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CONCERTS

*Chamber music with passion*

# Treske Quartet



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Sunday 13 October 2024, 3pm  
St John's Church, Sharow

**Programme**

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Patron: Julius Drake

Sunday 13 October 2024 | St John's Church, Sharow

# Treske Quartet

OLIVER BAILY - violin • MOLLIE WRAFTER - violin  
ABIGAIL HAMMETT - viola • ROBERT WHEATLEY - cello

## Programme

**Ludwig van Beethoven**  
(1770–1827)

*Poco adagio – Allegro*  
*Adagio ma non troppo*  
*Presto*  
*Allegro con variazioni*

String Quartet No. 10 in E flat major  
Op. 74 (The Harp)

**Gabriella Smith**

Carrot Revolution for string quartet  
*finding new ways of looking at old things*

- interval -

**Maurice Ravel** (1875–1937)

*Allegro moderato – très doux*  
*Assez vif – très rythmé*  
*Très lent*  
*Vif et agité*

String Quartet in F Major

we get on with



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## About the music

**Beethoven's Harp Quartet, opus 74**, comes from the middle period of his composing career, between the ever popular and tuneful Razumovsky Quartets, opus 59, and the ambitious, serious and path-breaking Late Quartets, opus 127, and 130–133. As such, it is sometimes overlooked as not ranking among the outstanding examples of Beethoven's chamber music. But this is not to do justice to the work, or to the composer. The year of composition, 1809, also saw him create the Archduke Piano Trio and the Emperor Piano Concerto, two of his finest works. And the E flat major Quartet is a worthy companion to others in the genre.

The opening movement is in sonata form and begins with a long and dramatic introduction, broken by two loud and daring interruptions. The subsequent main themes are more relaxed and melodious, with pizzicato accompaniments, giving the piece its Harp nickname. The slow second movement demonstrates the composer's ability to take a simple tune and, with technical mastery, develop it to a higher plane of musical experience, so that it becomes almost spiritual in its impact; a process which would feature prominently in the Late Quartets.

In complete contrast, the scherzo third movement is energetic and muscular with dance-like stabbing motifs bearing a strong resemblance to familiar passages in the Fifth Symphony. The forceful trio, which is played twice, maintains the pace and extraversion, but then the brakes are applied and, without a pause, we are in the Finale. This is a set of variations on a simple, gentle theme, which

is developed into contrasting vigorous and lyrical versions. The movement ends with a brilliant coda, epitomising, as elsewhere in the work, Beethoven's astonishing capacity to make so much out of slender material.

**Gabriella Smith** is an American composer, still in her early thirties, whose output ranges across orchestral and chamber music as well as vocal and instrumental pieces. A native of Berkeley, California, she participated there in the Young Composers Program, led by John Adams, and also studied at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia.

The *Carrot Revolution* String Quartet, first performed in 2019, was commissioned by the Barnes Foundation, an art organisation in Philadelphia, for its exhibition *The Order of Things*. The theme of the latter was the juxtaposition of different objects, exploring how their characteristics of colour, texture and shape would interact. Gabriella Smith recounts how, when walking around the exhibition, she suddenly remembered a comment (wrongly) attributed to Cézanne that, "the day will come when a single, freshly observed carrot will start a revolution." Inspired by this for her composition to celebrate new ways of looking at old things – not only the classical string quartet but also ancient musical forms – she had arrived at both the function and the title of the work.

In her own words, "the piece is a patchwork of my wildly contrasting influences and full of weird, unexpected juxtapositions and

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intersecting planes of sound, inspired by the way Barnes' ensembles show old works in new contexts and draw connections between things we don't think of as being related."

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**Ravel's String Quartet** was written in 1902 when the composer was still relatively unknown on the music scene. Claude Debussy, in contrast, had already produced several of his major works, and his aura as well as compositional style undoubtedly impacted on Ravel's development. There was a friendly relationship between the two, but sadly it was not to last, largely because mischievous gossipmongers in musical circles had, in comparing the merits of their respective string quartets, sought to generate rivalry between them. "It is probably better for us after all to be on frigid terms for illogical reasons," was Ravel's sad and sensitive response to the situation.

