

Alina Ibragimova (violin)



At the age of five, Alina Ibragimova entered the Moscow Gnesin Specialist School where she studied with Valentina Korolkova. By the age of six, she began her public appearances with distinguished orchestras, such as the Bolshoi Theatre Orchestra. She later studied at the Yehudi Menuhin School in the UK, where she had frequently worked with Lord Menuhin. Ibragimova has won several international competitions, but her solo career began to establish itself in 2002 when she won the London Symphony Orchestra Music Scholarship. She is a member of the BBC Radio 3 New Generation Artists scheme. Ibragimova has collaborated with renowned orchestras, such as the Radio-Sinfonie-Orchester Frankfurt and the Vienna Chamber Orchestra, and has appeared in major venues. She made her debut directing from the violin with the Kremerata Baltica in Salzburg Mozartwoche 2005, and has since frequently performed with Gidon Kremer, at the Salzburg, Verbier and MDR Musiksommer festivals, and Salle Pleyel in Paris. She has also directed Hartmann's *Concerto Funebre* with the Britten Sinfonia for her debut Hyperion Records CD.

Henning Kraggerud (violin)



The Norwegian violinist Henning Kraggerud is one of Scandinavia's most sought after artists. He studied with Camilla Wicks and Emanuel Hurwitz, and he is a recipient of Norway's prestigious "Grieg Prize". He performs as soloist with several leading orchestras, and is increasingly in demand as a performer and a director. In recent seasons, he has performed with eminent orchestras, including the Oslo Philharmonic, the St Petersburg Philharmonic, the Stockholm Radio, the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, the Royal Scottish National Orchestra and the BBC Symphony Orchestra. Kraggerud is also a committed chamber musician; he performs both on violin and on viola at major international festivals collaborating with renowned musicians such as Stephen Kovacevich, Kathryn Stott, Leif Ove Andsnes, Jeffrey Kahane, Truls Mørk and Martha Argerich. Kraggerud has recorded three critically acclaimed CDs for Naxos – Grieg Violin Sonatas, a set of Norwegian Pieces for violin and orchestra and the Sibelius and Sinding Violin Concerti with the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra. He has a teaching position at the Barratt-Due Music Conservatoire.

Jennifer Frautschi (violin)



Jennifer Frautschi is rapidly gaining acclaim as an adventurous performer with a wide-ranging repertoire. She studied at Harvard, the New England Conservatory of Music and The Juilliard School with Robert Mann. As the Chicago Tribune recently wrote, "the young violinist Jennifer Frautschi is molding a career with smart interpretations of both warhorses and rarities." Equally at home in the classic repertoire as well as twentieth and twenty-first century works, Frautschi has made a sensation with appearances as soloist with renowned orchestras, including the Los Angeles Philharmonic directed by Pierre Boulez, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and the Seattle Symphony Orchestra. Jennifer Frautschi has premiered important new works by Oliver Knussen, Krzysztof Penderecki and Michael Hersch, and she is a frequent guest at the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center. She also made debuts at a number of celebrated concert venues, including the Wigmore Hall, Salzburg Mozarteum, Amsterdam Concertgebouw and the Carnegie Hall, and she has been heard in recital at distinguished festivals, such as the Ravinia Festival. Her growing discography includes three widely-praised CDs for Artek and several discs for Naxos, including a Grammy-nominated recording of Schoenberg's *Concerto for String Quartet and Orchestra*, and the Stravinsky *Violin Concerto* with the Philharmonia Orchestra of London, both conducted by the legendary Robert Craft.

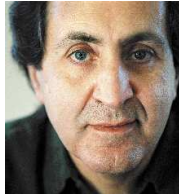
Ilya Gringolts (violin)



Winner of the 1998 International Violin Competition “Premio Paganini”, Ilya Gringolts was also awarded two special prizes for the youngest ever competitor to be placed in the final and the best interpreter of Paganini’s *Caprices*. Gringolts studied violin and composition at the St Petersburg Special Music School and at the Juilliard School in New York with Itzhak Perlman and the late Dorothy Delay. He was also one of twelve young artists selected by the BBC for their New Generation Artists Scheme.

