



COLLEGE OF MUSIC

University of North Texas
College of Music

Guest Artist Lecture Recital | Saturday, October 22, 2022 | 3:00 pm | Recital Hall

Louise Lansdown, viola • Yujie Wang, viola
John Thwaites, piano
Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, United Kingdom

Cinderella No More: The English Viola Legacy

A lecture recital introducing some lesser known and magical music written by English composers for the viola. This lecture recital highlights a small amount of the repertoire that is part of an 8-part documentary. We are launching the first 4 episodes here in the United States during our visit. Our presentation includes works by William Flackton (1709–1798), Cecil Forsyth (1870–1941), Eric Coates (1886–1957), Lionel Tertis (1876–1975), John Ireland (1879–1962), Arthur Bliss (1891–1975), William Henry Reed (1876–1942) and Garth Knox (b. 1956)! We will also leave you with the links of the first 4 episodes.

- The name of this documentary honours the title of Lionel Tertis's original memoirs *Cinderella No More* published in 1953. Within a few years these were out of print. Tertis later published his autobiography *My Viola and I* in 1974.

- This documentary was filmed in November and December 2020 during the COVID-19 lockdown in Benjamin Britten's Library at The Red House in Aldeburgh, Suffolk.

One hundred forty-second program of the 2022–2023 season
Photography and videography are prohibited

about our guest artists

Professor **John Thwaites** is best known for his collaborative work with strings and as a founding member of the Primrose Piano Quartet. The Primrose have commissioned and recorded important new works by Sir Peter Maxwell Davies, Anthony Payne, Sally Beamish, Steve Goss and John Casken, and have recorded the earlier twentieth-century repertoire for Meridian, including a Five Star Choice for *Classic FM Magazine* of Frank Bridge and Herbert Howells. They have an annual Festival at West Meon.

He has worked over decades with cellists Alexander Baillie and Johannes Goritzki, and appeared with Pierre Doumenge, Louise Hopkins, Natalie Clein, Alexander Ivashkin, David Cohen, Oleg Kogan, Li Wei and others. Recordings with Alexander Baillie for the SOMM label include a Five Star Chamber Music Choice of the Month for *BBC Music Magazine*. He has played quintets with the Martinů, Maggini, Dante (their recording of the Lyapunov *Piano Sextet in B-flat minor* for the Dutton label was also a BBC Chamber Music Choice of the Month), Schidlof, Emperor and Aurea string quartets. Theatrical collaborations have included work with Simon Callow, Tony Britton and Tim Piggott-Smith, and he has also performed with Michael Collins, Thomas Riebl, Ian Bostridge, Toby Spence and Louise Winter.

His research focus is on Brahms (symbolism and allusion in the chamber music, and historically informed performance practice) and British Chamber Music. He has appeared in the major British and many international festivals, the major London concert halls, and on British and other radio and television channels, including BBC Radio Three Lunchtime broadcasts and appearances for "In Tune".

John's teaching career includes posts at Christ's Hospital, the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, the Guildhall School of Music and Drama and the Purcell School. He is course director of the Cadenza International Summer Music School, a piano and strings festival resident at the Purcell School, and head of Keyboard Studies at Birmingham Conservatoire, where he has directed major festivals of Ireland, Delius, Bax, Skryabin and Brahms as well as directing a celebrity-studded All Night Gala at Birmingham Town Hall.

Louise Lansdown was appointed head of strings at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire in 2012, after holding the position of senior lecturer in the School of Strings at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester from 2001–2012. Louise is the founder of the Cecil Aronowitz International Viola Competition and Festival, <https://www.bcu.ac.uk/conservatoire/events/calendar/cecil-aronowitz-viola-competition>, launched at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire in October 2014 as well as the founder and president of the British Viola Society, <https://www.britishviolasociety.co.uk/>. She is a trustee of the Quartet of Peace Trust, Lionel Tertis International Viola Competition, the Albion Quartet and directs a viola course at Blisland, Cornwall, as well as teaching on Cadenza and Quattro Corde. Louise, along with her viola students, is the founder of a major distance learning education project that the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire runs in collaboration with the Morris Isaacson Centre for Music in Soweto, South Africa called ARCO. The project was launched in July 2015 and was nominated for a guardian international award in 2018, <http://www.bcu.ac.uk/conservatoire/about-us/arco>. Louise and the ARCO Project currently financially support four of its Soweto students in full-time education, two cellists (UK) and a double bassist (SA). In February 2021, Louise launched ARCO India, a similar project providing 1:1 instrumental teaching for the Sunshine String Orchestra founded by A.R. Rahman in Chennai.

Louise plays on a French viola c.1750 and 1890 Sartory bow, both previously belonging to the South African violist Cecil Aronowitz. She has also recently acquired a beautiful viola made by Antoine Gourdon. Louise plays mostly chamber music and solo concerts, collaborating with violists and other musicians around the world. She commissions new music for the viola and concocts hairbrain schemes to perform music by Paul Hindemith and much unknown viola music, bringing the viola to many unsuspecting and innocent people. Louise was awarded a PhD from the University of Manchester in 2008 with a dissertation entitled "The Young Paul Hindemith: Life, Works, Influences and Music Activities until 1922." She is a member of the South African Ubuntu Ensemble. She is planning to record a solo CD of South African viola music by John Joubert, Hendrik Hofmeyr, Monthathi Masebe and others in 2022/23!

Chinese violist **Yujie Wang's** recent accolades include the Birmingham Philharmonic Orchestra Concerto Prize; 2nd prize in the Russian Young Musicians International Competition; semi-finalist and commendation in the Bromsgrove International Musician Competition; winner of the Global Musician League Competition and Royal Birmingham Conservatoire (RBC) Strings Prize. Yujie has performed as soloist in Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Bradshaw Hall and XingHai Symphony Hall.

She was lucky to perform the Hoffmeister *Viola Concerto in D* with Birmingham Philharmonic Orchestra in the Bradshaw Hall at RBC. Also, she has played with XingHai Music Conservatory Orchestra in Guangzhou, China.

Yujie was invited to Yellow Barn Young Artist Programme in June 2022, Morningside Music Bridge, Bravo Music Festival (USA), National Youth String Orchestra (principal violist) (UK), Bad Leonfelden Music Festival (Austria), Stellenbosch International Chamber Music Festival (South Africa), and Mendelssohn Festival (Germany).

She is currently a fourth-year student with a full scholarship at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire learning the viola with Dr. Louise Lansdown. Yujie studied at the Middle School and High School attached to Xinghai Conservatory of Music since she was 12 with Dr. Donglei Hou. During this time, she was honored to be invited in the first International Viola Teaching Seminar with Dr. Hou Donglei in the Central Conservatory of Music, Beijing, China.

As a passionate musician, she has been inspired by Robert Diaz, Nobuko Imai, Thomas Rieb, Garth Knox, Misha Amory, Nokuthula Ngwenyama, Steven Tenenbom, Teng Li, Jaime Amador, Li Sheng, and Shaowu Wang.