

**LONDON STRING QUARTET WEEK AND THE
TENTH INTERNATIONAL STRING QUARTET COMPETITION**
4th- 10th APRIL 06

"The London International String Quartet Competition is one of the world's great Competitions...As the Tenth Competition approaches, we see it, under Neville Abraham's guidance, flourishing as never before with a National Youth Competition, London String Quartet Week, commissions and master classes all appended to the International Competition...May this great Competition continue to flourish and bring many more outstanding ensembles to prominence in the international concert world"

William Lyne CBE AM, Director Emeritus, Wigmore Hall

Following his earlier announcement of London String Quartet Week 4th-10th April 2006, including its centrepiece, the prestigious Tenth London International String Quartet Competition 2006, Neville Abraham, Chairman of The London String Quartet Foundation, is delighted to present the detailed programme for the Week and to introduce the renowned members of the International Jury.

Now in its fourth year, the vibrant and dynamic London String Quartet Week is organised by the London String Quartet Foundation whose mission is to promote the discovery and development of talent and audiences for the string quartet. As well as staging the Tenth London International String Quartet Competition in partnership with BBC Radio 3, EMI, The Guardian, The Royal Academy of Music and Wigmore Hall, London String Quartet Week 2006 will offer the public a unique chance to attend a lively mix of concerts, recitals, master-classes and lectures at a range of venues around London. The depth and variety of activities available during the Week is without parallel and demonstrates ever wider appeal.

The highlight of the Week is the **Tenth London International String Quartet Competition 2006**. Originally the brainchild of Yehudi Menuhin, the Competition is held every three years and is considered by many to be the most eminent of its kind in the world. During the first four days of the Week, each competing quartet will play two recitals for the audience and the International Jury. Six or seven quartets will be chosen to go through to the semi-finals on 8th April 2006 at Wigmore Hall, narrowing down to three or four quartets that will compete in the Final on 9th April 2006, also at Wigmore Hall. The announcement of the winning quartet and the prize-giving will take place immediately after the concert. Competing quartets are: The Asasello Quartet (Germany); The Bronte Quartet (UK); The Carducci String Quartet (UK); The Enso String Quartet (USA); The Formosa Quartet (USA/Taiwan); The Lloyd Carr-Harris String Quartet (Canada); The Nador Quartet (Hungary); The Navarra Quartet (UK); The Pavao String Quartet (UK); The Zemlinsky Quartet (Czech Republic); The Quatuor Modigliani (France); The Sacconi Quartet (UK); The TinAlley String Quartet (Australia).

The select **International Jury** consists of Josef Kluson (viola, Prazek Quartet, Czech Republic); Martin Lovett OBE (cello, Amadeus Quartet, UK); Eckart Runge (cello, Artemis Quartet, Germany); Peter Salaff (violin, Cleveland Quartet, USA); Are Sandbakken (viola, Oslo String Quartet, Norway); Kazuki Sawa (violin, Sawa Quartet, Japan); John Fraser (Director, Recorded Productions, EMI Classics, UK); Annette Mangold (Director of Artistic Planning, Vienna Konzerthaus, Austria) and Georges Zeisel (Director, ProQuartet, France). The jury will also participate in some of discussions and talks and will give private feedback sessions to the competitors afterwards.

During **London String Quartet Week**, there will be eight free lunchtime recitals by competing quartets in some of London's most beautiful churches; master classes full of invaluable tips and advice lead by Gabor Takacs-Nagy (violinist and founder member of The Takacs Quartet), Ioan Davies (cellist and Director of Music, Pro Corda) and Simon Rowland-Jones (violinist and founder member of The Chilingirian Quartet); illustrated talks by leading experts in the field such as John Gilhooley, Director of Wigmore Hall; Eckart Runge, International Jury member; David Rattray, Instrumental Custodian to the Royal Academy of Music; popular BBC Radio 3 broadcaster, Rob Cowan and Mark Messenger, Head of Strings at the Royal College of Music. In addition, children from local schools will be invited to compose and create a new work during the Week that they will then perform alongside the acclaimed Belcea Quartet. A marketplace will allow publishers, instrument makers and dealers and chamber music promoters to exhibit in the Royal Academy of Music between events.

Neville Abraham commented: *"The Week features 44 performances by 52 talented musicians of many of the most intimate and inspirational masterpieces in the repertoire. I am certain that musicians and members of the public alike will find the Week a most rewarding and enjoyable experience"*.

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