

**Clun Valley Music 2023**      *“Bach in Leipzig”*  
**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September 7.30pm**    St. George’s Church, Clun

*Alessandro Ruisi & Pavlo Beznosiuk violins  
Luba Tunnicliffe viola Richard Tunnicliffe cello*

Cello Suite No. 2 in D minor BWV1007 (arr. Richard Tunnicliffe) Bach  
*Prelude, Allemande, Courante, Sarabande, Menuets I & II, Gigue*

String Quartet Op. 20 No. 2 in C Haydn  
*Moderato, Capriccio Adagio, Menuet & Trio Allegretto, Fuga a 4 Soggetti Allegro*

## *INTERVAL*

Prelude and Fugue for String Trio in F KV 404a Bach/Mozart

**J.S.Bach (1685-1750)** was the chief representative of a musical “dynasty” stretching back several generations. In fact, during the 17<sup>th</sup> and early 18<sup>th</sup> centuries in the regions of North Germany known as Saxony and Thuringia, the name Bach was pretty much synonymous with ‘musician’. Very probably the greatest organist the world has ever known, he was also an accomplished violinist and his over-arching command of all aspects of composition effectively re-defined the language of music for subsequent composers. When, in 1723, Bach travelled from Anhalt-Cöthen to Leipzig to take up a post as *Kantor* at St. Thomas’s Church his luggage would have contained the manuscripts of several of the pieces being performed during this weekend and his new employment was to give the world some of its greatest works of church music including the *St. Matthew and St. John Passions* and the *Mass in B minor*.

By the time of **Mozart (1756-91)** and **Haydn (1732-1809)** Bach's music had already become old-fashioned despite having been written only a few decades previously. Both composers (as well as the young Beethoven) were introduced to Bach's fugues at the house of the "early music" enthusiast Baron Von Swieten in Vienna. All three composers regarded the mastery of fugue to be an essential part of the composer's training, and Mozart transcribed some of the fugues from Bach's *Well-Tempered Clavier* for strings, adding Preludes of his own, whilst Haydn includes a sparkling fugue as the final movement of his Quartet Op. 20 No.2. **Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)** was born in Hamburg and moved to Leipzig in 1835 to become director of the *Gewandhaus* Orchestra, still a major force in the musical world today. He was a leading figure in the revival of Bach's music during the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, a landmark event being his performance of the *St. Matthew Passion* in Berlin in 1829, the first time that this great, but by then forgotten, work had been performed outside Leipzig.

British-Sicilian violinist **ALESSANDRO RUISI** performs internationally as a chamber musician, soloist and orchestral leader. He is first violin of the Ruisi Quartet who are recipients of a Royal Philharmonic Society award, a Banff career development award and have recently released their debut album ‘Big House’ on Pentatone records. Recent performances include the premiere of a work by Thomas Adès at the Wigmore Hall and next season he will give the French premiere of a violin and piano suite based on Adès’ opera The Tempest at the Louis Vuitton Foundation. Alessandro is a J & A Beare International Violin Society Artist and is grateful for their support.

He records regularly for film and TV and has also performed with Jimmy Page from Led Zeppelin, Nick Cave, Björk and Radiohead.

Alessandro is happiest in front of a plate of pasta, watching Aston Villa on winning form.

**PAVLO BEZNOSIUK** With a 40-year career spanning music from mediaeval Europe to contemporary film scores, pioneering the use of Renaissance violins and Lira da Braccio, by way of a globe-trotting career as soloist, chamber musician, concertmaster and director, Pavlo Beznosiuk is one of the UK's most eclectic violinists. His extensive discography includes Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*, Biber's *Rosary Sonatas* and the entire output of Arcangelo Corelli. His recording of JS Bach's solo Sonatas and Partitas (on Linn records) was described as 'exquisite' by The Independent on Sunday. Pavlo teaches Baroque Violin at The Royal Academy of Music and The Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

Violist **LUBA TUNNICLIFFE** is a versatile performer and enjoys a varied musical career. The Pelléas Ensemble, her dynamic flute, viola and harp trio released their critically acclaimed debut album 'Nature and the Imagination' on Linn Records in June 2021. They have commissioned four new pieces and produced many of their own arrangements. As a member of the Ruisi Quartet, Luba has performed extensively across the UK and abroad. In November 2022 they gave the première of *Novenyek* by Thomas Adès in the Wigmore Hall, London, and their debut album "Big House" was released in February 2023 on Pentatone. In April 2022 Luba took up the position of Principal Viola of the Netherlands Chamber Orchestra, Amsterdam. She is also principal Viola of the 12 ensemble and has played as Associate Principal with the Britten Sinfonia.

Luba's solo viola playing is featured in Jonny Greenwood's original score for Jane Campion's 2021 film 'Power of the Dog'.

In a long career, cellist **RICHARD TUNNICLIFFE** has performed as orchestral principal with some of the world's top conductors, played and recorded a huge range of chamber music from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> centuries and made acclaimed solo recordings. In particular, his Bach cello suites on Linn records, was widely praised by critics and he also made the first recording of the 6 cello concertos by 18thC Durham-based composer John Garth which has been broadcast frequently on Classic FM.

He also plays the viola da gamba and was a member of viol consort *Fretwork* for 12 years.

The past season has included concerts with the Brodsky Quartet and performances at the BBC Proms and Glyndebourne Festival Opera. Next spring, he will be giving the first performance of a piece for cello and voices, "Lot's Wives" by composer Bruce Adolphe with the Martlet Voices, Oxford. Richard teaches baroque cello at the Royal College of Music.

In 2018 Richard founded Clun Valley Music with his daughter Luba. This is their fifth season.