In fact, the Ravel work was influenced as much by his master Fauré, to whom it was dedicated, as by Debussy. In any event, it reveals an individuality of approach and a musical personality which established Ravel as a major figure in France; and the quartet has always held its place in the mainstream chamber music repertoire.

The first movement follows the classical tradition of sonata form; its opening, a motto theme rising and then falling, is succeeded by a haunting melody played by the violin and viola paralleling one another two octaves apart. After these ideas are recapitulated and developed, the movement ends with a gentle coda based on descending

chords. The *Scherzo*, placed second in this work, is full of ingenuity and playful ideas, notably the trills and *pizzicato* for the instruments, and then elaborate cross-rhythms for the combined forces. By way of contrast, in the middle section, a sorrowful melody high in the cello breaks through.

The third, slow, dreamlike movement draws on material from earlier in the piece, drifting between moments of tension and relaxed resolution. The first violin occasionally intervenes with romantic high-lying gestures, only to withdraw as more plaintive passages take over. The effervescent Finale is delightfully French and gives a taste of what Ravel was later to produce in his colourful orchestral works.

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With grateful thanks to the following members for their generous support:

Jim Dalton  
Carla McCowan  
Michael Porter  
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Roderick Rhodes  
Kate Whelan

and others who wish to remain anonymous or who have donated since this programme went to press.

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## About the performers

The Treske Quartet is an emerging ensemble based in Manchester. Our identity as a quartet lies in our commitment to championing repertoire by 20th- and 21st-century composers. Our goal is to curate and perform programmes that include a variety of musical styles by established and emerging composers, and to give audiences radical experiences with new sound worlds. We are interested in concept-based programming, and aspire to deliver concerts where we accompany the audience through a range of composers and eras, worlds and universes, finding new connections between pieces that do not depend on the audience's prior experience of chamber concerts. We feel that a central tenet of this work will be working with living composers, acting as a platform for their work to be presented and in doing so, contributing to the growing pool of modern string quartet music.

The Quartet was formed in 2017 for a chamber music course in North Yorkshire, and we still play an active role in delivering high-quality chamber music in the area. Over the past two years we have given recitals in the UK and abroad, notably the Ryedale Festival, Llandeilo International Music Festival, Buxton Recital Series and the New Generation Festival. We all studied at the Royal Northern College of Music and have collectively amassed a wealth of experience as soloists, orchestral and chamber musicians. As freelancers we regularly appear with professional ensembles and orchestras across the British Isles.

Through the Harrison Frank Family Foundation we are very fortunate to be playing on a set of instruments made from

the same tree from the W. E. Hill & Sons workshop.

### Violins

**Oliver Baily** is a graduate of the Royal Northern College of Music, where he studied with Ben Holland. Whilst at the RNCM he won the Helen Porthouse Paganini Prize and the Emmanuel Prize. In recent years Oliver has given solo performances across the UK, including a recital at the Northern Aldborough Festival, and concerto appearances with the Settle Orchestra, Manchester Beethoven Orchestra and Vacation Chamber Orchestra. He is a founder member of the Treske Quartet and SONO Ensemble, and as a chamber musician has performed at numerous UK festivals including the Ryedale Festival, West Cork Music Festival and Buxton International Festival. Oliver regularly freelances with orchestras and ensembles across the UK. He has previously directed youth orchestra workshops for the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra, and in early 2019 joined the Chamber Orchestra of Europe on tour in Salzburg.

Oliver performs on a Derazey violin made in Paris in the late 19th Century, and is also very grateful to the Harrison Frank Family Foundation for the loan of a beautiful modern violin made by W. E. Hill & Sons.

**Mollie Wrafter** graduated with First Class Honours from the Royal Northern College of Music, studying with Leland Chen. During her time at RNCM she won the Norman George Violin Competition and the Nossek Prize for Chamber Music. She was awarded the Irish Heritage Performance



Bursary for her Wigmore Hall debut performance in 2019. Since completing her undergraduate study at RNCM she has enjoyed a busy freelance career, balancing solo engagements and her quartet. In April 2022 Mollie won the Aileen Gore Cup & RTÉ Lyric FM Award at the Feis Ceoil in Dublin. Subsequently, she was awarded the RDS Jago Award and a professional solo engagement with the RTÉ Concert Orchestra which aired on RTÉ Lyric FM. Mollie features on Manchester Collective's debut LP 'The Centre is Everywhere' and was named one of Golden Plec Magazine's 'PlecPicks' in 2021. This year she has thoroughly enjoyed playing with the Hallé Orchestra through its Advanced Orchestral Strings Programme and was delighted to receive the Charles Hallé Award. Mollie sits on the Board of Directors of the National Youth Orchestra of Ireland.

