



17 March 2022

BBT Artists
Rewarding Musical Excellence

Borletti-Buitoni Trust Awards and Fellowships 2022

In recognition of the difficulties experienced during the pandemic of the last two years, BBT has generously increased its funding for 2022 and granted more awards. The Trust encourages these young musicians to create imaginative projects that will help develop their future careers, as well as offering practical advice and assistance. Award winners receive £30,000 and Fellowship winners £20,000.

AWARDS

Anastasia Kobekina *cello*

Geneva Lewis *violin*

James Newby *baritone*

Ema Nikolovska *mezzo-soprano*

FELLOWSHIPS

Consone Quartet

Alessandro Fisher *tenor*

Zlatomir Fung *cello*

Lucie Horsch *recorder*

Theodore Platt *baritone*

These awards are announced
on 17 March to mark the
birthday of the late Franco Buitoni

Anastasia Kobekina
© Julia Altukhova





Anastasia Kobekina *cello*

Russian-born Anastasia Kobekina (27) began cello lessons aged four. On completion of her studies in Moscow she progressed to the Kronberg Academy, University of Arts in Berlin, Paris Conservatoire and now postgraduate studies at Frankfurter Hochschule. Her repertoire ranges from baroque to contemporary: as soloist she has performed with international orchestras such as Konzerthausorchester Berlin, Kammerphilharmonie Bremen, Wiener Symphoniker, BBC Philharmonic, Kremerata Baltica, Mariinsky Theatre Orchestra, Moscow Virtuosi and Tchaikovsky Symphony Orchestra Moscow, with conductors such as Krzysztof Penderecki, Valery Gergiev, Heinrich Schiff, Omer Meir Wellber, Vladimir Spivakov and Dmitriy Kitajenko. As recitalist and chamber musician, she performs at major venues including Concertgebouw Amsterdam, Lincoln Center, Elbphilharmonie Hamburg, Tonhalle Zurich, Mariinsky Theatre and festivals such as Gstaad Menuhin, Schleswig-Holstein, Verbier, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Aix-en-Provence Easter Festival and La Folle Journée de Nantes. She plays a 1698 Stradivarius generously loaned by Stradivari Stiftung Habisreutinger. As well as her BBT Award, Kobekina won the International Tchaikovsky Competition Bronze medal in 2019 and was a BBC New Generation Artist 2018-2021.



Geneva Lewis *violin*

New Zealand-born Geneva Lewis (23) grew up in California and made her solo debut at age 11 with the Pasadena Symphony Orchestra. She studied at the New England Conservatory where she is now an Artist Diploma candidate studying with Miriam Fried. Widely praised for the purity and honesty of her playing, she has performed with orchestras across the world including recent and forthcoming appearances with Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, Auckland Philharmonia and Sarasota Orchestra. In recital, recent and upcoming highlights include performances at Wigmore Hall, Tippet Rise and Kravis Center among others. Her love of musical collaboration and playing chamber music involves her spending summers at the Marlboro Music Festival and Ravinia Steans Music Institute. She performs on the “Joachim-Ma” Stradivarius c. 1714, generously loaned by the New England Conservatory. As well as her BBT Award, she received a 2021 Avery Fisher Career Grant and was Grand Prize winner of the 2020 Concert Artists Guild Competition.



James Newby *baritone*

British baritone James Newby (29) studies with Robert Dean and is currently living in Germany as an ensemble member of Staatsoper Hannover. A former BBC New Generation Artist (2018-21), he is now an ECHO Rising Star with appearances at major concert halls throughout Europe in the 2022/23 season. As a recitalist he regularly appears at Wigmore Hall, Leeds and Oxford Lieder Festivals and on the BBC. Operatic engagements include La Monnaie Brussels, Nevill Holt Opera and Glyndebourne and recent and upcoming recital highlights include performances with Arcangelo and Britten Sinfonia. On the concert platform he has sung with the BBC Symphony, Gabrieli Consort, La Nuova Musica, RTE National Symphony Orchestra, Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment and Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra. His debut solo album *I Wonder as I Wander* (BIS) with pianist Joseph Middleton met with worldwide acclaim. His BBT Award joins his 2016 Kathleen Ferrier Award, Trinity Gold Medal (2017) and Glyndebourne's John Christie Award (2017). He was a Rising Star for Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment's 2017-2019 scheme.



