

Ada Witczyk, baroque violin

Ada has performed music from baroque to contemporary and is no stranger to the modern or period violin having performed with the Gabrieli Consort, The English Concert, Wroclaw Baroque Orchestra and Florilegium. She has performed in such venues as Buckingham Palace, the Royal Festival Hall, the Royal Opera House, Barbican Centre and the Royal Albert Hall amongst others. She has won several prizes at international violin competitions, including an Honourable Mention at the Greater Poland Music Competition and was awarded the Star Award by the Countess of Munster Musical Trust, the Margot MacGibbon Award, the Anthony Edward Brookes Award and the Belsize Leader Scholarship. Ada studied with Itzhak Rashkovsky, Michal Cwizewicz and Catherine Martin at the Royal College of Music, and Levon Chilingirian and Simon Standage at the Royal Academy of Music in London.

Mark Walkem, baroque cello

Whilst a student at the University of Birmingham, Mark was given the opportunity to play cello continuo in a production of J.S. Bach's St John Passion directed by Richard Tunnicliffe. This performance sparked a passion for historically-informed performance which in turn led to baroque cello studies with Richard Tunnicliffe and Imogen Seth-Smith. In 2011 Mark was invited to perform with the European Opera Centre in their tour of Rameau's Dardanus. Since then Mark has been able to gain further experience through regular performances with the London-based baroque ensemble, Belsize Baroque, with whom he played the Vivaldi Cello Concerto in B minor in 2017. Mark has performed with the Musical and Amicable Society, Instruments of Time and Truth and Armonico Consort. He currently plays on a baroque cello by David Rubio, kindly loaned to him by David Winfield, for which he is most grateful. Mark studied modern cello with Lionel Handy.



COLLECTING FOR CHARITY

BENEFIT RECITAL VIOLIN/CELLO DUO '82 DEGREES'

15 November 2019, 7 pm

Kohn Centre

The Royal Society of London

RATIONALE

The purpose of the *Collective Wisdom Project* is for an international network of scholars to explore how and why members of the Royal Society, the Society of Antiquaries of London and the Leopoldina collected specimens of the natural world, art, and archaeology in the 17th and 18th centuries. Our first workshop in Halle analysed early modern physicians who were fellows of these societies and their approaches to collecting, our second at the Society of Antiquaries examined connections between early modern antiquarianism and museum collections, and the third at the Royal Society analysed early museums and digital humanities.

As part of our work, we examined the *Wunderkammer* or Natural History Museum in the Historic Orphanage of the Francke Foundation in Halle, Germany. In 1698, Francke created this global cabinet of artefacts and natural curiosities as a teaching tool for the children in his care; his 'learning-by-doing' approach included teaching the children to sing for public performance. Such pedagogical ideas were part of a shared vision of Protestant piety and charity and greatly influenced Thomas Coram's vision for the Foundling Hospital. Handel was a native of Halle, had Francke as his teacher, and was familiar with Francke using musical performance to fundraise. Handel's *Messiah* was subsequently performed in a benefit concert for Coram's Hospital. As a tribute to the past efforts of Francke, Handel and Coram, this benefit concert of baroque music is being held to raise public awareness of the work of the Coram Foundation for Children in London. The concerts are free to the public with optional donation to Coram's Programme of Creative Therapies for Children.

There is a suggested donation of £10 per person.

PROGRAMME

Handel

Violin Sonata in D, Op.1 No.13 (HWV 371)

Haydn

Duo for Violin and Cello in D major, Hob. VI:D1

Geminiani

Violin Sonata in D minor, Op.5 No.12 La Folia

Paganini

Concertante Duo No.3 for violin and cello in A major, MS107

Handel

Violin Sonata in F, Op.1 No.12

THE 'COLLECTIVE WISDOM' PROJECT

This benefit charity concert is part of a networking grant award from the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC). Project partners include the Leopoldina, The Royal Society, The Society of Antiquaries of London, the Francke Foundations, the University of Lincoln (UK) and the University of Oregon (USA)

