

VELES

Ensemble



The **Veles Ensemble** was founded by three young successful classical musicians – soloists, recitalists, and performers in leading London chamber orchestras: **Hartmut Richter** - violin, **Ralitsa Naydenova** - viola, and **Evva Mizerska** - cello.

The **Veles Ensemble** is a classical **string trio** based in London, UK, bringing the classics to life and onto the concert stage, but also exploring rarely heard masterpieces.

A special focus of the ensemble is promoting new compositions and contemporary music: the ensemble's newest CD with chamber music by 20th century composer and Schoenberg student Egon Wellesz was released on the Toccata Classics label in early 2023. The CD was selected as one of the Guardian's Picks of the Week ('Wellesz's chamber music, idiomatically played by the Veles Ensemble') and earned a four-star review from BBC Music Magazine, commending the Veles Ensemble for their 'exceptional sensitivity'. It was also featured on Austrian Radio ORF, where the ensemble's 'sensitivity and virtuosity' were highly praised.

Their acclaimed debut CD with chamber music by British composer Steve Elcock was released on Toccata Classics in December 2018 ('The performances are marvellous' - Gramophone, April 2019).

Although its foundation and focus is a string trio, the Veles Ensemble occasionally expands to play as a piano or clarinet quartet as well as other less usual line-ups.

Recent Performances have taken the Veles

Ensemble to festivals and concerts around the UK and Europe, including France, Slovakia and Scotland, and the ensemble has performed live on BBC Radio3's 'In Tune'.

The ensemble also has a keen interest in education: one of the group's recent projects was a masterclass at Oxford University (February 2023).

The members of the Veles Ensemble have performed together and separately in many important UK venues, including St. James's Piccadilly, the Purcell Room, Royal Festival Hall, St George's in Bristol, Chichester Cathedral, Fairfield Halls, Hexham Abbey and many concert clubs and music societies in the UK, as well as internationally, including Canada, Brazil and various European countries.

The Veles Ensemble released their debut CD on Toccata Classics in December 2018 with music by **Steve Elcock**. Their second album, with previously unrecorded chamber music by British-Austrian composer and musicologist **Egon Wellesz** was released in February 2023 on Toccata Classics, with the kind support of the Austrian Egon Wellesz Foundation and Oxford University.

The members of the Veles Ensemble have released CDs for **Naxos** (Hartmut and Evva in 2017), Toccata Classics (**three CDs** by Evva) and the Bulgarian National Radio (Bartok Viola Concerto, Ralitsa). The recordings have been critically acclaimed by magazines such as the Guardian, Gramophone, the Strad, International Record Review, German Fono Forum and American Fanfare.

About the name: **Veles** is one of the main old slavic gods: the god of earth, waters, forests and the underworld. However, he is also the god of magic - and along with that - music, as these were believed to be closely related.

www.velesensemble.com

Biographies

Evva Mizerska | cello

Named “the rising star” by The Strad, Evva Mizerska is a recitalist, chamber musician and teacher. Born in Poland, she graduated with high distinction from the cello class of Andrzej Zieliński and Piotr Hausenplas at the Frédéric Chopin Academy of Music in Warsaw. Later she 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.

She is highly sought after as a chamber musician and has performed in various prestigious London venues including the Royal Festival Hall, Purcell Room (Queen Elizabeth Hall), the Conway Hall, the Fairfield Halls, the Blackheath Halls as well as various other festivals and concert halls across the UK, such as St Georges in Bristol, Cheltenham, Plymouth, Hexham Abbey and Chester Festivals.

Abroad, she has appeared in recitals in Austria, Brazil, the Czech Republic, Germany, Italy and Poland. Evva has particular interest in Polish and contemporary music. She has commissioned works 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. Most recently Toccata Classics

released Evva's third CD with Emma Abbate: the recording of complete cello



and piano music by Stephen Dodgson. The first two discs, with music by Krzysztof Meyer (recorded with Emma Abbate and Katarzyna Glensk) and Algernon Ashton (with Emma Abbate) received outstanding reviews in magazines such as The Strad, The International Record Review, Fanfare and German Fono Forum.

www.evvamizerska-cellist.co.uk

Ralitsa Naydenova | viola

Born in Bulgaria, Ralitsa 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 Emmanuella

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 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. Recently she recorded Bartok's Viola Concerto with the BNRSO. Ralitsa was accepted into 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.

www.violinteacherlondon.co.uk

Hartmut Richter | violin



Hartmut Richter is a soloist, recitalist, chamber musician and composer, giving concerts in Europe and North America regularly. He is active in several ensembles

including the Veles Ensemble, Richter-Housden Duo (violin/guitar) and Richter-Ardelean Piano Duo.

