



## Borletti-Buitoni Trust

20 Leythe Road  
London W3 8AW

Telephone +44 (0)20 8993 0100

Fax +44 (0)20 8992 1388

Email [susanrivers@bbtrust.com](mailto:susanrivers@bbtrust.com)

Web [www.bbtrust.com](http://www.bbtrust.com)

BBT Projects update: September 2008

## BBT PROJECTS NEWS AND INFORMATION

### VERBIER FESTIVAL ACADEMY

#### Ongoing BBT sponsorship

This year the Borletti-Buitoni Trust (BBT) supported the Verbier Festival Academy Chamber Music programme for the third consecutive year and has agreed a further year's sponsorship. BBT artists taking part in the 2008 Academy were the **Navarra Quartet**, German violinist **Jermolaj Albiker** and Canadian baritone **Joshua Hopkins** who won the overall Prix d'Honneur Verbier Festival Academy for his performance as Guglielmo in *Così fan tutte*. Hopkins is also the first of the BBT musicians to take advantage of special coaching with Patsy Rodenburg offered by the Trust which he found enormously helpful: "Although I learned a great many more techniques and ideas from Patsy in our session, most importantly she gave me permission to trust in myself - I felt an immediate correction in physical posture and mindset when entering and standing in a recital space, and can honestly say I have a fresh, positive outlook on performing my next recital."

Read his remarkably frank blog at [www.bbtrust.com](http://www.bbtrust.com)

This Autumn the Trust sees the culmination of several recording projects it has supported:

### JÖRGEN VAN RIJEN (BBT Award 2006)

#### 'WOW' London performance in December

Two American veterans of the Iraq war have inspired the music that is the title track of Dutch trombonist van Rijen's second BBT-supported CD, *I was like, Wow!*, to be released in November 2008 on Channel Classics. He will give a London showcase performance of this commissioned work as well as others from the CD at 22 Mansfield Street\* on 1 December alongside BBT 2008 Fellowship winner **Leonard Elschenbroich** (cello). Combined with his first baroque CD, *Sackbutt*, recorded with the renowned Combattimento Consort, van Rijen has made a strong personal statement about the versatility of the trombone as a solo instrument (see film and hear excerpts on [www.bbtrust.com](http://www.bbtrust.com)). He will use the remainder of his BBT award to support the commissioning of two new pieces, details of which will be announced soon.

### LAVINIA MEIJER (BBT Fellowship 2007)

#### A harpist on a mission and on film

Harpist Lavinia Meijer is another talented young musician from the Netherlands who strives to build a soloist career with a 'difficult' instrument. Already well known in her home country where she appears on popular TV chat shows, she has her sights set very much at an international level and has put some of her BBT award towards the making of a short promotional film and also a CD of French harp repertoire to be released on Channel Classics in October 2008. The film, which is now online on

the BBT website, illustrates the extent of Lavinia's commitment: through her performances and masterclasses she clearly demonstrates her passion for the harp whose technical and creative abilities she describes and demonstrates to audiences that are hitherto unaware of the instrument's capacity for quirky contemporary music as well as lyrical sweetness.

**ANDREW KENNEDY** (BBT Award 2006)

**A tribute to the Armistice**

As we prepare to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the Armistice this November, BBT celebrates the release of the first of two CDs with Altara Music by English tenor Andrew Kennedy. *The Dark Pastoral*, featuring rarely heard music and poetry (read by Simon Russell-Beale) of the first world war era, has been met with warm praise. Sample tracks of the three featured composers - William Denis Browne, Ivor Gurney and Eugene Goossens - are now on the BBT website. Plans will soon be announced regarding the second recording in 2009/10 which will be an orchestral disc.

**DAVID TRIO** (BBT Fellowship 2006) and **NAVARRA QUARTET** (BBT Fellowship 2007)

**Altara recordings**

Altara music is becoming a regular recording partner for several of BBT's winners. Following on from violinist Viviane Hagner and Andrew Kennedy come the David Trio and Navarra Quartet. The Italian trio's debut CD is released in November 2008 featuring the Schubert piano trios, while the Navarra Quartet is preparing to record Haydn's *The Seven Last Words of Christ on the Cross* in January 2009 for its first CD. As well as supporting the recording, BBT will also fund a short film of interviews and live performance incorporating a backdrop projection of contemporary paintings - inspired by the music - by the celebrated Australian-born artist Jamie Boyd.

We also look forward to Mitsuko Uchida's European tour with BBT award winners (see separate release), following on from the hugely successful American tour in May.

The BBT website is continuously being developed and now features a new entry on the Special Projects page about the growing number of commissions supported by BBT (seven premièred so far and eight more currently in the pipeline). Music excerpts (courtesy of BBC Radio 3) just recently added online are from Detlev Glanert's Double Piano Concerto for the BBT 2004 Fellowship Piano Duo, Philip Moore and Simon Crawford-Phillips and Simon Holt's *a table of noises* for BBT 2005 Award percussionist Colin Currie. Further website news will be announced in the October E-Newsletter (to sign up for this see below).

\* Concerts at 22 Mansfield Street, London W1G 9NR benefit the Nicholas Boas Trust which assists young musicians. To reserve places contact: T. +44 (0)20 7436 0344 [E. boas22m@btinternet.com](mailto:boas22m@btinternet.com)

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**Press Contact:**

Debra Boraston, DBPR Associates, 11 Parkhill Road, London NW3 2YH  
T. +44 (0)20 7483 1950 Mobile. +44 07989 434388  
[E. debra@henrymoorestudio.co.uk](mailto:debra@henrymoorestudio.co.uk) [www.henrymoorestudio.co.uk/dbpr](http://www.henrymoorestudio.co.uk/dbpr)

**Further information about the BB Trust is available from:**

Susan Rivers, Executive Director, Borletti-Buitoni Trust, 20 Leythe Road,  
London W3 8AW T. +44 (0)20 8993 0100  
[E. susanrivers@bbtrust.com](mailto:susanrivers@bbtrust.com) Web: [www.bbtrust.com](http://www.bbtrust.com)

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