

Biography

Odysseus Piano Trio

Sara Trickey (violin), Gregor Riddell (cello), Clare Hammond (piano)

Formed in 2015, the **Odysseus Piano Trio** is developing a reputation as one of the most dynamic and distinctive ensembles to emerge in recent years. Comprising three musicians with very different interests, the trio brings a fresh perspective to core works of the repertoire while championing lesser known pieces.

Pianist Clare Hammond won the Royal Philharmonic Society's 'Young Artist' Award for 2015, has released three internationally acclaimed discs for BIS Records and appeared as the young Miss Shepherd in the Alan Bennett film adaptation 'The Lady in the Van'. Violinist Sara Trickey has been praised by *The Strad* for her "fiery and passionate" performance style, recently made world-premiere recordings of William Mathias for Naxos, and has a long-term collaborative relationship with composer David Matthews. Composer-cellist Gregor Riddell straddles the worlds of classical music and electronics, has recently performed a double cello concerto of his own composition in La Paz, Bolivia and is currently setting up an Oslo-based digital radio station.

Keen communicators, the trio have developed a three-concert 'Introduction to the Piano Trio' in collaboration with music historian and presenter Dr Katy Hamilton. They regularly lead masterclasses, give children's concerts and present interactive workshops for schools that include singing, dancing and body percussion!

Acclaimed as a pianist of "amazing power and panache" (*The Telegraph*), **Clare Hammond** is recognised for the virtuosity and authority of her performances and has developed a "reputation for brilliantly imaginative concert programmes" (*BBC Music Magazine*, 'Rising Star'). She recently won the Royal Philharmonic Society's 'Young Artist Award', in recognition of outstanding achievements in 2015.

Over the past year Clare has performed at the Barbican Hall, where *The Guardian* described her as a "dazzling athlete", and has recorded discs for Sony, BIS and Signum. In 2014, she gave debut performances at 7 festivals across Europe, including the 'Chopin and his Europe Festival' in Warsaw. Highlights in 2016 include her Royal Festival Hall debut with the Philharmonia, a series of concerts at the Belfast International Arts Festival for BBC Radio 3, and a concerto tour of Poland, to include a newly discovered work by Josef Myslivecek.

Sara Trickey is well established as one of the foremost violinists and chamber musicians of her generation, acclaimed for her 'fiery and passionate' performance style (*The Strad*). Leader of the Bronte string quartet for 6 years, she now has a busy career as a soloist and freelance chamber musician and is currently a Recommended Artist for Making Music with the pianist Daniel Tong. Her work has taken her to all the major UK concert venues, and she has been the featured violinist at the Presteigne Festival several times.

Sara has made concerto appearances with the City of London Sinfonia, the Orchestra of St Johns, the Welsh Sinfonia, Presteigne Festival Orchestra and many others. Recent recordings include the complete violin sonatas by William Mathias, a world premiere recording for Naxos, and a disc of Schubert violin and piano music for the Champs Hill Music label. Sara's performances have been broadcast on BBC Radio 3 and Welsh television.

Gregor Riddell is a cellist and composer. He is a founder member of numerous ensembles including the Solstice Quartet, Tre Voci, BirdWorld, Living Room in London and Odysseus Piano Trio with whom he has performed extensively across Europe. Recent commissions include the LCO, Asamisimasa Ensemble, a double cello concerto premiered in La Paz (Bolivia), and a work for cello and electronics written for the BEAST sound system. Since living in Norway he has become a member of composers' collective NMK and performed with artists including Streifenjunko, Vilde & Inga, Darkling, Rydin and recorded with the Oslo Sinfonietta. Upcoming plans include developing a digital radio station that offers a platform to highlight contemporary music taking place across the UK and Scandinavia.