

Borletti-Buitoni Trust

Rewarding musical excellence

Borletti-Buitoni Trust announces 2016 Award Winners

An Abundance of Strings Tribute to Claudio Abbado

Two highly talented pianists and a soprano join 15 gifted string players (three string quartets, two violinists and a violist) on the roster of BBT Award and Fellowship winners for 2016. A Special BBT Chamber Music Prize for Italian musicians worth €25,000 is also being given this year in honour of Claudio Abbado and his commitment to chamber music. Award winners receive £30,000 and Fellowship winners £20,000 plus generous support, networking opportunities and counsel for the duration of their BBT projects. Chosen by the BBT Artistic Committee from 22 nominated musicians and ensembles, these young musicians now have the opportunity to embark on tailor-made plans to advance their careers.

BBT AWARDS

Danish String Quartet (Denmark/Norway)
Anna Lucia Richter *soprano* (Germany)

BBT FELLOWSHIPS

Calidore String Quartet (USA)
Alexandra Conunova *violin* (Moldova)
Zoltán Fejérvári *piano* (Hungary)
Maria Milstein *violin* (Russia)
Beatrice Rana *piano* (Italy)
Eivind Holtsmark Ringstad *viola* (Norway)

BBT SPECIAL CHAMBER MUSIC PRIZE

In Honour of Claudio Abbado

Quartetto Lyskamm (Italy)



Anna Lucia Richter

Photo: Hermann Clärchen and Matthias Baus

BBT Awards

Danish String Quartet

Frederik Øland, Rune Tonsgaard Sørensen, Asbjørn Nørgaard, Fredrik Schøyen Sjölin

The Quartet tours throughout the world and has won many prizes including the 11th London International String Quartet Competition and the Carl Nielsen Prize 2011, plus appointments to the Chamber Music Society Lincoln Center Two programme in 2013/14 and the BBC New Generation Artists scheme 2013-15. As well as the classical masters, DSQ demonstrates a particular passion for Scandinavian composers and adventurous programming. The Quartet's recording of Danish folk songs arranged for string quartet, *Wood Works* (Dacapo), was selected by NPR as one of the best classical albums of the year (2014) and its debut disc on ECM Records is released in the 2015/16 season. Since 2005 DSQ has also presented its own annual four-day Festival in Copenhagen.

Anna Lucia Richter *soprano*

Anna Lucia Richter, 26, has attracted wide acclaim across several continents. Highlights in 2015 included the opening of the Lucerne Festival in Mahler's Fourth Symphony under Bernard Haitink, concerts in London and Tokyo with the London Symphony Orchestra and in the US with the San Francisco Symphony and LA Philharmonic Orchestras. With Opera de Lille she sang Eurydice in Sasha Waltz's touring production of Monteverdi's *L'Orfeo* and her recent recitals include those with Gerold Huber and András Schiff. Her first Lied CD (with Michael Gees) was also released in 2015 with Schumann's *Liederkreis* and improvisations on texts by Eichendorff. She began singing lessons at nine with her mother Regina Dohmen and thereafter studied with Kurt Widmer in Basel and Klesie Kelly-Moog at the Cologne Music Academy.

Photo: Caroline Bittencourt



BBT Fellowships

Alexandra Conunova *violin*

Alexandra Conunova, 27, was born in the Republic of Moldova where in her hometown, Chişinău, she has since founded the 'VitArt' charitable foundation to help disabled people and young music students. Her many accolades include prizes at the Joseph Joachim Competition in Hannover (2012) and the International Tchaikovsky Violin Competition as well as the honourable title of 'Master of Arts' awarded by the Moldovan President. As a soloist she has performed with the Mahler Chamber Orchestra, NDR Hannover, Camerata Bern and National Philharmonic Orchestra of Russia with conductors such as Valery Gergiev, Teodor Currentzis and Vladimir Spivakov and regularly appears at Verbier, Aix-en-Provence, Colmar, Radio France and Mecklenburg-Vorpommern Festivals, among others.



Photo: NICEFHORE Productions



Photo: Andrea Felvégi

Zoltán Fejérvári *piano*

Born in Budapest, Zoltán Fejérvári studied at the Liszt Academy of Music and won prizes at the Città de Cantù Competition for Piano and Orchestra and James Mottram Piano Competition. In recital he has performed in such venues as New York's Carnegie Hall, the Liszt Academy's Grand Hall in Budapest and Usina del Arte in Buenos Aires, and as soloist with the Budapest, Verbier Festival and Hungarian National Orchestras. He has collaborated with esteemed musicians such as Zoltán Kocsis, Iván Fischer and the Keller and Kodály Quartets, as well as participating in Kronberg Chamber Music Connects the World programme, Prussia Cove and Marlboro Music Festival. His recording of Liszt's *Malédiction* with Imre Rohmann and the Budapest Chamber Symphony (Hungaroton) received the Grand Prix du Disque 2013.