#### *Viola*

**Abigail Hammett** was born in South Wales and has recently completed her Master's at the Royal Northern College of Music where she studied with Levon Chilingirian and Benedict Holland. During her time at the RNCM she was the recipient of the Leverhulme Scholarship and won the RNCM Schubert prize and the Hirsch Chamber prize. Since graduating she has received viola tutelage from Veit Hertenstein, Peijun Xu and Nobuko Imai. Abigail is a dedicated chamber musician and a founding member of the Manchester-based Treske Quartet, who are currently RNCM Quartet Studio Artists and residents at the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity in the summer of 2022. Abi freelances in Manchester where she is an Artist on Live

Music Now and frequently performs with Opera North, the Hallé and other orchestras across the North. Her viola was made by her father Timothy Hammett in 2013.

#### *Cello*

The German-born English cellist **Robert Wheatley** is a versatile musician with an international career performing in the fields of chamber music, contemporary music and improvisation. He is a founding member of the contemporary music ensemble S201, the Emmeline String Quartet, Crimson Sunbird and multidisciplinary impro-group Theater Filidonia (a collective of young artists consisting of musicians, dancers, actors and installation artists). As of November 2022 he is the cellist of the Treske Quartet. His work as a performing artist has led him all over the world, having visited South Korea in 2018 and 2019 appearing at Youngnam Contemporary music festival and the Daegu Contemporary music festival, Klangzeit Festival Berlin, Beethovenfest Bonn in Germany, as well as many other national and international stages. He is passionate about performing all music, with concerts this past year ranging from Haydn string quartets to hardcore noise music and interdisciplinary performances. He began his cello studies in 2014 with Prof. Christoph Richter at the Folkwang University of the Arts, Essen, and subsequently moved back to Manchester to study a Master's degree in Cello at the RNCM under Nicholas Trygstad, where he was the recipient of the Barbirolli Cello prize in November 2019. Furthermore, he received guidance in baroque cello from Susan Shepherd and in improvisation from Steve Berry and Iain Dixon.



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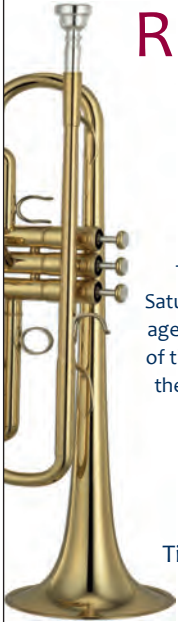
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# RIPON YOUNG MUSICIANS OF THE YEAR 2024 WINNERS' CONCERT



The Ripon Young Musician of the Year competition takes place on Friday 8 and Saturday 9 November, adjudicated by Alasdair Jamieson. Children up to and including age 18 from Ripon and the surrounding area are invited to take part, and the winners of the six solo classes and one ensemble class will perform in the winners' concert on the Saturday night. Come and hear the best of the competition's young performers display their talents in a wonderful evening of music-making.

**Saturday 9 November, 7.30pm**  
**St John's Church, Sharow**

Tickets available on the door: Adults £5, Children (18 & under) FREE

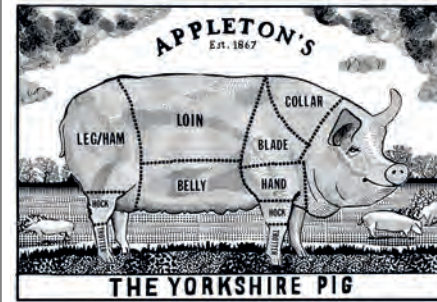
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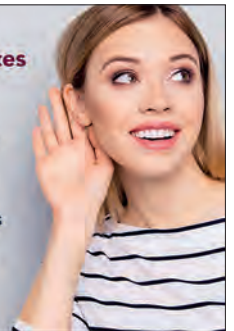
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## North Yorkshire Music & Arts Events Diary

Visit [www.st-cecilia.org.uk](http://www.st-cecilia.org.uk) for full details of Music & Arts events in the Ripon area.



