

*The*

# *Pagano*

*Quartet*

**Raffaele Pagano** *violin*

**Ezgi Sarikcioglu** *violin*

**James Cullen** *viola*

**Marta Tobar** *cello*



**St Thomas' Church Winchelsea**

**Saturday 8th October 2022**



Winchelsea Arts



Concert in memory  
of  
**GILLIAN MOTT**

9th April 1980  
20th August 2022

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**GIACOMO PUCCINI** 1858 - 1924

- *I Crisantemi* (The Chrysanthemums)
- *Mio Babbino Caro* (My Dear Father)  
*arranged for string quartet*

Puccini is perhaps second only to Verdi in the canon of Italian opera composers. His works such as *Tosca*, *La Boheme*, *Madama Butterfly* are staples of the repertory, worldwide. But Puccini's opus was not limited to opera. *I Crisantemi*, (1890) an elegy for string quartet, was written in just one night in memory of Puccini's friend the Duke of Aosta, briefly King of Spain. *O Mio Babbino Caro* is from Gianni Schicci, (1917-1918), one of a set of three one act operas. This aria for soprano is probably Puccini's single most popular piece.

## **GUISEPPE VERDI** 1813 - 1901

- Overture (Nabucco) *arranged for string quartet*
- Overture (La Traviata) *arranged for string quartet*
- String Quartet in E minor
  - Allegro*
  - Andantino*
  - Prestissimo*
  - Scherzo Fuga; Allegro assai mosso*

Verdi's operas remain pre-eminent. *Nabucco (Nebuchadnezzar)* (1841) was Verdi's first success. *La Traviata* (1852), a failure at its first performance at La Fenice in Venice in 1853, soon became an even greater success. Verdi's *String Quartet* (1873) is his only surviving chamber work. It was written while he was composing *Aida* (1873).

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## **GUISEPPE VERDI** 1813 - 1901

**NINO ROTA** 1911 - 1979

**RAFFAELE PAGANO** b 1987

- *Il Gattopardo (The Leopard)* *arranged for string quartet*

*Il Gattopardo* (1963), directed by Luchino Visconti, and starring Burt Lancaster, Claudia Cardinale, Alain Delon and Rina Morelli, is an epic film set in Sicily during the Risorgimento. Based on Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa's posthumously published novel (1958), it is one of the greatest classics of Italian cinema. Part of that credit is due to Rota's rich and wonderful score, which incorporates a rediscovered waltz composed by Verdi, *Valzer Brillante*. "If we want things to stay as they are, things must change." (Tancredi in *The Leopard* - di Lampedusa).

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**INTERVAL**

## **RAFFAELE PAGANO** b 1987

- Profumo di Donna (Scent of a Woman)  
*Andante Nobile*  
*Allegro Rustico*

Perhaps better described as ‘scent of the soul of a woman’, this string quartet has two movements. The first takes an almost spiritual approach to the woman, as an ethereal being, soft and slow with small themes appearing in each instrument. Then a fast minuet emerges, not in its usual aristocratic form but as a romantic, rustic dance, almost a tarantella recalling the composer’s Neapolitan origin.

- Life Evolution  
*Allegro drammatico*  
*Adagio etereo*  
*Scherzo a mo’ di marcia*  
*Andante meditato*  
*Danza rustica brillante*

A string quartet in five movements, *Life Evolution* was inspired by the five improvisations for solo violin made by the composer in December 2021. The first movement starts with a dramatic theme followed by emotionally charged variations culminating with an intense cadenza. The second movement’s character is drawn from an ethereal melody, seemingly perpetual, ending with an unexpected E natural out of tonality.

The third movement is a scherzo, with a severe march rhythm, showing influences of the tarantella as well as some Russian ones, before ending in an explosive violin cadenza. The fourth movement opens nostalgically, with a reflective theme and variations. This is the prelude to the very fiery fifth movement, a brilliant and virtuosic dance which includes a quotation from Nicolo Paganini’s Fifth Caprice, which leads into the powerful, incandescent ending.

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## **NINO ROTA** 1911 - 1979

- The Godfather  
*Theme, arranged for string quartet*

*The Godfather* (1972), directed by Francis Ford Coppola, another supreme classic of the cinema, requires little introduction. Rota's music was nominated for an Academy Award but was withdrawn from the list when it was discovered that parts of the score had been used previously in *Fortunella* (1958). Rota however subsequently won an Academy Award for the score of *The Godfather, Part II* (1974). Rota's output as a composer was immense and includes opera, ballet, orchestral and chamber works as well as over 150 film scores.

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## **ENRICO MORRICONE** 1928 - 2020

- The Legend of 1900  
*Medley, arranged for string quartet*

Enrico Morricone's long and fruitful contribution to cinema music cannot be overstated and many of his themes are recognised classics. Among his best known scores are *The Good, Bad and the Ugly* (1966), *Once Upon a Time in the West* (1968) and *Cinema Paradiso* (1988). *The Legend of 1900* (1998), directed by Giuseppe Tornatore with whom Morricone often worked, is based on a story about a founding named 1900, of exceptional musicality who becomes a pianist on an ocean liner. The music has many jazz influences.

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## **RAFFAELE PAGANO** *violin 1*

When Raffaele was 9, he convinced his mum to play the violin with an hunger strike of half a day, then after three months he did his first concert then never stopped. He started to study in the Music Conservatoire of his native city, Napoli. During his studies he won several violin solo competitions and joined different orchestras. After getting a Master of Music he joined the Nuova Orchestra Scarlatti becoming after few months the solo concertmaster then joining as well to the orchestra of the main opera theatre of his city, 'Teatro San Carlo di Napoli'.

