

## Mixtape

**Choir of Merton College, Oxford**

**Alexandra Whittingham** *guitar*

**Ryan Corbett** *accordion*

**Jonian Ilias Kadesha** *violin*

**Tim Posner** *cello*

|  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| Alexandra Whittingham                            | <b>Heitor Villa Lobos</b>                             | Prelude I (5')  |
| Jonian Ilias Kadesha                             | <b>Helena Winkelman</b>                               | Ciaccona for Solo Violin (5')   |
| Merton College Choir                             | <b>Herbert Howells</b>                                | I heard a voice from heaven (3')  |
| Ryan Corbett                                     | <b>Johann Sebastian Bach</b><br>arr. Corbett          | Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 659 (5')                                    |
| Jonian Ilias Kadesha                             | <b>Gregor Kurtág</b><br><b>Johann Sebastian Bach</b>  | Perpetuum Mobile (2')<br>Partita in D minor II, Allemande & Courante (4')     |
| Alexandra Whittingham                            | <b>Édith Piaf (arr. Dyens)</b>                        | Hymne à l'amour (5')  |
| Merton College Choir                             | <b>Gabriel Fauré</b>                                  | Cantique de Jean Racine (5')  |
| Jonian Ilias Kadesha and<br>Tim Posner           | <b>Johann Sebastian Bach</b><br><b>Iannis Xenakis</b> | Two part inventions: 1 & 15 (2'30)<br>Dhipli Zyia for Violin and Cello (2'30) |
| Merton College Choir                             | <b>Erik Esenvalds</b>                                 | O Salutaris Hostia (2')   |
| Ryan Corbett                                     | <b>Vladislav Zolotaryov</b>                           | Rondo Capriccioso (5')  |
| <b>Interval</b>                                  |   |   |
| Merton College Choir                             | <b>Olivier Messiaen</b>                               | O Sacrum Convivium (3'30) ( <i>from upstairs</i> )                            |
| Alexandra Whittingham                            | <b>Heitor Villa Lobos</b>                             | Prelude IV (5')   |
| Jonian Ilias Kadesha and<br>Tim Posner           | <b>Maurice Ravel</b>                                  | Sonata for Violin and Cello: IV (5')  |
| Ryan Corbett                                     | <b>Sergei Rachmaninov arr</b><br><b>Corbett</b>       | Vocalise, Op. 34. No. 14(5')  |
| Ryan Corbett and<br>Alexandra Whittingham        | <b>John Dowland</b>                                   | Come Heavy Sleep (4')   |
| Alexandra Whittingham                            | <b>Ernest Shand</b>                                   | Legende (5')  |
| Jonian Ilias Kadesha and<br>Tim Posner           | <b>Reinhold Glière</b>                                | Selected Duets for Violin and Cello (4')                                      |
| Ryan Corbett                                     | <b>Phil Cunningham arr.</b><br><b>Corbett</b>         | Loch Katrine's Lady (5')  |
| Jonian Ilias Kadesha and<br>Merton College Choir | <b>Gabriel Fauré</b>                                  | Requiem: Sanctus (3')   |

# Artist Biographies

---

## The Choir of Merton College, Oxford

Described as "one of the UK's finest choral ensembles" by Gramophone, the Choir of Merton College, Oxford has gained an international reputation through its tours, recordings and broadcasts. In 2020, the choir won best choral album at the BBC Music Magazine Awards for its recording of Gabriel Jackson's *The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ*. Recent performances include Bach's *St John Passion* at The Barbican and appearances at The Three Choirs Festival, St John's Smith Square, Cadogan Hall and The Temple Church. The choir's annual festival, *Passiontide at Merton*, is a staple of Oxford's musical calendar, and has seen collaborations with The Cardinal's Musick and The Marian Consort.

