

Lim Tze Chian – viola

Singapore born **Chian Lim** was awarded a scholarship to study viola at the Royal College of Music in London, where he was a prize-winning student. During his time there he studied chamber music with the Chilingirian Quartet and members of the Juilliard and Cleveland Quartets.

After beginning his career in the Singapore Symphony Orchestra, Chian returned to the UK and began what quickly became a successful period working as a freelance viola player. As an active chamber musician, he plays regularly with various groups including the Marias Ensemble and was a member of the Dowdeswell Piano Quartet. Chian has broadcast with the Endymion Ensemble and Lontano on BBC Radio 3 and has also performed at the Wigmore Hall on numerous occasions with various chamber ensembles including the Guildhall Strings.

He was Principal Viola with Glyndebourne on Tour Orchestra and has played Guest Principal Viola with City of London Sinfonia, Royal Ballet Sinfonia and Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. He plays regularly with English Chamber Orchestra and the Academy of St Martin in the Fields with whom he has recorded and performed worldwide with esteemed musicians such as Julian Rachlin, Joshua Bell, Gil Shaham and Murray Perahia. He joined the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in 2014 and was elected onto its Board of Directors between 2016 and 2019.

Richard Harwood – cello

Since his concerto debut at the age of ten, the award-winning English 'cellist **Richard Harwood** has performed concerti and chamber music in major venues including London's Royal Albert Hall, Southbank Centre, Wigmore Hall, Musikverein (Vienna), Concertgebouw (Amsterdam), Alte Oper (Frankfurt), Thomaskirche (Leipzig), Auditorium du Louvre (Paris) and Alice Tully Hall / Lincoln Center (New York).

As concerto soloist, Richard has worked with conductors such as Mark Wigglesworth, Case Scaglione, Stanislav Kochanovsky, Michele Mariotti, John Wilson, Okko Kamu, Marko Letonja, Douglas Bostock, En Shao, Shuntaro Sato and Yehudi Menuhin, and with numerous orchestras including The Philharmonia, Royal Philharmonic, Bournemouth Symphony, RTÉ National Symphony, RTÉ Concert, Auckland Philharmonia and the Ural Philharmonic.

As chamber musician, he has collaborated with the Jerusalem and Endellion Quartets, Gidon Kremer, Yuri Bashmet, Olivier Charlier, Guy Braunstein, Benjamin Schmid, Alena Baeva, Ilya Gringolts, Pekka Kuusisto, Vilde Frang, Chen Halevi, Julian Bliss, Martin Roscoe, Peter Donohoe, Gottlieb Wallisch and Julius Drake, among others. Richard was cellist of the Sitkovetsky Trio from 2014-2016.

Richard's discography includes a debut disc for EMI Classics; recorded with pianist Christoph Berner, *Composing Without The Picture* (Resonus); a solo album of concert works written by film composers, and Christopher Gunning's Cello Concerto recorded with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. On screen, Richard can be seen and heard in Phil Grabsky's 2009 documentary *In Search of Beethoven* and is regularly featured as a soloist on movie soundtracks, most recently in Patrick Doyle's score to Kenneth Branagh's *Murder On The Orient Express*.

Richard was appointed principal cellist of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra at the beginning of 2018. He has also been a principal of the John Wilson Orchestra, and guest principal at the London Symphony and RTÉ Concert orchestras.

Richard began his studies with Joan Dickson, before continuing with other eminent teachers such as Steven Doane, David Waterman, Heinrich Schiff (University of Music and Dramatic Art, Vienna) and Ralph Kirshbaum (Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester). He complemented his studies by taking master classes and lessons with Mstislav Rostropovich, Janos Starker, Steven Isserlis, Boris Pergamenschikow, Miklós Perényi, Bernard Greenhouse, Valentin Erben (Alban Berg Quartet), William Pleeth, Zara Nelsova and Ferenc Rados.

Richard plays a 'cello by Francesco Rugeri, dated 1692.

Sulki Yu – violin

"..Yu never allowed the technical demands to distract her from her expressive journey.. acutely tuned musicianship.." Edward Bhesania, The Strad

Violinist **Sulki Yu** enjoys a busy career as a chamber musician, orchestral leader and a soloist. A prizewinner of the 2006 Yehudi Menuhin and 2007 Szigeti-Hubay International Violin Competitions, Sulki studied at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama under David Takeno and furthered her studies under Augustin Dumay at the Chapelle Musicale Reine Elizabeth in Belgium.

Sulki has appeared as soloist with many orchestras including the Royal Flemish Philharmonic, Orchestre Nationale de Lille, Budapest Symphony, Moscow State Academic Symphony, and Royal Philharmonic Orchestra Orchestras, collaborating with among others Mark Gorenstein, Joji Hattori, Esa-Pekka Salonen and Philippe Herreweghe.

Sulki made debut recitals at the Wigmore Hall and Southbank Centre to critical acclaim and has performed on BBC Radio 3 on numerous occasions.

A passionate chamber musician, she has been invited to many international chamber music festivals where she has shared the stage with Dong-Suk Kang, Gordon Nikolitch, Charles Neidich and Antonio Meneses amongst others.

In 2009, along with cellist Pei-Jee Ng and pianist Chiao-Ying Chang she formed Fournier Trio. The trio were awarded the 2013 Parkhouse Award. They were winners of the 2nd prize and audience prize at the Trondheim International Chamber Music Competition in 2011 and made their Purcell Room and Wigmore Hall debuts the same year. Until 2022 they are artists in residence at Wolfson College, Oxford.

Sulki currently serves as Principal First Violin at the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in London. Future engagements include guest leading the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra and the Orchestra Victoria in Melbourne. Sulki plays on a beautiful Niccolo Gagliano violin on loan to her.

Lim Yan – piano

2006 National Arts Council Young Artist Award recipient **Lim Yan** was a student of David Hartigan at Chetham's School of Music in Manchester, UK, and subsequently graduated from the University of Manchester and the Royal Northern College of Music under the tutelage of Ronan O'Hora.

After placing first in the Piano Open category in the 1997 National Piano and Violin Competition, Yan's competition results in Europe – including 1st at the 2001 Karic International Piano Competition – led to concert engagements across Europe and Asia. He gave two recitals at the Cheltenham Festival and also worked with the China Radio-Film Symphony Orchestra at the Beijing International Piano Festival. When the Singapore National Youth Orchestra was invited to the 2011 Aberdeen International Youth Festival, he was the soloist in Prokofiev's Piano Concerto No. 2.

Nearer home, Yan has appeared with the Singapore Symphony Orchestra several times in concerto performances, and also collaborated with the Orchestra of the Music Makers as well as re:Sound. Together with The Philharmonic Orchestra, he completed a cycle of all five Beethoven Piano Concertos and the Triple Concerto over three concerts in June 2012.

Besides his solo and concerto performances, Yan is a highly sought-after collaborative pianist and chamber musician, having worked together successfully with many leading musicians – for instance, violinist Ning Feng and cellist Wang Jian. His current chamber groups include a piano trio, as well as the established piano quintet series Take 5 which is well into their second decade.

Yan is also the Artistic Director of the Singapore International Piano Festival since 2019.