

Biography

Odysseus Piano Trio

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

www.odysseustrio.com

After studies at Cambridge University and IMS Prussia Cove, and extensive chamber music experience with a number of ensembles, Sara, Gregor and Clare have established the Odysseus Piano Trio. While their repertoire encompasses core works for trio, they also aim to seek out less familiar pieces and to bring them to new audiences. Their debut season in 2015 saw them perform at venues across the UK, including St David's Hall in Cardiff, and the Deal, Frome, Llandeilo and Rye Festivals.

Acclaimed as a pianist of "amazing power and panache" (*The Telegraph*), **Clare Hammond** is recognised for the virtuosity and authority of her performances and is developing a "reputation for brilliantly imaginative concert programmes" (*BBC Music Magazine*, 'Rising Star'). In 2015 the Guardian described her as a "dazzling athlete" following her performance at the Barbican Hall, she gave five broadcasts for BBC Radio 3, and recorded discs for Sony, BIS Records and Signum.

Highlights in 2016 include her Royal Festival Hall debut with the Philharmonia, and a concerto tour of Poland, to include a newly discovered work by Josef Myslivecek, a mentor of Mozart. In May, Hammond releases her third disc for BIS Records, *Horae (pro clara)*, with solo piano music by Ken Hesketh, and returns to the Cheltenham and Presteigne Festivals later in the summer. Her most recent disc release, 'Etude' has received unanimous critical praise for its "unflinching bravura and conviction" (*Gramophone*) while the BBC Music Magazine stated that "this array of wizardry is not for the faint hearted".

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, including the Purcell Room, Royal Opera House, St David's Hall in Cardiff and Kings Place London, 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 active in a diverse range of musical projects. As a founder member of the Solstice String Quartet, he has performed at major European concert halls and premiered a substantial number of works including his own, *Touch-In, Touch-Out*. He is also a member of Living Room.

In 2012 Gregor attended a Banff Creative Residency where he wrote a substantial work for cello and electronics, *Their Scintillant Blades*, which he recorded with American producer/composer Rob Lewis supported by an MBF Emerging Excellence Award. He has received two commissions from the London Contemporary Orchestra and, alongside cellist Torun Stavseng, premiered his double cello concerto, *Sin Aliento*, in La Paz commissioned by Bolivia Classica. Alongside composer David Ibbett, Gregor developed a work for cello and live electronics for the 2014 BEAST concert series at Birmingham University. He is a member of the Norwegian composers collective, NMK, and involved in nu:nord for which his cello trio, Tre Voci, is resident ensemble. In January 2014 they launched their debut album at Kings Place *Out Hear Series* with upcoming performances in the UK, Scandinavia and Canada. Gregor read music at Cambridge University and composition at the Royal College of Music.