### Alexandra Whittingham *guitar*

Recognised by The Guardian as "a young 21st-century virtuoso", Alexandra Whittingham's creative spirit is reshaping classical music and defying conventions. At the age of 16 she began to film her performances of popular guitar repertoire as a personal project, rapidly creating a large community of fans worldwide with over 50 million views.

Having just signed exclusively to Decca Classics, recording continues to play an important part in Alexandra's career. Her debut album *'My European Journey'*, released in 2021, was described as "a superb debut" by BBC Music Magazine. The album sees Alexandra's passion for romantic guitar music combine with a love of discovering lesser-known composers and bringing them into the spotlight. The recording led to her being chosen as one of Classic FM's 'Rising Star' artists in 2022.

Alexandra began her studies at Chetham's School of Music at the age of eleven, where she now teaches alongside her former professor. She went on to gain a scholarship to study at the Royal Academy of Music in London and graduated with both undergraduate and postgraduate degrees. During her time at the Academy she was awarded the Timothy Gilson Guitar Prize, a Diploma of the Royal Academy of Music and the Regency Award for distinguished studentship.

### Ryan Corbett *accordion*

BBC New Generation artist, Royal Over-Seas League Gold medallist and Classic FM Rising Star, Ryan Corbett is an accordionist hailed by Sir James MacMillan as "one of the most astonishing and surprising newcomers in Scottish music." A leading exponent of his instrument, he has given over eight hours of radio broadcasts and a televised performance at the Scottish Coronation of HM King Charles III. Corbett has enlarged the repertoire by creating hundreds of new arrangements for accordion, but no matter how strong his passion for the instrument, it is his dedication to musical integrity that takes precedence.

Recent seasons have seen solo recitals across Europe at venues including the Berlin Philharmonie, he has also performed in the USA, Mexico, and China. Passionate about collaboration, Corbett regularly performs with soloists and ensembles alike. He has performed with BBC Symphony Orchestra, BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, Berlin Symphony Orchestra, Scottish Chamber Orchestra, National Youth Orchestra of Scotland, Red Note Ensemble, and Maxwell Quartet. This year he gave the premiere of Daniel Soley's accordion concerto with Britten Sinfonia, and he will give the UK premiere of Mikhail Pletnev's accordion concerto this August.

Ryan Corbett was nominated in the Young Artist category of the 2024 Royal Philharmonic Society Awards and has been listed as 'one to watch' by BBC Music Magazine, Interlude HK, The Scotsman and Scala Radio. Corbett was a Tillett Trust and Munster Trust recital scheme artist and is the first accordionist to be part of the prestigious BBC Radio 3 New Generation Artist scheme since its launch in 1999. He has also performed at private events for Sir Jackie Stewart and Dame Kiri Te Kanawa.

Born in Glasgow in 1999, Corbett studied at the Music School of Douglas Academy, St Mary's Music School, and the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. He was introduced to the accordion aged eleven, when his grandmother bought a small instrument for him and his brother to try. As the instrument wasn't airtight, the only way to play it was like a piano, while the other pulled the bellows across the floor. It was soon fixed, and Corbett would spend hours playing Scottish folk music on it rather than practising the piano or violin on which he was receiving lessons. He continued to teach himself accordion until the age of fourteen, when he began studying with Djordje Gajic. These studies were supported by Cross Trust, Drake Calleja Trust, Countess of Munster Musical Trust, RCS Scholarship Fund and Help Musicians UK.

Ryan Corbett plays a Bugari Spectrum classical piano accordion made in Castelfidardo, Italy.

### Jonian Ilias Kadesha *violin*

Jonian Ilias Kadesha has performed throughout Europe, including with the Chamber Orchestra of Europe conducted by Sir András Schiff, the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic with Jonathan Bloxham, Tapiola Sinfonietta and Ryan Bancroft and Slovenian Philharmonic conducted by Aziz Shokhakimov. He has given recitals in venues such as Wigmore Hall, Louvre, Berlin Philharmonie and Salle Moliere Lyon.

