

THE
PHILIP LANGRIDGE
MENTORING SCHEME

Press Release

For release: 3 December 2010

Philip Langridge Mentoring Scheme announces first participants

Pianist Alexandra Dariescu to be mentored by Imogen Cooper

Cellist Philip Higham to work with Steven Isserlis

The tenor Philip Langridge, who died earlier this year, was a much loved and valued trustee of both the Royal Philharmonic Society and YCAT. He was widely admired, not just for his extraordinarily versatile musical brilliance, but also for his professional generosity, especially to young artists.

In memory of Philip, and in keeping with his commitment to the development of young musicians, the Royal Philharmonic Society and YCAT, with the support of his family, have founded the **Philip Langridge Mentoring Scheme**.

This new scheme, which was discussed with Philip himself before he died, will pair exceptional young professional musicians with the leading stars of the classical world, providing the chance to learn and exchange ideas over an extended period with those at the top of their game.

The first two young musicians to take part in the scheme will be 25 year old Romanian pianist **Alexandra Dariescu** and 25 year old Scottish cellist **Philip Higham**. Dariescu will be mentored by **Imogen Cooper** and Higham by **Steven Isserlis**. Both Alexandra and Philip are YCAT artists. (see full biographies at end of release).

At the heart of the Philip Langridge Mentoring Scheme is the development of a private relationship between two musicians – not a teacher pupil relationship but one of colleagues. Without being prescriptive, the scheme aims to give space and encouragement to allow discussion of performance issues, exploration of repertoire and the exchange of ideas about interpretation. The musicians will begin this process early in the New Year.

Imogen Cooper comments:

“Young artists, however well supported, invariably have questions, doubts, insecurities, about repertoire, about balance of work, ambition versus common sense, exposure versus anonymity – it is all a first time. In the case of pianists there can also be a certain isolation that can undermine and unbalance. And for all young musicians, the difficulty of remembering that there is more to artistic richness than just practising, obsessive as that can be. I see my role – at least in these initial stages – as attempting to bring a combination of balancing and liberation, of experience and fun, of stimulus but also of learning one’s own voice and how to persist with it, developing staying power along the way. But I also want each meeting to be a treat – young musicians work so hard and they deserve it. I benefit too...”

**Further press information on PLMS from: Sophie Cohen on 020 7428 9850 07711 551 787
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Gilbert and Sullivan Gala in aid of the Philip Langridge Mentoring Scheme

A special Gilbert and Sullivan Gala, presented by Raymond Gubbay, with all proceeds going to the Philip Langridge Mentoring Scheme, takes place on Sunday 23 January at 3pm.

The music will be performed by the London Concert Orchestra and Chorus conducted by Richard Balcombe and will feature a long list of soloists including Elizabeth Atherton, Rebecca Bottone, Doreen Cullen, Lesley Garrett, Felicity Palmer, Pamela Helen Stephen, Catherine Wyn-Rogers, Richard Angas, Bonaventura Bottone, James Bowman, Geoffrey Dolton, Donald Maxwell, Alan Opie, Ian Priestly, Timothy Robinson, Richard Suart, Robin Tritschler and John Tomlinson.

Tickets, priced £25-£48 are now available on 020 7730 4500. www.cadoganhall.com

Further press information on the Gilbert and Sullivan Gala from: Ben Chamberlain The Corner Shop Public Relations 020 7494 3665 ben@thecornershoppr.com

Notes:

Alexandra Dariescu

Selected by YCAT in 2008, Alexandra Dariescu is an outstanding communicator who is already proving hugely popular with audiences.

Over the last year she has appeared as soloist with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Sinfonia ViVA, Northern Chamber Orchestra, European Union Chamber Orchestra and the International Orchestra for Freedom at St. John's Smith Square. She has given recitals at Wigmore Hall, Barbican, the City of London, Bath and Ribble Valley Festivals, and in July was resident at the Verbier Festival Academy.

Engagements during the 2010/11 season include return visits to Wigmore Hall, a recital at the Royal Concert Hall in Nottingham as part of the International Piano Series, performances of the Schumann Quintet with the Belcea Quartet and of the Elgar Quintet with the Elias Quartet and Beethoven's Triple Concerto with the Nottingham Philharmonic Orchestra.

Born in Romania, Alexandra graduated from the Royal Northern College of Music in 2008 with distinction and this summer completed her Masters at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama with Ronan O'Hora. In 2010 she won the CUBS Bank Verbier Festival & Academy prize and the Guildhall School of Music & Drama Wigmore Hall prize.

www.alexandradariescu.com

Philip Higham

Philip Higham is rapidly emerging as one of the most prominent young cellists from the UK as his recent competition success, winning 2nd Prize at the prestigious 2010 Grand Prix Emanuel Feuermann Competition in Berlin, goes to confirm. In 2008 he won 1st Prize in the International Bach Competition in Leipzig and in 2009 1st Prize in the Lutoslawski Competition in Warsaw followed by recitals at Lake Maggiore, the Bachwoche and Leipzig BachFest.

Over the last year Philip has appeared as soloist with the Warsaw Philharmonic Orchestra and Sinfonia Cymru, given recitals at Bridgewater Hall, Purcell Room, Wigmore Hall and the Spitalfields Festival and performed Finzi's Concerto at St. John's Smith Square. He also toured Scotland as a Tunnell Trust winner.

This season Philip performs the complete Bach Cello Suites at the Lammermuir Festival, takes part in the IMS Prussia Cove tour and gives recitals at Wigmore, Royal Concert Hall Glasgow and Perth Concert Halls. His debut recording for Sonimage is due for release in 2011.

Born in Edinburgh, Philip studied at the Royal Northern College of Music with Emma Ferrand and Ralph Kirshbaum. He is a YCAT Artist, selected for representation in 2009.

Philip Higham currently plays a fine Tecchler cello c.1730