Recent notable collaborations include the Chicago Symphony Orchestra with Daniel Barenboim, the UBS Verbier Orchestra with Kurt Masur and Mstislav Rostropovich, the Israel Philharmonic with Zubin Mehta, and the St Petersburg Philharmonic Orchestra with Yuri Temirkanov. His present and forthcoming solo engagements include the Orchestre de Venezuela and Mahler Chamber Orchestra with Claudio Abbado, the BBC Symphony Orchestra with Jiri Belohlavek and the Orquestra Sinfonica Portuguesa with David Parry. A Gramophone Award winner for his Taneyev Chamber Music CD for Deutsche Grammophon, Ilya Gringolts has an extended discography, and in addition to his three previous Deutsche Grammophon discs, he has recently recorded the Beethoven *Triple Concerto* with Claudio Abbado/Simon Bolivar and the Youth Orchestra of Venezuela for Deutsche Grammophon. He is also a Hyperion Artist, with a recent solo violin disc.

Levon Chilingirian (violin)



Cyprus-born Levon Chilingirian was introduced to music from a very early age. When the Chilingirian family immigrated to London in 1960, Levon concentrated on the violin, and studied at the Royal College of Music where he is now a professor. His career as a recitalist was launched by winning the first prize in the 1969 BBC Beethoven Competition, followed by the Munich Duo first prize in 1971. The same year he formed The Chilingirian Quartet

with three other ex-RCM students; the ensemble has become one of the most active and celebrated string quartets on the international scene with tours to fifty countries on six continents. Recently, Levon Chilingirian became the musical director of Camerata Roman, a talented Swedish string ensemble. He has received the Cobbett Medal, the Royal Philharmonic Society’s chamber music award and, in January 2000, an OBE in the Queen’s Honours List for his services to music. Together with Alex Chaushian, he is Artistic Director of the Pharos International Chamber Music Festival.

Anahit Kurtikyan (violin)



Armenian violinist Anahit Kurtikyan studied in Yerevan under Petros Haykazyan and Willi Mokatsyan, and later in Switzerland with the renowned Tibor Varga. Kurtikyan is a winner of numerous national competitions. As a member of Amati Quartet and Zurich Opera Orchestra, she has given concerts throughout Europe, the United States and Japan. Her orchestral experience includes collaborations with the Australian Chamber Orchestra with whom she has extensively toured Australia. An avid chamber musician, her partners include such names as Rudolph Buchbinder, Steven Isserlis, Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau, David Geringas, Diemut Poppen, Eduard Brunner, Paul Meyer and many others. Since 2001, Anahit Kurtikyan has been leading the second violin section of the Zurich Opera Orchestra, with whom she has appeared in over 80 productions, including those on period instruments. Anahit Kurtikyan plays a violin by Camillo Camilli, anno 1733, Mantua.

Diemut Popplen (viola)



One of the finest viola players of her generation, Diemut Poppen studied in Germany (Köln, Düsseldorf, Aachen, Berlin), USA and Paris. Among her teachers were some of the greatest viola players of her time: Yuri Bashmet, Kim Kashkashian, Bruno Giuranna, Peter Schidlof (Amadeus Quartet). Although Diemut Poppen is one of the very few musicians who did not build their career through competitions, she has been awarded several scholarships and prizes, among them the “Studienstiftung des Deutschen Volkes” and the renowned “European music price”. As a soloist, Diemut Poppen has appeared in important music centers all over the world including the Carnegie Hall, the Barbican, and the Mozarteum in Salzburg, and she has collaborated with notable musicians such as Heinz Holliger, Frans Brüggen, Claudio Abbado, Leonidas Kavakos and Viktor Tretyakov. She was, for 15 years, the principal viola and a founding member of The Chamber Orchestra of Europe. Currently, Diemut Poppen is holding the position of viola and chamber music professorship in Detmold, Germany. She is also a professor at the renowned Escuela di Reina Sofia in Madrid.

Yuri Zhislin (viola)



Born in 1974, Yuri Zhislin studied the violin at the Moscow Gnessin Music School for musically gifted children with Ms Svetlova and later at the Royal College of Music with his father, Grigori Zhislin and Dr Felix Andrievsky. Upon receiving his ARCM Diploma with Honours, Yuri Zhislin represented the College in concerts throughout Europe: Helsinki, Stockholm, Oslo, Madrid and Brussels. He is a Laureate and major prize-winner at various international competitions, and has appeared in major concert halls throughout the world, including the Wigmore Hall, the Queen Elizabeth Hall, the Purcell Room and the Concertgebouw. Zhislin gave recitals and performed with various orchestras throughout Europe, the USA, Australia and New Zealand, he has made a number of recordings and has appeared in live broadcasts. He is founder and Artistic Director of the Russian Virtuosi of Europe - an ensemble that brings together some of the finest Russian musicians who are now based in Western Europe, and he is Artistic Director of the Evaristo Valle International Music Festival in Spain. He is professor of violin at the Royal College of Music in London. Yuri Zhislin's debut recital CD featuring works for violin and viola was released on the SOMM Recordings label in 2005.

