

# Biography

## Odysseus Piano Trio

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

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[www.odysseustrio.com](http://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 "unfaltering 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. 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 London Contemporary Orchestra, Asamisimasa Ensemble premiering a work at Borealis Festival (Bergen, Norway), a double cello concerto premiered in La Paz (Bolivia), and a work for cello and electronics written for the BEAST sound system at Birmingham University.

Gregor currently curates Revolve at the Union Chapel (London) where he has featured and collaborated with a wide selection of artists. Since living in Norway from winter 2014 he has become a member of composers' collective NMK and performed with artists including Streifenjunko, Vilde & Inga, Darkling, Rydin and recorded chamber works by Simon Steen-Andersen 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.