



PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

March 2006

London Chamber Music Festival: 6 – 9 June 2006
St Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square, London WC2N 4JJ

This June, St Martin-in-the-Fields presents the *London Chamber Music Festival*. From Tuesday 6 June to Friday 9 June the intimate candlelit setting of St Martin's will provide the backdrop for performances of some of the most popular works from the chamber music repertoire.

St Martin's superb acoustics are perfectly suited to the performance of chamber music and its position in the heart of London. Benefiting from excellent transport links and proximity to the bars and restaurants of the West End, including its own awarding winning Café in the Crypt, it makes for a perfect evening out.

On **Tuesday 6 June at 7.30pm** pianist **Bobby Chen** will perform a virtuoso programme including Chopin's *Etudes* and *Nocturnes*, Liszt's *Ballade No 2* and Beethoven's beautiful *Moonlight Sonata*:

Schubert - Sonata in A minor op 164
Debussy - Estampes
Beethoven - *Moonlight* Sonata op 27 No 2
Chopin - Nocturnes op 15
Chopin - Etudes op 26 Nos 1, 2 & op 10 No 12
Liszt - Ballade No 2

Tickets: £15 £12 £8

"Chen's touch was masterful, combining the solid, enviable technique of the Russian school with the assured elegance of his Claudio Arrau lineage...[the performance] demonstrated the amazing maturity he is capable of wielding."

The Straits Times, Singapore

"Chen is an amour-clad player of complete technique, a thinking musician, a natural Romantic."
International Piano

On **Thursday 8 June at 7.30pm** the **Sinistri Quartet** performs a programme of romantic masterpieces from the string quartet repertoire including Dvorak's folk-influenced *American Quartet* and Schubert's dark and brooding *Death and the Maiden*:

Dvořák - American Quartet
Puccini - Crisantemi
Schubert - Death and the Maiden

Tickets: £18 £15 £12 £8 £6

The festival comes to a close on **Friday 9 June at 7.30pm** when **London Concertante String Sextet** performs Tchaikovsky's dramatic and romantic *Souvenir de Florence* with Brahms' *Sextet No 2* and Strauss *Prelude to Capriccio*:

Strauss - Prelude to Capriccio
Brahms - Sextet No 2
Tchaikovsky - Souvenir de Florence

Tickets: £18 £15 £12 £8 £6

ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS

Quality musicians. Quite excellent...pursuing each new pulse with the unanimity of a shoal of fish. [They] play with tone as soft as velvet, bow strokes that really sing and a Romanticist's wide volume range."

Evening Standard

"played with silky-toned elegance....extraordinary unanimity. The London Concertante members, fine chamber musicians that they are, played with an uncanny clarity of texture...quite exquisite."

The Strad

Special London Chamber Music Festival Offers: Buy tickets for 2 concerts and get 15% discount; buy tickets for 3 concerts and get a 25% discount. To take advantage of these offers, please call the Box Office on 020 7839 8362 during the hours of 10am - 5pm, Monday - Saturday or come in person.

Concert tickets can be bought online at www.smitf.org or via the Box Office on 020 7839 8362.

ENDS

For further information, interviews or photography, please contact Quintilla Hughes on quintilla.hughes@smitf.org or 020 7766 1130.

Notes to Editors

- **St Martin-in-the-Fields**, with over 350 concerts a year, is one of the busiest music venues in the country. St Martin's concerts draw in visitors from all over the world who are attracted by St Martin's superb acoustics, intimate yet impressive surroundings and outstanding musicians. Concerts take place on some Tuesdays and every Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 7.30pm and include Early and Baroque Music, chamber and world music, song and piano recitals. For more information on St Martin-in-the-Fields go to www.smitf.org.
- Pianist **Bobby Chen** entered the Yehudi Menuhin School as a pupil of Ruth Nye in 1991. During his time at the School he participated in masterclasses with eminent pianists and teachers such as Fanny Waterman, John Lill, Charles Rosen, Rolf Hind, Nikolai Demidenko and Krystian Zimerman. Further masterclasses in Salzburg with Dimitri Bashkirev culminated in a solo recital at the Mozarteum. In 1996 Bobby Chen was selected as a soloist in a CD issue on the Classic FM label entitled 'Yehudi Menuhin's Young Virtuosi' and toured Britain with Lord Menuhin and the Warsaw Sinfonia performing Beethoven's Triple Concerto. 1997 saw an appearance at the Royal Festival Hall playing the 4th Prokofiev Sonata as part of the South Bank Prokofiev Festival.