Kadesha is a committed chamber musician, collaborating with renowned musicians such as Martha Argerich, Steven Isserlis, Patricia Kopatchinskaja, Nicolas Altstaedt and Antje Weithaas. He is co-founder of the award-winning Trio Gaspard, which regularly appears at festivals and venues around the world. He is also a member of the Kelemen Quartet.

He is increasingly in demand with leading chamber orchestras as play/director and has worked with the Netherlands, Irish and Scottish Chamber Orchestras, Aurora Orchestra, Manchester Camerata and London Mozart Players. His approach to the classical orchestral canon is informed by his chamber music playing and he often improvises his own cadenzas and ornamentation.

Born in Athens of Albanian and Greek heritage, Kadesha studied from a young age at Musikhochschule Würzburg, followed by Kronberg Academy, where he completed his Masters in 2020. He has studied with Antje Weithaas, Salvatore Accardo, Grigori Zhislin and Ulf Wallin. He studied chamber music with Hatto Beyerle in Hannover and has taken part in masterclasses with Ferenc Rados, Steven Isserlis, Ivry Gitlis, Leonidas Kavakos and Eberhard Feltz.

Kadesha plays on the "ex-Moser" Guarneri de Gesù of 1743, kindly on loan by the private "Princess Collection".

### **Tim Posner** *cello*

Praised by Charlotte Gardner (Gramophone Magazine) for 'tremendous tonal beauty across his cello's range, making it sing with hugely attractive mellow, melancholic passion' and by Geoff Brown (The Times) for 'technical excellence hand in hand with open emotion', Tim Posner was the winner of the Thierry Scherz Prize at Sommets Musicaux de Gstaad 2023. He was also the first British cellist to have been awarded a prize at the International Karl Davidov Competition. Born in 1995, Tim has performed as soloist with orchestras including the NDR Radiophilharmonie, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and the London Mozart Players with conductors such as Andrew Manze.

Tim recently made his debut concerto CD with the Bern Symphony Orchestra, recording works by Bloch, Bruch and Dohnanyi, which has received much critical acclaim. Michel Stockhem (Clic Musique) wrote 'This new version could establish itself as a modern reference' and Graham Rickson (The Arts Desk) described him as 'magnificent throughout'. It was selected by The Strad as part of its 'The Strad Recommends' reviews and he has recently been made the 'One to Watch' feature in Gramophone Magazine, as well as a Rising Star by both BBC Music Magazine and Classic FM.

Other recent highlights include recordings of chamber music by Boccherini with Steven Isserlis, of Cipriani Potter's Concertante with the BBC National Orchestra of Wales and Peteris Vasks' Plainscapes with Candida Thompson and The Netherlands Chamber Choir. Upcoming concerto appearances include performances with Amsterdam Sinfonietta, Ensemble Reflektor and Oxford Symphony Orchestra.

As a chamber musician, Tim plays in various ensembles and in 2010 founded The Teyber Trio with violinist, Tim Crawford and violist, Timothy Ridout, with whom he continues to perform internationally. He has performed at chamber music festivals including the Classiche Forme, Hindsgavl, IMS Prussia Cove (Open Chamber Music), Molyvos International Music Festival, Kronberg Chamber Music Connects the World, Musikdorf Ernen and Cheltenham festivals. As a chamber musician he has collaborated with musicians such as Steven Isserlis, Sir András Schiff, Gidon Kremer, Lars Vogt, Emmanuel Pahud and Beatrice Rana and as a frequent guest in 'Wigmore Soloists'.

Tim is currently interim Professor of Cello at the Music and Private Arts University of Vienna and is principal cellist of Amsterdam Sinfonietta.

He began playing the cello at the age of eight, studying with his mother, Julia Desbruslais and subsequently with Robert Max. He then studied in the 'Solo Class' of Prof. Leonid Gorokhov at the Hochschule für Musik in Hanover. He draws great inspiration from masterclasses with Steven Isserlis at Prussia Cove.