### Leyburn Jazz Festival - [leyburnjazz.org](http://leyburnjazz.org)

17 Oct 2024

St Matthew's Church, Leyburn

6pm - **Simon O'Byrne - guitar**

7.30pm - **Yorkshire Gypsy Swing Collective**

18 Oct 2024

St Matthew's Church, Leyburn

12.30pm - **Zoe Gilby Duo**

4pm - **Nicola Farnon Trio**

Tennant's Garden Rooms, Leyburn

8pm - **Hejira: Celebrating Joni Mitchell**

19 Oct 2024

St Matthew's Church, Leyburn

10.30am - **Leyburn Jazz Collective**

12 noon - **Blueboxt Young Musicians**

1pm - **Edison Herbert Trio**

4pm - **Jim Mullen Organ Trio**

8pm - **Alligator Gumbo**

20 Oct 2024

St Matthew's Church, Leyburn

10am - **Jazz Eucharist Service featuring Light**

**My Choir - Wensleydale's Community**

**Gospel Choir**

12.30pm - **Jack Pearce - saxophone**

2pm - **Worth Valley Hot 7 plus Ruth**

**Gardziel (vocals)**

Paulinus Singers

**Happy and Glorious: Music by Victoria,**

**Harris, Stanford, Parry and Barber**

St John's Church, Sharow

19 Oct 2024, 7.30pm

Jervaulx Singers

**Les chansons des roses**

St John's Church, Sharow

26 Oct 2024, 7.30pm

Vocalis chamber choir

Wesley Methodist Church, Harrogate

**Howells Requiem - Reflective music for**

**remembrance**

9 Nov 2024, 7pm

York Musical Society

**Durufilé: Requiem, Goodall: Eternal Light**

St Lawrence's Church, York

9 Nov 2024, 7.30pm

### Richmondshire Concerts

**Fair Oriana: Penelope Appleyard and Angela Hicks (sopranos) with Sam Brown, (lute) and Harry Buckoke (viol)**

Richmond School

9 Nov 2024, 7.30pm

### Ripon Concerts

**Songs and Poems of Remembrance with poet laureate Simon Armitage**

Holy Trinity Church, Ripon

10 Nov 2024, 3pm

### Chapter House Choir, York

**Choral Celebrations**

St Olave's Church, York

16 Nov 2024, 7.30pm

### Harrogate Symphony Orchestra

**Beethoven, Grieg and Wagner**

Royal Hall, Harrogate

16 Nov 2024, 7.30pm

### Ripon Choral Society, with Harrogate Ladies'

College choir

**Carmina Burana and music by English composers**

Ripon Cathedral

16 Nov 2024, 7.30pm

### Harrogate Choral Society

**Taylor Scott Davis, Matthew Coleridge,**

**Rebecca Dale and Franck**

St Wilfrid's Church, Harrogate

23 Nov 2024, 3pm

### Ripon Concerts

**Prince Bishops Brass**

Holy Trinity Church, Ripon

8 Dec 2024, 3pm

### Chapter House Choir, York

**Christmas Concert**

York Minster

20 Dec 2024, 7.30pm

### Jervaulx Singers

**In dulci jubilo**

St John's Church, Sharow

21 Dec 2024, 7.30pm

Please see the website for full programme details.

**Nick Watts – Tenor**  
**Simon Armitage – Poet Laureate**  
**David Cowan – Piano**

**10 November 2024\*\***

Songs and Poems of Remembrance



Nick Watts



Simon Armitage  
© Paul Stuart Photography

**Prince Bishops Brass**

**8 December 2024\*\***

Bach to Boogie, via Gershwin & Bernstein



Iyad Sughayer



Prince Bishops Brass

**Iyad Sughayer – Piano**

**12 January 2025\*\***

Mozart, Schubert, Sibelius, Khachaturian

**Tim Lowe – Cello**

**Jack Liebeck – Violin**

**Katya Apekisheva – Piano**

**9 February 2025\*\***

Debussy, Shostakovich, Tchaikovsky



Tim Lowe, Jack Liebeck, Katya Apekisheva

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