

# Chamber Music in Highgate



The 2018 Highgate International Chamber Music Festival (HICMF), now in its seventh year, brings together outstanding chamber musicians from around the world for one week of music making in the heart of North London.

This year, the opening night of the festival sees in-demand cellist Sheku Kanneh-Mason joined by acclaimed musicians including violinist Alexander Sitkovetsky and Chi-chi Nwanoku for a varied programme including Schubert's beloved Trout Quintet. Other highlights of the 2018 festival include a celebration of Highgate poets with actor Simon Callow alongside music by Debussy and Elgar; Leonard Bernstein's Clarinet Sonata with Julian Bliss; and a performance of Schubert's Octet in F major with an all-star line-up led by Alina Ibragimova.

Concerts take place every evening, Tuesday 20 to Sunday 25 November at St Anne's and St Michael's Churches in Highgate.

New for 2018, audiences are invited to join the artists for a late-night series of short concerts, 'Sonatas by Candlelight', complete with mulled wine, mince pies and a truly festive atmosphere.

Founded in 2012, the festival has been committed to supporting music education and access in North London. It is continuing its 'Kids Go Free!' initiative which enables any paying adult to bring up to two children (16 and under) with them free of charge, and the 2018 programme includes pre-concert performances from the selected ensembles of HICMF's Ex-Animo Mentorship Scheme. The Scheme offers selected emerging chamber ensembles free tuition, performance opportunities and master-classes with leading artists such as Steven Isserlis.

As a new, integral element of the scheme, cellist and animator Matthew Sharp will be providing training sessions in communication, presentation

and workshop-building for the selected groups to help them successfully lead their own schools' workshops and concerts – which they will do in Haringey Primary Schools next year as part of HICMF's outreach work. Matthew Sharp also presents HICMF's Family Concert, which will take place at Highgate School's Dyne House Auditorium on Saturday 17 November, offering an inspiring and fun hour of music making for the whole family.

To buy tickets or for more information please visit [www.chambermusicfestival.co.uk](http://www.chambermusicfestival.co.uk).



EDWARD WEBB  
Julian Bliss

# HGS Sunday Chamber Concerts

This annual chamber concert series is taking place once more and started on October 21 and is continuing until the end of November. All the concerts are on Sunday afternoons and the venue for the first five concerts will be Fellowship followed by the final concert on November 25 at the Friends Meeting House.

The concerts last for about one hour and are followed by a complimentary glass of wine and a chance to chat to the performers. By the time this issue of Suburb News reaches you, the first concerts of the series will probably have taken place but there will still be others.

Artistic Director Deborah Calland, who lives on the Suburb, has organised another interesting and diverse series. On November 4 the distinguished pianist Piers Lane will be performing works by Bach, Chopin and Tchaikovsky on the new piano recently purchased



by Fellowship. On the following Sunday the Benyounes Quartet returns to play quartets by Brahms and Beethoven.

Then on November 18 there is a solo cello concert given by Alice Neary, and on November 25 the series concludes with a performance of the Dvorak String Quintet and the Debussy

quartet played by the well-known Piatti Quartet.

The series promises to be a feast of chamber music, which will lighten your hearts after the clocks go back in October. Anyone interested, who has not yet booked, should contact the box office on either [peter.falk@dsl.pipex.com](mailto:peter.falk@dsl.pipex.com) or 07973 541264.



Alice Neary (bottom, left) Piatti Quartet (above), Benyounes Quartet (below)



## The Neil Black Award concert

Some readers will remember Neil, a Suburb resident for 30 years, personally, while others might do so from having read his obituary notices in our Winter 2017 issue, SN129. Indeed for some Suburb residents Neil was, to quote, "a regular sight, standing in his bedroom window overlooking the path into Big Wood from Northway practising his oboe." Also described as, "a highly talented musician", and "a true gentleman", he was, during his distinguished career as an oboist, devoted to helping young musicians at the beginning of their careers.

A scholarship award for woodwind players as a recognition of his life and work was the idea of a friend, and is to be awarded annually to help with the pursuit of post-graduate studies in the UK and abroad. It is to be administered by the Countess of Munster Musical Trust.

The first recipient, Manou Rolland – fittingly, also an oboist – was born in London in 1996 to a musical British-Canadian family. Now, with the help of the Neil Black Award, Manou continues his studies with a post-graduate course at the Geneva Conservatoire, which is linked to the prestigious position of trainee with the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande. Manou declares that his aspiration is to become the best musician that he can possibly be.

The award has been made possible by the generosity of many donors and, of course, the fund-raising effort will be ongoing. As part of this, there will be a concert celebrating Neil's life and work at the Wigmore Hall on December 6, with all proceeds donated to the Neil Black Award.

The line-up for the concert is impressive; the renowned Endellion String Quartet; Jonathan Kelly, who is principal oboe of the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra; eminent baritone Roderick Williams have all kindly agreed to perform in this concert. Continuo in the Bach will be played by English Chamber Orchestra bassist Paul Sherman and Harry Lester on the chamber organ. All of these wonderful musicians were greatly admired friends of Neil.

Ticket from £25 to £45 can be purchased from [wigmore-hall.org.uk](http://wigmore-hall.org.uk) or by ringing 020 7935 2141. To find out more about the Award or to make a donation, please visit [www.munstertrust.org.uk/neil-black-award](http://www.munstertrust.org.uk/neil-black-award).



Award winner, Manou Rolland



Simon Callow



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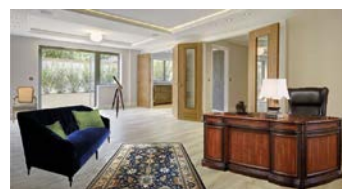
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