

## Violetta Suvini and Friends

Pittville Pump Room

Fri 10 July

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**Violetta Suvini** *violin*

**Hana Mizuta-Spencer** *violin*

**Dominic Stokes** *viola*

**Nina Kiva** *cello*

**Jasmine Morris**

Cheltenham 2026 co-commission, world premiere

**Ben Nobuto**

Cheltenham 2026 co-commission, world premiere

**Imogen Davey**

Cheltenham 2026 co-commission, world premiere

*Interval*

**Benjamin Britten**

Quartet No. 2

28'

### About the Programme

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#### Benjamin Britten (1913-1976) – Quartet No.2

Today's second quartet was written after Britten's return to England and the success of *Peter Grimes*. In July 1945 Britten and Menuhin spent a gruelling 10 days touring Germany including a visit to Belsen where they played for survivors. Britten said that his visit to Belsen coloured everything he subsequently wrote. The despairing and angry mood of his song cycle *The Holy Sonnets of John Donne* stems from this visit. The second quartet followed shortly afterwards and like the *Sonnets* was written in commemoration of Purcell's 250th birthday that year; it was premiered exactly on Purcell's birthday. The work was commissioned by arts patron and friend Mary Behrend to whom he wrote of it from Aldeburgh: 'to my mind it is the greatest advance I have yet made'.

Programme note by Chris Mason

### Artist Biographies

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#### Violetta Suvini *violin*

Described as 'an artist of great originality and vision', Irish-Italian violinist Violetta Suvini is a City Music Foundation Artist and recipient of the Royal Philharmonic Society's Emily Anderson Prize 2024. She has performed chamber music in venues such as Wigmore Hall, St Martin in the Fields, Holywell Music Room; for series such as Barnes Concert Society and Leeds International Lunchtime; and at festivals including the Venice Biennale, Aldeburgh, Newbury, Bath International, Bloomsbury, and Oxford Chamber. Her performances have been praised for their 'exquisite delivery' (*The Arts Desk*), 'powerful body of sound' (*The Strad*) and 'compelling playing' (*The Arts Desk*).

#### Hana Mizuta-Spencer *violin*

Hana Mizuta-Spencer is a British violinist based in Basel, Switzerland, where she is supported in her studies by the DOMS Stiftung. Hana appears regularly as a soloist and chamber musician across Europe and the UK, with ensembles such as Ensemble Modern and the Esbjerg Ensemble. She was the winner of the

inaugural Prix Pasquier at the Ravel Festival in 2023 and solo engagements have included performances with Sinfonieorchester Basel and the North London Symphony Orchestra. She has taken part in festivals including Open Chamber Music at Prussia Cove, the Frinton Festival and Mendelssohn on Mull.

### **Dominic Stokes** *viola*

Dominic Stokes is a violist, composer, actor, and director who has established himself as one of London's leading young contemporary artists. His passion and musical facility for all things contemporary has led him to work with groups at the forefront of the new-music scene, such as the Riot Ensemble, "The supergroup of top soloists playing new music", Manchester Camerata, 12 Ensemble, and Explore Ensemble, with multiple appearances as a soloist and in ensemble on and SWRKultur (DE), npoklassiek (NL), SRF 2 Kultur (CH), and BBC3 and BBC4.

As a highly gifted soloist and ensemble musician, Dominic has performed music new and old in many of Europe's highest profile festivals, such as la biennale di Venezia (IT), Dartington, Aldeburgh and Lake District music festivals (UK), alongside the Montreux jazz festival, Lucerne festival (CH), WEIT WEINGARTEN! (DE), and Spor Festival (DK). He has shared the stage with some of our lifetime's most prolific practitioners, including Irvine Arditti, Timothy Ridout, and Jacob Collier, and has worked with composers such as Naomi Pinnock, Bara Gilasdotir, Dobrinka Tabakova, Anna Thorvaldsdottir and Ben Nobuto, premiering chamber and solo works in some of the UK's most prestigious venues, such as the Wigmore Hall, King's place, and the Barbican centre.

### **Nina Kiva** *cello*

Ukrainian-British cellist Nina Kiva is a chamber musician who has performed onstage with renowned artists such as Steven Isserlis, Maxim Vengerov and Rebecca Gilliver, and has been invited to festivals such as IMS Prussia Cove, Whittington, Mendelssohn on Mull and Yellow Barn. Performances across Europe include concert halls such as ElbPhilharmonie Hamburg, Concertgebouw Amsterdam and the Volkenturm in Grafenegg, Austria. Nina graduated from the Royal College of Music with an Artist Diploma Degree in 2022, where she studied with Melissa Phelps and took masterclasses with Pinchas Zukerman, Johannes Goritzki and Bruno Deleplaire.

### **Jasmine Morris**

Jasmine Morris is a British composer based in upstate New York. She won BBC Young Composer of the Year in 2020, and has been awarded multiple residencies at The Venice Biennale, LSO Soundhub, Jack Studio, Dartington Music Festival, Britten-Pears Young Artist Programme, and the Luxembourg Composition Fellowship. Her compositional approach integrates instrumental writing with field recordings and the sampling of found sounds. Through her work, she aims to push musical boundaries through signal processing and electronic experimentation. Her work has been premiered at the Barbican, Aldeburgh Music Festival and King's Place. Jasmine's debut album, *Astrophilia*, was released by the label Nonclassical in 2020. She holds a Bachelor of Music from the Royal College of Music and is pursuing a D.M.A in Composition at Cornell University

### **Ben Nobuto**

Ben Nobuto is a British/Japanese composer, pianist and producer based in London. With a style described as 'utterly contemporary' (*Manchester Collective*) and 'sonically dazzling' (*RPS Awards*), his music explores themes of attention and fragmentation. Often combining acoustic and electronic sounds, his interest lies in how processes from one can be applied to the other, and the relationship between the 'human' and 'non-human' in the context of a live performance.

Previous commissions include works for the BBC Proms, Manchester Collective, City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, National Youth Choir, Colin Currie Quartet and BBC Singers. His music has featured on BBC Radio 3, 4 and 6, *Times Radio* and *Resonance FM* and has been released on NMC Recordings and Nonclassical. He was recently awarded an Ivors Classical Award for his choral work Sol, a Royal Philharmonic Society Award for SERENITY 2.0 and an RPS nomination for Hallelujah Sim.

### **Imogen Davey**

Imogen Davey is a composer, sound artist and flautist based in London. Her compositional work explores the relationship between acoustic and electronic media specifically influenced by visual material, glitch, layering and field-recording collection. Working with large-scale sound installations, Imogen's work has been shown internationally at Piccadilly Lights in London, The Bridgewater Hall in Manchester, Fed Square in Melbourne, COEX K-POP Square in Seoul, the Julia Stoschek Foundation in Berlin and esc medien kunst labor in Austria, with further commissions by clients such as Adidas. Imogen was appointed Junior Fellow in both flute and composition studying under Matthew Kaner and Paul Newland at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama.