## The Veles Ensemble with Peter Cigleris - clarinet



"The performances are marvellous."

Grammophone, April 2019 – Veles Ensemble with Peter Cigleris CD review

The **Veles Ensemble** joins forces with one of the most exciting UK clarinet players **Peter Cigleris** to bring you a choice of varied programmes featuring string trios and clarinet quartets.

## Programme 1

- B. Crusell Clarinet Quartet in E-flat Op.2
- F. Schubert String Trio in B flat major, D 581
- S. Elcock Shed Dances for string trio and clarinet
- H. Baermann Clarinet Quartet Op 18

## Programme 2

- W.A. Mozart Quartet No III in F K. 496
- L. van Beethoven *String Trio in G major op. 9 no.* 1
- Z. Kodaly Intermezzo for string trio
- A. Rawsthorne Clarinet Quartet (1948)

The **Veles Ensemble** is a classical string trio based in London. It was founded in 2016 by three young successful classical musicians – soloists, recitalists and performers in leading London chamber orchestras: Evva Mizerska – cello, Ralitsa Naydenova – viola and Hartmut Richter – violin. The group aims at exploring rarely heard masterpieces as well as bringing the classics to life and onto the concert stage. The ensemble is also committed to promoting new compositions and contemporary music. It occasionally expands to play as a piano quartet and slightly larger line-ups.

The Veles Ensemble released their debut album with chamber music by British composer Steve Elcock with *Toccata Classics* in December 2018 to critical acclaim (Gramophone, MusicWeb International amongst the others). Currently, the ensemble awaits the publication of their new album with previously unrecorded works by Austrian - British dodecaphonic composer Egon Wellesz.

www.velesensemble.com

Named "rising star" by The Strad magazine, **Evva Mizerska** is an award-winning cellist, recitalist and chamber musician. Highly sought-after performer, she has appeared as a soloist or recitalist in venues such as the Royal Festival Hall, the Purcell Room (Queen Elizabeth Hall), St George's Bristol, Conway Hall and the Fairfield Halls. Evva regularly performs at various festivals and concert halls across the UK including Cheltenham, Plymouth, Hexham Abbey and Chester Festivals. Abroad she has performed duo or trio recitals in Austria, Brazil, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, France, Germany, Italy and Poland. Her solo appearances include Elgar, Schumann and Saint-Saëns concerti, as well as Beethoven Triple Concerto and Requiem by Duruflė. Evva has also performed for the BBC3 and the Polish Radio.

Born in Poland, Evva graduated from the Frédéric Chopin Academy of Music in Warsaw. She later completed the PGDip and MMus courses at Trinity College of Music in London, where she studied with Richard Markson. She also received tuition from Yonty Solomon, Bernard Greenhouse, Raphael Sommer and

Erling Blöndal Bengtsson. Evva has been awarded numerous prizes, including the first prize at the Seventh International Leoš Janáček Competition in Brno, the Vivian Joseph Cello Prize and the Leonard Smith Duo Prize in London as well as scholarships and grants in the UK, Germany and the USA.

Evva currently lives in London where she is a cello lecturer at Morley College. Her chamber music partners include pianist Emma Abbate, the Veles Ensemble (a string trio, of which Evva is a founding member), violinist Miriam Kramer and clarinettist Peter Cigleris. Evva has a strong interest in Polish and contemporary music. She commissioned pieces by contemporary Polish composers and performed them as part of her Junior Fellowship concert series at Trinity College of Music. She also premiered, together with her pianist Emma Abbate, works by English composers Graham Coatman and Stephen Dodgson and Canadian Piotr Grella Mozejko.

Evva's other recordings include the complete cello and piano music by Stephen Dodgson, Krzysztof Meyer and Algernon Ashton (vol 1) (with Emma Abbate) - all for <u>Toccata</u> Classics. Evva has also featured in recordings for Naxos and the Polish label DUX. Her CDs received outstanding reviews in magazines such as The Strad, The Gramophone, The International Record Review, Fanfare and German Fonoforum.

www.evvamizerska-cellist.co.uk

Born in Bulgaria, **Ralitsa Naydenova** began her musical education at the age of six, studying the violin at the National Academy of Music in Bulgaria before moving to London to complete her master's degree at the Royal Academy of Music (RAM).

During her studies at RAM, Ralitsa discovered her passion for the viola and began studying with Rivka Golani and Emanuella Reiter. Ralitsa was awarded a full scholarship for three years and continued with postgraduate studies in performance at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance, gaining postgraduate diplomas on both the violin and viola.