His life was quite stable but inside himself he felt to have new challenges, so he flew to London where he did his further upgrade with the legendary Professor of Royal Academy of Music Hu Kun. After few years he entered gradually in the London musical life playing in different orchestras as a freelance getting then the position of solo Leader Concertmaster of London Arte Chamber Orchestra.

In Lockdown for the first time he had a break in his life and after the end of an intense love story, in the night of July 2020 he had for the first time a melody in his mind making his first absolute improvisation for solo violin. A piece of music came out and then he started gradually a new journey of composer until he had the opportunity to play on August 2021 in Ely Cathedral for DYMA in a YouTube broadcast concert, his first string quartet *Profumo di Donna*. At the moment he's playing in Hastings Philharmonic Orchestra and teaching violin in Blackheath Conservatoire plus playing concerts in chamber music as performer composer and arranger.

## **EZGI SARIKCIOĞLU** *violin 2*

Turkish violinist Ezgi Sarikcioğlu is an Artist Diploma graduate where she also studied Master of Performance with the internationally renowned pedagogue Itzhak Rashkovsky at the Royal College of Music, London. She is a scholar of the Association of Contemporary Education (Çağdaş Eğitim Vakfı). Ezgi is also generously sponsored by Talent Unlimited. Ezgi previously studied at Çukurova University State Conservatory and Istanbul University State Conservatory with Ferhang Huseynov and Sevil Ulucan Weinstein. Ezgi Sarikcioglu graduated from Istanbul University State Conservatory from Sevil Ulucan Weinstein's class with the highest mark.

Ezgi has participated in several masterclasses and had lessons with many outstanding violinists such as Lukas David, Pierre Amoyal, Ani Schnarch, Cihat Askin, Hakan Sensoy, Shlomo Mintz, Zakhar Bron, Victor Danchenko, Mincho

Minchev, Ellen Jewett, Angel Stankov and Davide Alogna. Additionally, she has been receiving regular coaching sessions with prominent violinist Cihat Aşkın since 2013.

Ezgi is a recipient of several prizes including the 1st prize at Berlin International Music Competition - Sforzando, the 1st prize at the Internet Music Competition, the 1st prize at Paris Slave De Musique Conservatory competition 'We Play Together', the 2nd prize at 10th International Independent Music Competition 'Individualis', the 1st prize at Turkey/Edirne Mimar Sinan Rotary Club Organization '19th International Young Musicians Chamber Music Competition' with Spettro Quartet. Additionally, she was awarded by Istanbul Foundation for Culture and Arts, and supported with Women Stars of Tomorrow, Young Musicians Support Fund.

### **JAMES CULLEN** *viola*

At the age of fourteen James successfully auditioned at the Junior Royal Academy of Music where he studied violin under the guidance of Ben Wragg and later Rafael Todes (Allegri Quartet). He then continued his studies on the violin, with scholarship, at Trinity Laban Conservatoire under Rivka Golani and Emannuella Reiter (who previously served as the teaching assistant of Kim Kashkashian). It was there, whilst studying for his bachelor's that James also found his love towards the viola as well, and continued exploring the instrument at Guildhall School of Music and Drama under Matthew Jones, also with scholarship.

At GSMD, he joined the Celia Quartet (winners of the St James's Piccadilly prize, semifinalists at St Martins-in-the-Fields Chamber Music Competition and members of Le Dimore del quartetto network). Having been mentored by master musicians from the Danish String Quartet, Takàcs Quartet, Golder String Quartet, to name a few, the quartet were then taken under the wing of Simon Rowland-Jones (Chilingirian Quartet) and Quartetto di Cremona at the Stauffer Centre for Strings (Cremona), performing throughout the United Kingdom (Wigmore Hall, St James's Piccadilly, North Norfolk Music Festival, St Martin-in-the-Fields), as well as touring throughout Europe.

### **MARTA TOBAR** *cello*

Marta completed her BMus (Honours) degree and Masters Degree in Solo Performance at the Royal Northern College of Music, under the tutelage of Nicholas Jones. She received support by the Spanish government through various scholarships that allowed her to pursue her career at this prestigious

institution. Since graduating, she has participated in Festivals across Europe including Aurora Festival (Sweden), Ravello Festival (Italy), Musikwochen Millstatt (Austria), International Chamber Music Festival (UK). She is an active freelance cellist, both in the UK and abroad.

She has performed as Principal in a number of orchestras such as the London Arte Chamber Orchestra, Surrey Opera and British Philharmonia. She regularly performs with Southern Sinfonia and Malaga Philharmonic Orchestra in Spain among others. She is also interested in performing new music, and has premiered pieces from composers including Adam Gorb and David Horne, as well as appearing on BBC's The Culture Show and BBC Radio 3 In Tune, performing extracts of the new opera written by composer Martin Ward (ENO, ROH) and librettist Phil Porter (ROH, RSC).

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## ***Next from Winchelsea Arts...***

On Saturday 12th November Ukrainian mezzo-soprano Kseniia Nikolaieva and British pianist, Edmund Whitehead will perform a wide variety of music representing the national styles of Germany, Italy and Spain with songs by Wagner, Verdi and de Falla.

