibylle Mahni**

Sibylle Mahni, a Swiss citizen was born in Sweden, moving to Germany at the age of seven. She began her musical studies at the age of four learning the piano which she pursued intensely until the age of 15 under the guidance of, amongst others, Prof.Karl-Heinz Kämmerling. With the piano and trumpet she soon won her first prizes at competitions, followed only a few years later by success as a hornist.

Performing with various youth orchestras and as an artist of the “Villa Musica” foundation, as well as being a scholarship holder from the German National Academic Foundation (Studienstiftung des Deutschen Volkes) were some of the highlights of Sibylle’s tertiary studies at the Frankfurt State Academy of Music and the Performing Arts (Hochschule für Musik und Darstellende Kunst Frankfurt am Main) under Professor Marie-Luise Neunecker. In 2002 she graduated with the post-graduate performance degree “Konzertexamen”.

Sibylle Mahni has had outstanding success at several highly renowned international competitions including the International Horn competition in Leeuwarden, The Netherlands, at the “Peter Damm Competition” in Iserlohn, Germany and at the ARD International Music Competition of the German national broadcaster in Munich (Internationaler

Musikwettbewerb der ARD). Following these achievements she has appeared as soloist with many leading orchestras including the Stuttgart Radio Symphony Orchestra, the Munich Symphony Orchestra, the International Bach Academy Stuttgart, the Württemberg Chamber Orchestra Heilbronn and the Britten Sinfonia. Sibylle has worked with leading conductors such as Oleg Caetani, Toshiyuki Kamioka and Helmuth Rilling. As an internationally recognized soloist she has appeared in Sweden, Switzerland, The Netherlands, Croatia, China and the USA to name a few.

Chamber music is an important passion of Sibylle Mahni which has led her to perform at such festivals as the chamber music festival ‘Spannungen’ in Heimbach, the Moritzburg Festival near Dresden, the Hitzacker Summer Music Festival and the Freiburg ‘Albert Konzerte’. Amongst Sibylle’s chamber music partners are prominent musicians such as Christian Tetzlaff, Isabelle van Keulen, Kirill Gerstein, Lars Vogt and Sharon Kam. She has taken part in the premiere of chamber works from Jörg Widmann, Brett Dean, Detlev Glanert and others. In 2014 Sibylle Mahni joined the Ma’alot-Quintett, one of the leading wind-ensembles in the world. Together with Thomas Duis and Laurent Albrecht Breuninger she regularly performs the duo- and trio-repertoire.

In October 2017 Sibylle will start to teach as professor for horn at the State Academy of Music Würzburg. In addition she lectures at numerous international master classes including the International Horn Symposium in Kalamazoo, Michigan, and the Jerusalem Music Academy.

**Alexandra Harwood**

Alexandra Harwood is a BAFTA Cymru award- winning film composer, whose films have screened worldwide.

Alexandra Harwood graduated from the Royal College of Music (Dip Mus), The Juilliard School (Mmus) and the National Film and Television School (MA).

Recent work include the upcoming *The Guernsey and Literary* *Potato Peel Pie Society,*Feature film, Dir. Mike Newell, starring Lily James and Tom Courtenay. (UK release April 20th 2018),  *The Escape*, Feature film, starring Gemma Arterton and Dominic Cooper, Dir. Dominic Savage (Release 2018), *Growing Up Wild*Feature Documentary for Disney, USA, *The Secret Life of Puppies and Kittens*, Television series for Channel 5, *Yeti or Not?*Feature Documentary for Chanel 4 and Animal Planet, *What a Performance-Pioneers of Popular Entertainment*– BBC4 Documentary Series, *Dancing in Circles*– BAFTA Cymru Best Short winner (2015),  ballet *Automatic Flesh*, for Rambert Dance Company, which was premiered at the QEH (2013), *A Celebration of Harry Potter*- for Warner Bros. Orlando USA, Z1 (Winner Best Short Film British Independent Film Awards 2014 and Locarno nomination 2013, Dir. Gabriel Gauchet), *Girlfriend in a Coma*- Documentary (BBC4 dir. Annalisa Piras), *No Man’s Land*(Winner Best International Documentary, Tehran Int. Short Film Festival, IDFA nomination and broadcast DN2 Denmark), *Kids Say*animation TV series broadcast in Hong Kong 2014, *The Substitute*- Cannes Film Festival (2015) and *NightDare*, (nominated for a Royal Television Society Awards, including best Sound and Music award (2015).

[www.alexharwood.com](http://www.alexharwood.com/)

**I Musicanti**

*“I Musicanti embodies the universally cherished ideal of total artistic freedom and unrestrained self-expression, and it aims to provide a home to creative and imaginative artists who share the ambition of realising this dream.”* **Leon Bosch**

A mixed instrument chamber ensemble, I Musicanti comprises some of the most experienced and respected musicians to be found in the UK, hand picked by the group’s artistic director, international double bass virtuoso Leon Bosch.

Under Bosch’s direction, I Musicanti comes together to present distinctive programmes with a particular emphasis on music that has been lost and found or simply overlooked: great works by unknown composers and unknown works by great composers.

Many of the ensemble’s projects are the result of Leon Bosch’s vivid curiosity and commitment, something for which he is well known as a double bassist. But the ensemble also provides a vehicle for its members to pursue their own artistic projects. And although the musicians of I Musicanti are all soloists in their own right, the group also collaborates with international performers of the highest calibre.

While I Musicanti works with prestigious venues to promote its concerts, its eye-catching programmes and the quality of performers add something unique to festivals and concert series.