Christoph Richter (cello)



Christoph Richter studied with André Navarra and Pierre Fournier and has repeatedly collaborated with Sandor Végh at IMS Prussia Cove and in Salzburg. He has been a prize-winner at international competitions in Paris (Rostropovich) and Geneva, and was appointed professor at the Folkwang Hochschule in Essen. Former member of the Cherubini Quartet, Christoph Richter now plays with the Boccherini Cello Duo, the Capella Andrea Barca and the Heine Quartet. As a soloist, he performs with various leading orchestras, such as the Munich Philharmonic and the Czech Philharmonic. His strong interest in contemporary music has led him to collaborations with composers such as Penderecki, Kurtág, Henze, Lachenmann, Holliger and Widmann, and his regular chamber music partners include András Schiff and Heinz Holliger. He is a guest at festivals in Switzerland, Italy, England, USA, India, Japan and New Zealand and gives master-classes in England, Austria and Finland. Richter also teaches at the European Chamber Music Academy, since its foundation in 2004, as well as at the Guildhall School London, the Royal Academy London and the Menuhin Academy, Switzerland. He has made recordings for EMI, cpo, Wergo, Genuin and Tudor labels.

Alexander Chaushian (cello)



Alexander Chaushian studied at the Yehudi Menuhin School, the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London and at the Hochschule für Musik Hanns Eisler in Berlin. He has been the recipient of numerous awards, such as the first prize in the 1990 Premio Mozart Competition in Verona, the first prize in the International Music Competition in Holland in 1992, the third prize in the 12th International Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow, and the third prize and the special prize given by the Munich Chamber Orchestra at the Internationaler Musikwettbewerb der ARD in Germany. As a soloist, he has appeared with notable orchestras, including the Vienna Chamber Orchestra at Vienna's Konzerthaus and the Bruchnerhaus in Linz, the London Mozart Players and the Philharmonia Orchestra at Carnegie Hall. Chaushian has performed in major halls, such as the Wigmore Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Barbican and Suntory Hall in Japan. In 2006, he recorded Shostakovich's *Cello Sonata* for Performance Channel television, and made a recording of Wim Zwaag's *Cello Concerto* with the Nürnberger Symphoniker. His solo debut recording for the BIS label of Weinberg's *Sonatas*, in which he is partnered by Yevgeny Sudbin, was released in 2007. Since 2002, he has acted as artistic director of the Orpheus & Bacchus Festival in Bordeaux, France and of the Pharos International Chamber Music Festival in Cyprus.

Aram Talalyan (cello)



Aram Talalyan studied with Armen Mesropyan in Armenia, and received a Master's degree in Music and an Artist Diploma from Yale University, where he studied with D. Finch and A. Pariso. Prize-winner of numerous competitions, Talalyan has won the Markneukirchen International Competition in 1986, the All-Soviet Union Cello Competition in 1988, and the Yale University Competition in 1993. Between 1995 and 1997, he was Principal Cellist at the New West Symphony Orchestra, and a founding member of the Madison Festival of Music in Wisconsin. He is a frequent guest artist in various distinguished music festivals, such as Alaska's Fairbanks Summer Arts Festival. In 2000, he joined the Komitas Quartet, with whom he has toured over thirty countries. As a soloist, Talalyan appeared with prominent orchestras and international music groups. A renowned conductor, Aram Talalyan is also assistant professor of Chamber Music, Cello and Early Music Departments at the Yerevan Komitas State Conservatory.

Yevgeny Sudbin (piano)



Born in St Petersburg in 1980, Yevgeny Sudbin displayed exceptional musical talents from an early age. In 1987, he entered the specialist music school of the St Petersburg Conservatory, and in 1990, he continued his studies in Berlin. Subsequently, he moved to London, where he studied with Christopher Elton at the Royal Academy of Music. He additionally attended the International Piano Foundation at Lake Como in Italy. Sudbin has also received lessons from Murray Perahia, Claude Frank, Leon Fleisher, Stephen Hough, Alexander Satz, amongst others. Yevgeny Sudbin has performed extensively throughout the world – many of his performances have been broadcast on radio and television – and has appeared with several of the world's most distinguished orchestras, at venues such as the Musikhalle in Hamburg, the Salle Gaveau in Paris, the Sala Verdi in Milan and the Wigmore Hall. He is a frequent participant at the Verbier Festival in Switzerland where his most recent recital received enthusiastic reviews. Released in 2005, his début CD of Scarlatti Sonatas was met with an overwhelming critical acclaim and his subsequent recordings of Rachmaninov, Tchaikovsky and Medtner *First Piano Concertos* have resulted in the acknowledgment that Sudbin is one of the world's most exciting young pianists.