Alongside orchestral playing, Ralitsa is passionate about chamber music and has been a member of prizewinning ensembles, giving many performances with string quartets, trios and sonata ensembles. Ralitsa has participated in master classes with renowned quartets such as the Chilingirian Quartet and Brodsky Quartet, and has performed as a concerto soloist with orchestras in England, Italy and Bulgaria.

Ralitsa has also been accepted onto the London Philharmonic Orchestra's Foyle Future Firsts Development Programme, parallel to her year in Southbank Sinfonia. Currently Ralitsa works as a substitute for the London Philharmonic Orchestra, Oslo National Opera and Trondheim Symphony Orchestra.

German-born violinist **Hartmut Richter** is a soloist and chamber musician residing in London, United Kingdom, giving regular concerts in Europe and North America. He is active in several ensembles including the Veles Ensemble, the Richter-Housden Duo (violin/guitar), the Richter-Ardelean Piano Duo and other formations. He is featured on a recent NAXOS CD of music by Stephen Dodgson, released in August 2017. Richter studied at the Hanover Academy of Music, Germany, under Krzysztof Wegrzyn, Atila Aydintan and Ina Kertscher, before completing his studies with a soloist diploma at the Nuremberg Academy of Music under Lydia Dubrovskaya. Richter won several first prizes in German national competitions including Jugend Musiziert and the Mozart Competition Hildesheim, and has received scholarships for international masterclasses working with renowned professors including Robert Szreder, Rosa Fain, Kurt Sassmannshaus and Christian Altenburger. Apart from his performing career, Hartmut is a composer and a dedicated violin teacher and frequently holds music workshops internationally. Hartmut plays a copy of the Hart (Ex-Francescatti) made by Christian Stradivarius violin (1727),Erichson, www.hartmutrichter.com

Clarinettist **Peter Cigleris** is in demand as a soloist and chamber musician. Peter has appeared on BBC Radio Three's 'In Tune' programme talking with Sean Rafferty and on a separate playing live with the Tippett Quartet. He has also performed live for the BBC in the Radio Three lunchtime recital. Peter has worked with Martin Cousin, Mark Bebbington, Julian Lloyd Webber performing for various music clubs and festivals around the UK including, the Windsor and Wooburn Festival, English Music Festival, Carlisle International Music Festival. Peter is a member of 'Chamber Music Box' presenting innovative chamber music programmes in London and the surrounding areas. Internationally Peter has performed at the Groba Festival in Spain, chamber recitals in France, Netherlands and the US. Concerto appearances include Belgium for the ICA 'ClarinetFest' where he gave the world premiere of Peter Wishart's 'Serenata Concertante eighty-one years after composition. Italy with Weber's Concertino, Romania and Mexico with Mozart's sublime concerto K. 622 While in Mexico Peter also gave the Mexican premiere of Malcolm Arnold's Second Clarinet Concerto.

Peter's interest in the English clarinet repertoire has seen him premier concertos and chamber music by Gipps, Benjamin, Spain-Dunk as well as contemporaries such as Lloyd Moore and Peter Seabourne and many others.

As a solo recording artist Peter has a growing discography. Peter's most recent release 'Rediscovered' on the Cala Signum label has Peter feature as soloist with the BBC National Orchestra of Wales featuring four British clarinet concertos, of which three are world premiere recordings. The disc has been extremely well received by reviewers and listeners alike. Peter has featured on discs for Cala Records, Heritage Records and Toccata Classics. As an orchestral player Peter has worked with several well-known English orchestras as well as being involved in various session recordings. Peter has also held the principal clarinet seat with the Symphony Orchestra of India and has worked with conductors such as Charles Dutoit and Rafael Payare amongst others.

Peter studied at both the Birmingham Conservatoire and Royal College of Music. Whilst at the Conservatoire, Peter won the prestigious John Ireland Chamber music award with a performance of that composer's Fantasy Sonata. Peter also performed Malcolm Arnold's Second Clarinet Concerto as part of the

composer's eightieth birthday C celebrations. Whilst completing his postgraduate studies at the 'RCM' Peter was awarded the Prix de Fossat and was invited to Cahors, France to present a recital for Her Majesty the Queen of Denmark at a private reception.

Peter maintains a private teaching studio with many students gaining their ABRSM grade 8 as well as the ARSM often passing with distinction. During the summer months Peter can be found tutoring at the Exmouth Summer School. For the last few years Peter has been invited to be a member of the international jury for the 'Silverstein Clarinet Contest' and the 'Music and Stars Competition'. Peter is a proud artist for Backun Musical, Marca Reeds France and Carbonissimo Spain.

www.petercigleris.com