In recent years Bobby Chen has travelled extensively giving recitals and concerto performances, not only in London, the Home Counties and Scotland, but also in Malaysia, Singapore and China. Following his concerto début in 1998 with the Singapore Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Lan Shui playing Rachmaninov's Paganini Variations, he received a further invitation to play Beethoven's 2nd Concerto in 2000. In October of 2000 he toured with Nicholas Daniel, the Britten Sinfonia and the Cavendish Singers as part of the John Lewis Partnership's Golden Jubilee Celebrations. Performances at this time included a two-recital event with the renowned Russian pianist Nikolai Demidenko and the honour of being the first Malaysian pianist to be invited to play in the concert hall at the Petronas Twin Towers in Kuala Lumpur with the Academy of St Martin in the Fields under Sir Neville Marriner, with Beethoven's Concerto no. 1. So successful was this concert that he was invited back to Malaysia to give two performances with the Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra of Rachmaninov's Concerto no. 4, plus further solo recitals in Kuching and Koto Kinabalu in May 2003. In January 2003, Bobby Chen made his début appearance at London's Wigmore Hall.

In his four years at the Royal Academy of Music, where he studied with Ruth Nye and graduated with First Class Honours, Bobby Chen won no fewer than eight coveted awards, including that for the best final recital. Other awards include a Yamaha European Foundation Scholarship, Royal Overseas League Prize and, most recently, he won the Musicians' Benevolent Fund Music Education Award for the academic year 2002/03, as well as inclusion in the Countess of Munster Musical Trust Recital Scheme. He is also currently supported by the John Lewis Partnership. His solo début recording on the Jaques Samuel label was followed by a further CD of virtuoso works with the cellist Leonid Gorokhov on the Cello Classics label, and a new solo disc of his Wigmore concert was recently released, again on the Jaques Samuel label.

- The **Sinistri Quartet** was formed in 2005 giving its debut recital at London's St Martin-in-the-Fields, and comprises four of the best talents in chamber music. Each of the players brings a huge wealth of chamber music experience to the quartet. After playing together in various ensembles for many years, the players found it impossible to resist the allure of the string quartet repertoire to which they bring their formidable combined talents as well as a unique already established musical rapport with each other and respect for one another - an unbeatable combination.

Adam Summerhayes - Violin

Adam Summerhayes is an internationally acclaimed soloist and chamber violinist as well as much sought after leader. His extensive catalogue of recordings for Meridian, Sarastra and CMG have received the highest international critical acclaim and he is renowned for his supreme virtuosic talent.

Emil Chakalov - Violin

Emil Chakalov is exciting young player. His training in Bulgaria and subsequently at the Guildhall in London has brought out his exceptional talent and his wonderful lyrical and sparkling playing has thrilled audiences at his chamber and concerto performances throughout Europe.

Matthew Quenby - Viola

Matthew Quenby has established his credentials as one of the country's finest violists with appearances as guest principal viola with the Philharmonia Orchestra, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and London Mozart Players. His supreme playing has graced concert platforms throughout the world.

Chris Grist - Cello

Chris Grist is undoubtedly one of the finest lyrical cellists in the UK. As principal cellist of the acclaimed chamber orchestra, London Concertante, he has performed to rapt audiences around the world and shown his virtuosic flair with the stunning gypsy tango band, ZUM.

- **London Concertante String Sextet** is the flagship ensemble of London Concertante, one of the finest chamber ensembles in London, and has been a permanent sextet since 2001. Its players are brought together through a shared passion for chamber music and the group has the rare ability to combine flexibility of instrumental grouping and consistently maintain superb artistic endeavour. Under the dynamic leadership of international recording artist, Adam Summerhayes, the ensemble thrives on inspired programming and the loyalty of some of the country's finest instrumentalists, giving around 100 concerts a year, performing for festivals, music clubs and at theatres. The ensemble enjoys an ever growing reputation for exciting and memorable performances, thanks to exceptional players, inspired programming of Artistic Director, Chris Grist, and the opportunity to tour with the most significant and demanding of chamber music masterpieces.

The sextet's performances and debut recording have received the highest critical acclaim and in 2006 they will be recording 3 new disks for the Toccata Classics label.

Adam Summerhayes and **Dania Alzapiedi** Violins

Matthew Quenby and **Nick Howson** Violas

Chris Grist and **Emma Denton** Cellos