Alexander Ghindin (piano)



Russian pianist Alexander Ghindin graduated from the Moscow State P.I. Tchaikovsky Conservatory after completing master-class studies with Professor M.S. Voskrensky in 2001. Aged 13 he had already won the Moscow Young Pianists Competition, and at 14, he became the youngest ever winner at the 10th International Tchaikovsky Competition. In 2007, Alexander Ghindin won the first prize at the Cleveland International Competition in USA. During his ensuing solo and orchestral career, Ghindin has performed in his native Russia, as well as in Europe and Japan. The numerous ensembles and orchestras he has played with include the Cleveland Symphony Orchestra, the London and Munich Philharmonic Orchestras, the Swedish Royal Festival Orchestra and the Russian National Orchestra. He has collaborated with several conductors, including Fedosseyev, Simonov, Ashkenazy, Spivakov and Paavo Järvi. He has appeared in a number of distinguished venues, such as London's Barbican, the Averyfisher Hall in New York, the Kennedy Center in Washington, the Sumida Triphony Hall in Tokyo, the Palais des Beaux-Arts in Brussels, the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam and the Théâtre des Champs Elysees and Théâtre du Chatelet in Paris. Ghindin's fifteen CDs include a highly-acclaimed recording of Rachmaninoff's *Piano Concertos Nos 1 & 4* in their original versions with the Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra led by Vladimir Ashkenazy.

Ashley Wass (piano)



Described by Gramophone Magazine as a 'thoroughbred who possesses the enviable gift to turn almost anything he plays into pure gold', Ashley Wass is firmly established as one of the most sought-after performers of his generation. He was the second British pianist in 20 years to reach the finals of the Leeds Piano Competition in 2000, and the first British pianist ever to win first prize at the World Piano Competition in 1997. Ashley Wass studied at Chethams Music School and won a scholarship to the Royal Academy of Music to study with Christopher Elton and Hamish Milne. He has given recitals at most of the UK's major venues including the Wigmore Hall, the Purcell Room, LSO St. Luke's, Queen Elizabeth Hall and the Royal Festival Hall. He has collaborated with the Orchestre National de Lille, the Vienna Chamber Orchestra at the Vienna Konzerthaus, the Philharmonia Orchestra, as well as with Sir Simon Rattle and the CBSO, the BBC Symphony Orchestra and the London Mozart Players. Other notable engagements have included several return visits to the BBC Scottish Symphony and the Philharmonia, successful debuts with the Hong Kong Philharmonic, Bournemouth Symphony, and the BBC Symphony, and acclaimed debuts in Germany, France, Finland, Sweden, Portugal, Israel, Switzerland, the USA and Cuba. Ashley Wass made his debut recording in 1999 with a solo recital disc of works by César Franck for Naxos. His recent surveys of piano music by Bridge and Bax have been heralded as 'remarkable' and 'the yardstick against which all future recordings will be judged'. Volume One of his Bax series was elected as an 'Editor's Choice' CD in Gramophone Magazine and later nominated in the 'Best Instrumental Disc' category of the Gramophone Awards.

Chen Halevi (clarinet)



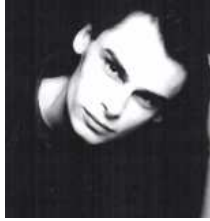
At the age of fifteen, clarinetist Chen Halevi made a sensational debut with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of Zubin Mehta. Since then, he has performed with several of the world's leading orchestras, including the Israel Philharmonic, the Tokyo Symphony Orchestra, the Heilbronn Chamber Orchestra, the Moscow Virtuosi, and the Deutsche Symphonie-Orchester Berlin. Halevi studied the clarinet with Yitzchak Kazap and Richard Lesser, and continued his music studies with Mordechai Rechtman and Chaim Taub. Nowadays, Chen Halevi is considered one of the world's leading virtuoso clarinetists, playing recitals, concertos, and chamber music with equal success. He is celebrated for his impressive repertoire range that goes from the most difficult contemporary music to playing early music on authentic 'period' instruments. His close ties with composers has led him to perform a great number of works by, amongst others, Berio, Kurtag, Lindberg, Golijov, Maresz, Jarrell, Ferneyhough, Stroppa, Mantovani and Ades. He is also the Clarinet Professor in the Trossingen Hochschule für Music in Germany, and since 2007, he is a Faculty member in the summer master classes at the Banff Centre. In 2007, Chen Halevi founded ClaRecords – a company that commissions, produces and records new pieces by today's leading composers as well as young and upcoming ones.

