

Recent releases

Four Aces Guitar Quartet – *For Aces*

The Four Aces Guitar Quartet's third CD features specially written compositions by Clarice Assad, Adam Clarke, Nuccio D'Angelo, Nejc Kuhar, Patrick Roux, Harry Sacksioni, Alain Selhorst and Johannes Möller, as well as a work by two members of the quartet, Menno Buggenhout and Inti de Maet.

The idea for the album – new music, manifested in every possible style or form – was first mooted over glasses of wine on a café terrace in Verona. The quartet wanted to create 'something that is really ours, something for ourselves, for the guitar and its versatility and for all of the people who are fond of its sound'. The project saw the ensemble rekindle old friendships and develop new ones, bringing the players closer together; the resulting disc preserves these memories.



Jethro Tull – *The String Quartets*

This new release features new takes on classic Jethro Tull repertoire including *Living in the Past* and *Aqualung*. Arranged by the band's keyboard player John O'Hara for the Carducci String Quartet and Jethro Tull frontman Ian Anderson, who contributes



▲ Ian Anderson and John O'Hara with the Carducci String Quartet

flute, guitar and some vocals, the release is aimed at the band's devotees and classical music lovers who might be unfamiliar with their work.

'There seemed little point in transcribing the band parts and distributing them to

the players; I felt a responsibility to delve deeper and offer a new imagining of each piece,' O'Hara said. 'An orchestrator's job is to arrange and compose a new version of an existing work. However, I also felt a responsibility to the Jethro Tull listeners who cherish this material and may not welcome a radical rendition of a beloved song. My ambition was to create a thought-provoking album that remains true to Ian's compositions.' O'Hara and Anderson approached the quartet about the project after seeing it perform at LSO St Luke's.

Sheku Kanneh-Mason

The 17-year-old cellist has released his first recording since signing to Decca Classics last year. His debut EP features an arrangement of Leonard Cohen's *Hallelujah*, which he performed at this year's EE British Academy Film Awards during the 'In Memoriam' section of the ceremony.



The three-track disc, which was recorded at Abbey Road Studios, also includes Gabriel Fauré's *Après un rêve* (with accompaniment provided by his sister Isata Kanneh-Mason) and Ernest Bloch's *Abdab*, arranged for cello by the cellist himself.