Ema Nikolovska mezzo-soprano

Macedonian-Canadian Ema Nikolovska (28) grew up in Toronto where she studied at the Glenn Gould School, followed by postgraduate training at London's Guildhall School. Recital performances in the last year included appearances at Pierre Boulez Saal, Wigmore Hall, Elbphilharmonie Hamburg and Verbier Festival as well as her BBC Proms debut. Her collaborators include Malcolm Martineau, Wolfram Rieger, Graham Johnson, Jonathan Ware, Joseph Middleton and Barry Shiffman. Opera highlights this season include the lead role in Christian Jost's *Die Arabische Nacht*, along with roles in Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte*, Rameau's *Hippolyte et Aricie*, Janáček's *Jenůfa* and Verdi's *Rigoletto*. She is currently a BBC New Generation Artist (2019-22) and a member of the International Opera Studio at the Berlin Staatsoper Unter den Linden. In addition to her BBT Award she won First Prize at the International Vocal Competition in 's-Hertogenbosch, the Ferrier Loveday Song Prize (Kathleen Ferrier Awards) and was a prize-winner at the Young Classical Artists Trust International Auditions.

Fellowships

Consone Quartet

Agata Daraškaitė *violin*

Magdalena Loth-Hill *violin*

Elitsa Bogdanova *viola*

George Ross *cello*

Formed in 2012 at London's Royal College of Music, the Consone Quartet is noted for honest and expressive interpretations of classical and romantic repertoire. The Quartet's debut CD of Haydn and Mendelssohn was met with great critical acclaim. Consone has performed at Wigmore Hall, Snape Maltings, Cheltenham, Queen's Hall Edinburgh, Stoller Hall Manchester and English Haydn Festivals, toured the north of England and Scotland, and hosted a 'Consone & Friends' series on Radio 3 from Dora Stoutzker Hall. In 2021 the quartet founded *Barnstorming!*, a chamber music series in barns supported by Continuo Foundation. Future highlights include De Bijloke in Belgium, Heidelberg Festival in Germany and tours of North America and Japan. In addition to its BBT Fellowship, Consone is the first period instrument quartet selected as BBC Radio 3 New Generation Artists (2019-2022), and prizewinners of both the Royal Over-Seas League Competition and the York Early Music Competition.

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Fellowships



© Gerard Collett

Alessandro Fisher *tenor*

A Choral Scholar at Clare College Cambridge, reading Modern and Medieval Languages, British tenor Alessandro Fisher (33) then studied at London's Guildhall School of Music and Drama. He made his Salzburg Festival debut as Lucano, *L'Incoronazione di Poppea* and has appeared at Garsington, Glyndebourne, The Grange Festival and London's Royal Opera. In concert he has appeared with the BBC Orchestras and the Netherlands Radio Philharmonic, as well as in recital at Cheltenham, North Norfolk and Oxford Lieder Festivals and Wigmore Hall. Future engagements include Osvaldo in Mercadante's *Il Proscritto* for Opera Rara, Mendelssohn *Elias* at the Badisches Staatstheater Kagenfurt, Monteverdi *Vesperae della beate Vergine* with La Nuova Musica, Vaughan Williams *On Wenlock Edge* with the BBC Philharmonic and Kurt Weill *The Seven Deadly Sins* with the London Symphony Orchestra. In addition to his BBT Fellowship, Fisher is an Associate Artist of The Mozartists and a former BBC New Generation Artist (2018-2021). He won First Prize at the 2016 Kathleen Ferrier Awards.