Maria Milstein *violin*

Maria Milstein, born into a family of musicians in Moscow, is based in the Netherlands where she studied - and now teaches - at the Amsterdam Conservatoire. She has played with many international orchestras including National Orchestra of Belgium, Brussels Philharmonic and Amsterdam Sinfonietta. As a chamber musician she has collaborated with Michel Tabachnik, Christian Arming and Reinbert de Leeuw among others. She is a founder member of the Van Baerle Trio, winner of the 2013 ARD Competition and 2011 Lyon International Chamber Music Competition. The Trio has toured extensively in Europe as part of the ECHO Rising Stars scheme and recorded two CDs. Her own CD, *Sounds of War*, recorded with pianist Hanna Shybayeva and released in 2015, won an Edison Klassiek Award.





Beatrice Rana *piano*

Beatrice Rana, 23, embarked on an international career after taking first prize and all the special prizes at the Montreal International Music Competition in 2011, followed by the Van Cliburn Competition Silver Prize and Audience Prize in 2013. She also joined the BBC New Generation Artists scheme in 2015. She performs in the world's top recital halls, concert venues and festivals as well as with the world's leading orchestras under conductors such as Yannick Nézet-Séguin, Leonard Slatkin, Riccardo Chailly, Fabio Luisi, Fabien Gabel, Antonio Pappano, Susanna Mälkki and Zubin Mehta. Now an exclusive Warner Classics artist, Beatrice recently released her acclaimed debut CD featuring Tchaikovsky's First and Prokofiev's Second Piano Concertos, with Antonio Pappano and the Accademia di Santa Cecilia.

Eivind Holtsmark Ringstad

viola

Oslo-born Eivind Holtsmark Ringstad, 21, has won many prizes including first prize in the 2012 EBU Eurovision Young Musician Competition in Vienna and the Arve Tellefsen Prize. As a chamber musician, he has performed at Norway's most important festivals including those held in Oslo, Risør, Stavanger and Bergen. He has also performed with his country's leading orchestras including Norwegian Radio Orchestra and Oslo Philharmonic and debuts in the 2015-16 season with Copenhagen Philharmonic and Bergen Philharmonic Orchestras. Eivind began playing the violin at age five before moving to the viola at 14 and studies at Norway's esteemed Barratt Due Institute of Music.



BBT Fellowships

Calidore String Quartet

Jeffrey Myers, Ryan Meehan, Jeremy Berry, Estelle Choi

Formed in 2010 at the Colburn Conservatory of Music in California, this American quartet has won many US chamber music awards including the Fischhoff, Chesapeake and Yellow Springs competitions, plus the 2012 ARD Munich International String Quartet and Hamburg International Chamber Music Competitions. CSQ has performed at renowned venues such as Wigmore Hall, Lincoln Center and Seoul's Kumho Arts Hall, as well as many festivals including Ravinia, East Neuk, Verbier, Great Lakes, Mostly Mozart and Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. The Quartet is currently artist-in-residence at Stony Brook University, New York and was appointed to the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center Two programme (2016-2019). Its debut recording of quartets by Mendelssohn and Haydn was released in 2015 to great acclaim.





BBT Special Chamber Music Prize

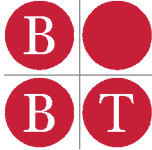
In Honour of Claudio Abbado

Chamber music is a fundamental aspect of BBT's approach to supporting young musicians. This prize has been introduced in memory of Claudio Abbado (1933-2014), one of the world's most eminent conductors and a dear friend to Franco Buitoni. Early in his career Abbado turned down a prestigious conducting position in America to teach chamber music for three years in Parma (1958-61), stating that he forged his own philosophy of music making in this period. The BBT award is specifically to advance and nurture chamber music in Italy where the genre is not as well supported as in other European countries.

Quartetto Lyskamm

**Cecilia Ziano,
Clara Franziska Schötensack,
Francesca Piccioni, Giorgio Casati**

The Quartet, founded in 2008 by prize-winning students at the renowned Giuseppe Verdi Conservatory in Milan, was mentored by the Artemis Quartet and is now working with Heime Müller. Prizes include the Vittorio Rimbotti Award given every other year by the European Chamber Music Society (2014) and the ProQuartet special prize at the International String Quartet Competition in Graz. The Quartet has appeared at many of Italy's renowned venues and festivals and played in quintet with Mario Brunello, Simone Rubino and Alessandro Taverna. As well as being Quartet in Residence for the Amici della Musica in Padua and recent participants in the Aldeburgh Residencies programme in the UK, Quartetto Lyskamm is supported by Comitato Nazionale Italiano Musica and the Ad Infinitum Foundation.



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