

Chamber Music Plus I

The Britten Pears Young Artist Programme (BPYAP) was founded in 1972 by Benjamin Britten and Peter Pears, and offers early-career professional musicians high-level, specialised performance training from some of the world's finest performers, teachers and creatives.

Chamber Music Plus is a 12-day BPYAP course for exceptional emerging string quartets and piano trios, allowing them to spend time away from their usual commitments and to focus on their rehearsal and development as an ensemble.

During the course, the young ensembles work with renowned international artists: Isabel Charisius, alumna of the Alban Berg Quartet; leading song and chamber-music pianist James Baillieu; BPYAP alumni the Heath Quartet and violinists Elena Urioste and Melissa White, the creators of the groundbreaking *Intermission* programme.

In addition to coaching with the tutors, young artists are given business and career support, gain insight into the lives of Britten and Pears with a tour of the Red House and Archive, and recharge creatively, enjoying the relaxing countryside around Snape and Aldeburgh.

In these two performances as part of the Friday Lunchtime Concert series, the young ensembles showcase some of their favourite repertoire worked on during the course.

Asaka Quartet

Iona McDonald violin
Eriol Guo Yu violin
Matt Johnstone viola
Jonathan Ho Man Fong cello

Aventurin Quartet

Marta Lucjan violin
Tiffany Tan violin
Dominik Klauser viola
Aline Schnepf cello

Sonas Quartet

Yente Lottman violin
Isabelle Allan violin
Eve Quigley viola
Alice Abram cello

Trio Kagura

Pijus Jonušas violin
Yuuki Bouterey-Ishido cello
Kanako Mizuno piano

Trio Rinaldo

Leonardo Ricci violin
Rebecca Ciogli cello
Lorenzo Rossi piano

Tutors

James Baillieu piano
Isabel Charisius viola
Elena Urioste violin
Melissa White violin

Heath Quartet

Sara Wolstenholme violin
Natalie Klouda violin
Gary Pomeroy viola
Christopher Murray cello

Asaka Quartet

The Asaka Quartet is a prizewinning string quartet formed in 2021 at the Royal Academy of Music and is Quartet in Residence at Wolfson College Oxford. The Quartet was the Open Academy/Wigmore Hall Fellowship Ensemble (2023/24) and Chamber Music Fellows at the RAM (2022/23). Hailing from China, Hong Kong and Scotland, the Quartet's members bring with them their own identities. The Quartet prides itself on communicating to audiences its enjoyment of making music together and sharing its keen interest in music by underrepresented composers.

The Asaka Quartet won first prize in the Wolfe Wolfensohn String Quartet Competition at the RAM in 2022. In 2022 and 2023, the Quartet attended the Tunnell Trust's Chamber Music Coll, where it was mentored by Ralph de Souza of the Endellion Quartet, Scott Dickinson and Jonathan and Charles Tunnell. As the 2023 Tunnell Trust prizewinners, the Quartet embarked on a tour of Scotland in February 2025. Since 2021, when it was selected for the prestigious Frost Trust Advanced Specialist Strings Ensemble Training Scheme, the Quartet has been mentored by Martin Outram.

The Asaka Quartet's festival appearances include the Southwell Music Festival, the Dinard Opening Festival in France and the Petworth Festival. It has performed at prestigious venues across the UK including Conway Hall and Stoller Hall, where it was part of the Emerging Artists Scheme 2023/24. The Asaka Quartet was one of Chamber Music Scotland's 'Ones to Watch' in 2022/23.

Aventurin Quartet

Founded in 2022 at the Hochschule der Künste Bern, the Aventurin Quartet is a dynamic young ensemble rapidly making its mark on the international chamber music scene. With a deep commitment to artistic excellence and expressive depth, the Quartet has honed its craft under the mentorship of distinguished musicians such as Patrick Jüdt, Corina Belcea, Rainer Schmidt, Axel Schacher, David Eggert, Monika Urbaniak and Minna Pensola.