Zlatomir Fung *cello*

Of Bulgarian-Chinese heritage, Zlatomir Fung (22) began playing cello at three and earned fellowships at Ravinia's Steans Music Institute, Heifetz International Music Institute, MusicAlp and Aspen Music Festival/School. Fung has been featured on NPR's Performance Today and was selected as a 2016 U.S. Presidential Scholar for the Arts. He studied at The Juilliard School under the tutelage of Richard Aaron and Timothy Eddy. Fung has performed with a number of American orchestras and counts among his chamber music partners Joshua Bell, Shai Wosner and the Calidore String Quartet. In addition to his BBT Fellowship, amongst other awards Fung was the first American in four decades and youngest musician ever to win First Prize at the International Tchaikovsky Competition Cello Division and was a 2020 recipient of an Avery Fisher Career Grant.

© I-Jung Huang



Lucie Horsch *recorder*

Taking up the recorder at just five and studying at Amsterdam Conservatory's Sweelink Academie from 11, Dutch player Lucie Horsch (22) studied recorder with Walter van Hauwe, as well as piano. A charismatic advocate of her instrument, her musicality extends over multiple genres as well as new repertoire. Lucie plays as a soloist with the Royal Concertgebouw, Zürich Tonhalle, Uppsala Chamber and Manitoba Chamber orchestras. In recital she performs with French lutenist Thomas Dunford. Lucie is an exclusive Decca Classics artist. Her debut CD featuring Vivaldi won the 2017 Edison Klassiek Award. Her second album *Baroque Journey*, recorded with the Academy of Ancient Music and Thomas Dunford, reached No 1 in the UK Classical Charts and won a 2019 OPUS KLASSIK prize in Germany. In addition to her BBT Fellowship, in the 2021/22 season Lucie is an ECHO Rising Star, nominated by both the Amsterdam Concertgebouw and Cologne Philharmonie.

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© Ben McKee

Theodore Platt *baritone*

British-Russian baritone Theodore Platt (27) read Music at St John's College, Cambridge, graduating in 2016. He is an alumnus of the Verbier Festival Academy and the Royal College of Music Opera Studio. As a member of Bayerische Staatsoper's Opernstudio (2020-2022) his roles included Wiedehopf/*Die Vögel* and Fiorello/*Il Barbiere di Siviglia*. He attended the Internationale Meistersinger Akademie, which led to performances with the Nuremberg Symphony Orchestra and a recital of Schubert Lieder broadcast on BR-Klassik.

An avid recitalist, he made his Wigmore Hall debut with Graham Johnson in 2019 and looks forward to returning with Malcolm Martineau this season. Other recent highlights include his debut at the Oxford Lieder Festival with regular duo partner Keval Shah. In addition to his BBT Fellowship, Theodore has had success in numerous competitions, winning prizes in the 64th Kathleen Ferrier Award, the Veronica Dunne International Singing Competition, Copenhagen Lied Duo Competition, Lies Askonas Competition, and being awarded the Prix Thierry Mermod (Verbier Festival).



BBT Communities Music Changing Lives

"Music brings great joy in our lives and I believe it can also be a force in helping social cohesion in societies where there is deeply-rooted discrimination and suffering, especially among underprivileged young people. BBT Communities is my pledge to seek out and help these valued enterprises."

Ilaria Borletti Buitoni

This new division of BBT was introduced in 2019 to support organisations on a mission to bring the healing power of music to troubled lives in disadvantaged communities throughout the world. Grants of up to £40,000 are given every other year. The next BBT Communities will be announced in March 2023.

2021

Ghetto Classics (Kenya)
Music Action International (UK)
Musical Keys (UK)
Project 440 (USA)
Scottish Chamber Orchestra (UK)
Sistema Musica Arnesano (Italy)
Sounds of Change (Netherlands)
Wigmore Hall Learning (UK)

2019

City of London Sinfonia (UK)
MitMachMusik (Germany)
Music as Therapy International (UK)
Sanitansamble (Italy)
SONG Onlus – Sistema Lombardia (Italy)



Sounds of Change



MitMachMusik

Visit www.bbtrust.com/communities for further information



Borletti-Buitoni Trust

Registered charity number 1167245, a charitable incorporated organization

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Design and Printing by The Flying Press Ltd.