



Press Release

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Encore: Chamber Music launches

Discover afresh lost chamber works by living British composers...

- **Anthony Payne's *String Quartet No.1***
Tippett Quartet
Thursday 23 June, Village Underground, London E1
Spitalfields Music Summer Festival
- **Robert Saxton's *A Yardstick to the Stars***
Cheltenham Festival Academy Soloists,
Thursday 30 June, Parabola Arts Centre,
Cheltenham Music Festival
- **New prize for student composers launched**

23 years after its premiere, a performance of **Anthony Payne's *String Quartet No.1*** by the **Tippett Quartet** launches *Encore: Chamber Music* * the Royal Philharmonic Society and BBC Radio 3's ambitious project to discover the great 'lost' chamber works of recent times (Thursday 23 June, Village Underground, London E1 – part of Spitalfields Music Summer Festival). The work is one of 12 chosen by a distinguished jury to be played by leading UK ensembles over the next two years.

While the world premiere of a new piece of music is often the focus of media attention and heightened expectation, only repeated hearings can bring out the depth and detail that will ensure a work's place in the repertoire. Funding is rarely available for subsequent performances and all too often works of real musical worth disappear from view. *Encore: Chamber Music* seeks to redress this balance and features works by some of the UK's most celebrated composers, with **every work broadcast on BBC Radio 3** and special *Encore* events, masterclasses and talks shedding new light on the works.

Anthony Payne's *String Quartet No. 1* at Spitalfields Music Summer Festival

Anthony Payne's *String Quartet No. 1* was first performed by the Chilingirian Quartet on 4 December 1978 as part of a BBC lunchtime concert at St John's Smith Square. Payne's complex score ebbs and flows, from forceful to lyrical, forward-moving and turbulent to atmospherically harmonic. Anthony Payne, in his 75th birthday year, discusses the work with Telegraph music critic **Ivan Hewett** in a pre-concert event (6.00pm, Village Underground). Anthony Payne also leads a masterclass for master's students at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, comparing his first string quartet with his most recent, written in 2010, and examining the genre as a whole (11am-1pm, Thursday 23 June). The **Tippett Quartet** with presenter **Sam Glazer** also explore the work in an interactive performance as part of Spitalfields Music's Neighbourhood Schools programme (19 July).

BBC Radio 3's *Hear and Now* will broadcast the quartet on 6 August as part of a 75th birthday tribute to Anthony Payne.

Robert Saxton's *A Yardstick to the Stars* at Cheltenham Festival

A week later, *Encore* moves to Cheltenham Festival for a performance by the Cheltenham Festival Academy Soloists of Robert Saxton's 1995 piano quintet ***A Yardstick to the Stars* (Thursday 30 June, Parabola Arts Centre)**. The work, originally dedicated to Amelia Freedman and the Nash Ensemble, explores the proportional relationship between time and distance, taking inspiration from the elliptical orbits of the planets. Robert Saxton and current RPS Composition Prize winner **Charlotte Bray**, whose new work, *Replay*, commissioned by the RPS, receives its world premiere as part of the programme, discuss their music and the influence of mathematics on composition in a pre-concert talk (8pm). Robert Saxton also leads a masterclass for composition students from the universities of Cardiff, Oxford, Birmingham, Bristol and Birmingham Conservatoire (3pm-6pm).

BBC Radio 3 will broadcast the work in *Hear and Now* on 16 July.

New prize for student composers launched

A Yardstick to the Stars also provides the inspiration for a special *Encore* composition prize for young composers. **Composers aged 25** and under are invited to write a piano miniature inspired by Saxton's work. The winning piece will be performed at this year's Cheltenham Festival by **Huw Watkins**, who will judge the competition alongside Robert Saxton.

Further details of the **£500 prize** in the 'news' section at www.royalphilharmonicsociety.org.uk.
Closing date for entries: **Monday 13 June.**

Encore: Chamber works continues in the Autumn with performances of works by **Anthony Gilbert** and **Gary Carpenter** performed by **Psappha** and **Ensemble 10/10**.

Encore is supported by the **PRS for Music Foundation**, **The Mercers' Company**, **The D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust** and the **Idlewild Trust**.

FURTHER PRESS INFORMATION FROM:

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www.royalphilharmonicsociety.org.uk



* *Encore: Chamber Music* follows on from a successful project, launched five years ago by the **Royal Philharmonic Society** and **BBC Radio 3** that set out to rediscover significant, unjustly overlooked orchestral works by living British composers. *Encore: Orchestral Works* gave a new hearing to works by Simon Bainbridge, Judith Bingham, Diana Burrell, John Casken, James Dillon, Michael Finnissy, Alexander Goehr, Jonathan Lloyd, Steve Martland, Colin Matthews, George Newson, Nigel Osborne, Giles Swayne and Hugh Wood.

Encore: Chamber Music

Full list of works

Composer	Name of Work	Written	Last performance
Gary Carpenter	<i>Azaleas</i>	2004	2005
Philip Cashian	<i>String Quartet</i>	1988	1996
Brian Ferneyhough	<i>Prometheus</i>	1967	2003
Cheryl Frances-Hoad	<i>Memoria</i>	2002	2002
Anthony Gilbert	<i>Nine or Ten Osannas</i>	1967	1987
Philip Neil Martin	<i>An Outburst of Time</i>	2004	2005
David Matthews	<i>String Quartet No. 3</i>	1980	1994
Anthony Payne	<i>String Quartet</i>	1978	1978
Geoffrey Poole	<i>Harmonice Mundi</i>	1982	1982
Robert Saxton	<i>A Yardstick to the Stars</i>	1995	-
Giles Swayne	<i>String Quartet No. 3</i>	1993	-
Hugh Wood	<i>String Quartet No. 4</i>	1993	2002

Encore: Chamber Music

Listings – June 2011

Spitalfields Music Summer Festival

Thursday 23 June at 7.30pm, Village Underground

Tippet Quartet

Beethoven	String Quartet in F minor Op.95 No.11 'Serioso'
Anthony Payne	String Quartet No. 1
Tippett	String Quartet No. 1 in A
Haydn	Quartet in D minor, Op.103 No.68

6pm – Anthony Payne discusses his work with critic Ivan Hewett

Tickets: £15

Box Office: 020 7377 1362

www.spitalfieldsmusic.org.uk

Cheltenham Festival

Thursday 30 June at 9pm, Parabola Arts Centre

Festival Academy Soloists

Alexandra Wood	violin
Clara Biss	violin
Cian O'Duill	viola
Robin Michael	cello
Huw Watkins	piano

Robert Saxton	A Yardstick to the Stars
Charlotte Bray	Replay (world premiere)
Fauré	Piano Quintet No.2 in C minor, Op.115

8pm – Robert Saxton and Charlotte Bray discuss their work and the influence of mathematics on musical composition

Tickets: £15

Box Office: 01242 505 444

www.cheltenhamfestivals.com