The Aventurin Quartet has given concerts across Switzerland and beyond. In 2023, the Quartet was selected as Artist in Residence at the Guimarães Clássico Festival in Portugal, and joined Le Dimore del Quartetto, an esteemed European network for young chamber ensembles and the prestigious

European Chamber Music Academy (ECMA), further solidifying its position among Europe's most promising emerging quartets.

The Aventurin Quartet is particularly passionate about working with contemporary composers. In June 2023, as part of the 50th anniversary of ESTA Switzerland, it premiered works by two young Swiss composers in an expanded quintet formation. Upcoming projects include partnerships with composers Thomas Demenga and Arda Yurdusev.

Sonas Quartet

Formed in 2022 at the Guildhall School, the Sonas Quartet has quickly established itself as a dynamic and accomplished ensemble under the mentorship of Gary Pomeroy of the Heath Quartet. The Sonas Quartet has also received guidance from distinguished chamber musicians including Alasdair Tait, David Waterman, Garfield Jackson, Donald Grant, John Myerscough, Simon-Rowland Jones, as well as the Takács, Jerusalem, and Confluence quartets.

In 2023, the Quartet won first prize in the prestigious St James' Chamber Prize at the Guildhall, which led to a performance in Southwark Cathedral in May 2024. That same year, the Quartet participated in the 'Sounds of Change' EU course in Germany, where it had masterclasses with renowned musicians such as Kirill Troussov and Philippe Graffin. Following this, the Quartet performed in a series of concerts in Portugal. The Quartet has also appeared at the Southwell Music Festival, Cisternmúsica, International Music Festival Koblenz and the City of London Festival of Music. The 2024/25 season marks an exciting chapter when the Quartet joined the Hans Keller Chamber Studio.

Trio Kagura

Trio Kagura is an international ensemble formed in Manchester that unites musicians from Japan, Lithuania, and New Zealand. The name 'Kagura' is derived from the Japanese tradition of ritual music and dance, performed to bring joy and peace to the community – a fitting representation of the Trio's mission to connect and inspire through music.

Trio Kagura is an acclaimed ensemble that performs regularly across the UK and Europe. Known for its dynamic performances and innovative programming, the Trio has been invited to perform at several prestigious chamber music festivals, including the Akademie Telč festival in the Czech Republic, the

Chamber Music in Lavethan festival in Cornwall and the Chamber Music Atelier Delft in the Netherlands.

Recent highlights include an invitation to the renowned Chamber Studio, where the Trio will collaborate with celebrated musicians such as Kathryn Stott and David Watkin, further expanding the Trio's artistic horizons.

Trio Rinaldo

Winner of the 'Farulli' prize at the 44th Franco Abbiati Music Critics Award, Trio Rinaldo is establishing itself on the musical scene nationally and internationally. Its appearances include I Concerti al Quirinale, La stanza della musica and Trani InOnda live on Rai Radio 3; Chigiana Summer Festival and Asolo Musica; Classiche Forme; Officina del Suono (Fondazione Luigi Danieli); Pałac Biskupa Erazma Ciołka in Krakow and Lisinski Hall in Zagreb.

Formed in 2022 in Margherita di Giovanni's chamber music class at the Rinaldo Franci Conservatory in Siena, the Trio developed further through chamber music courses at the Stauffer Academy in Cremona, and at the Chigiana Academy of Siena, under Bruno Giuranna and Clive Greensmith, receiving the diplomas of merit and the Pia Bassi scholarship. The Trio has received masterclasses and lessons from the Maisky Trio, Francesco Dillon, Enrico Pace, Clive Brown, Marco Fornaciari, Mark Messenger, Andrea Lucchesini, Isabel Villanueva, Riccardo Donati, Matteo Fossi and Marco Gaggini.

First prize winner in the Riviera Etrusca Competition in 2022, Trio Rinaldo won the A. Burri prize in 2024 and will play in the Festival delle Nazioni in 2025. This season, the Trio will take part in the Young Italian Musical Talents in the World project.