Radovan Vlatkovic (horn)



One of the most acclaimed horn players of his generation, Radovan Vlatkovic completed his studies with Prof. Prerad Deticek at the Zagreb Academy of Music and with Prof. Michael Höltzel at the Music Academy in Detmold (Germany). Prize-winner in several international competitions, including the ARD Competition in Munich in 1983 – the first to be awarded to a horn player for fourteen years, Vlatkovic has participated in numerous festivals throughout the world. Before embarking on a solo career, Vlatkovic held the post of Principal Horn with the Radio Symphonie Orchester Berlin for eight years. He has appeared with a number of prestigious symphony and chamber orchestras including the Symphonie Orchester der Bayer, the Rundfunks, Münchner Kammerorchester, the Berlin Radio Symphony Orchestra, the BBC Symphony Orchestra and the NHK Symphony in Japan, as well as the English Chamber Orchestra, the Academy of St. Martin in the Fields and the Camerata Accademica Salzburg. He has played world première performances of works by Elliot Carter, Sofia Gubaidulina, Heinz Holliger and Krisztof Penderecki. As chamber musician he performs regularly with Andràs Schiff, Heinz Holliger, Elmar Schmid and Klaus Thunemann, and he has collaborated with Vladimir Ashkenazy, Gidon Kremer, Aurèle Nicolet, Mtsilav Rostropovich and Kristian Zimermann. Vlatkovic has taken up the position of Professor at the renowned Mozarteum in Salzburg and the position of Professor "Cátedra Canon" at the Escuela Superior de Música Reina Sofia in Madrid. He has recorded for EMI, DECCA, Philips, Deutsche Grammophon and DENON. His numerous recordings include the Mozart and Strauss *Horn Concertos* with the English Chamber Orchestra conducted by Jeffrey Tate, and works by Saint-Saëns with the Ensemble Orchestre de Paris and Jean-Jacques Kantorow.

Markellos Chryssicopoulos (harpsichord)



Markellos Chryssicopoulos studied harpsichord with Margarita Dalmati at the Vignanelli School in Athens. Upon graduating with distinction and being awarded the first prize, he continued his studies in Paris with S. Romeo and O. Baumont, in Salzburg with K. Gilbert and S. Rampe and in Geneva with the late Ch. Jaccottet, of whom he was the last student. A founding member of the baroque group Ex Silentio and Latinitas Nostra, Markellos Chryssicopoulos appears regularly with the Camerata – Friends of Music Orchestra, The Athens National Orchestra, and at the National Opera House. He specializes in the continuo accompaniment of vocal music and is often engaged in the coaching and musical assistance in baroque operas, such as Händel's *Tamerlano* for the Athens Festival 2006 and Vivaldi's *Giustino* at the Athens Concert Hall 2007. Markellos Chryssicopoulos has participated as a musical assistant in the recordings of Händel's *Arianna in Creta* and *Tamerlano* for MDG recording company. He teaches harpsichord and baroque chamber music in Athens at the Athenaeum Conservatory, the Patras Municipal Conservatory and the summer academy in Pilion.

Romina Basso (mezzo-soprano)



Born in Gorizia, Romina Basso studied at the Venice Conservatory "B. Marcello" and obtained her degree in Italian Literature at Trieste University. She attended masterclasses with Peter Maag and Regina Resnik, Rockwell Blake and Cludio Desderi, Elio Battaglia and Claudio Strudthoff, specializing in Baroque music, but also in the bel canto repertoire of Rossini. Basso has won several national and international competitions, such as Rogger, Seghizzi, Palma d'Oro, Citta' di Conegliano, Modena Musica, Toti dal Monte, As.Li.Co. and Placido Domingo's Operalia. She appears regularly in major venues, such as the Wiener Konzerthaus in Austria, the Opéra de Bordeaux, the Barbican Centre, and the Palau de la Musica de Valencia in Spain. Her collaborations with renowned orchestras and chamber groups include the Concerto Italiano, the Europa Galante, the Venice Baroque Orchestra, the Modo Antiquo, the Orchestra of The Age of Enlightenment and the Müncher Rundfunkorchester. Basso has sung with prominent conductors such as Peter Maag, Marcello Viotti, Jordi Savall, Alan Curtis and Sir Charles Mackerras. She has recorded for Kikko classic, Bongiovanni, Mirare, Porpora's *Notturmi per i defunti* for Fuga&Ricerca, Vivaldi's *Moteczuma* and Händel's *Tolomeo* with Il Complesso Barocco conducted by Alan Curtis for Deutsche Grammophon, and Vivaldi's *Atenaide* with Modo Antiquo for Naive Classique.