Hartmut became a student of Prof. Krzysztof Wegrzyn at the Academy of Music Hanover, Germany at the age of 10 where he later finished his diploma of music under professors Atila Aydintan and Ina Kertscher. He completed his studies with a soloist diploma under Prof. Lydia Dubrovskaya at the Academy of Music Nuremberg.

Hartmut has received scholarships for international masterclasses working with renowned professors including Zenon Brzewski, Robert Szreder, Rosa Fain, Kurt Sassmannshaus, Herman Krebbers and Christian Altenburger. Hartmut won several first prizes at the German national competition “Jugend musiziert”, is a first prize winner of the Mozart Competition Hildesheim 2000 and received a special award of the German Mozart Society and has performed live on the NDR TV show “DAS!”.

Hartmut is featured on a CD of chamber music by Stephen Dodgson that was released in August 2017 on Naxos. Recent solo performances include Bach's Double Concerto with the Piccadilly Sinfonia, Beethoven's violin concerto with the NL-Sinfonia, Vaughan Williams' The Lark Ascending with the Chimera Chamber Orchestra and Ravel's Tzigane and Bartok's Rhapsody No.1 with the NL-Sinfonia. Apart from his performing career, Hartmut is a composer (latest works include a tone poem for string ensemble and a sonata for violin and guitar), multi-instrumentalist and a dedicated violin teacher and frequently holds music workshops internationally.

www.hartmutrichter.com

Programme Suggestions

The programmes can be modified and tailored to specific needs.

Programme I

Leo Weiner	String Trio in G minor op. 6 (1908)
Egon Wellesz	Streichtrio Op. 86 (1962)
Richard Strauss	Variations on the avarian Song "s Deandl is harb auf mi' (1882)
Grażyna Bacewicz	Oberek (arr. for string trio)

Programme V

Modern I

Steve Elcock	String Trio Op. 8b
Egon Wellesz	Streichtrio Op. 86 (1962)
Zoltan Kodaly	Intermezzo
Ernst von Dohnányi	Serenade Op. 10 in C major

Programme II

From the classics to the 20th century:
The Journey of the String Trio

Luigi Boccherini	String Trio, Op. 47 No 1 or
Alessandro Rolla	Trio Op.1 No.6
Ludwig v. Beethoven	String Trio Op. 9 No1. G major, or No2. D major, or No3. C minor
Ernst von Dohnányi	Serenade Op. 10 in C-major

Programme VI

Modern II

Leo Weiner	String Trio in G minor op. 6
Józef Koffler	String Trio, Op.10
Hans Gál	String Trio in f-sharp minor, Op. 104
Grażyna Bacewicz	Oberek (arr. for string trio)

Alternative other 20th century pieces:

Hans Gál	Serenade for String Trio Op. 41
Paul Hindemith	String Trio No.1 Op.34

Programme III

Music from Austria and Hungary - links and inspirations

Joseph Haydn	Str. Trio Op.53 No 3 D-maj
Egon Wellesz	Vier Stücke Op. 105
Zoltan Kodaly	Intermezzo
Franz Schubert	Str. Trio D581, B-flat major

Special programme

with clarinettist [Peter Cigleris](#)

Bernard H. Crusell	Clarinet Quartet No. 2 in Eb Op. 4
W. A. Mozart	KV 404a No 1. Adagio & Fuga (J.S. Bach, Das Wohltemperierte Clavier I No. 8, BWV 853)
Rezso Kokai	Quartettino for Clarinet and String Trio
Alan Rawsthorne	Clarinet Quartet
Franz Schubert	Trio No 1. In B-flat major, D471

Programme IV

Tango with Mozart

Luigi Boccherini	Str. Trio Op.14 No4 D-major
Francisco Tárrega	Tango Maria
Carlos Gardel	Mi Buenos Aires Querido
Juan María Solare	Sale Con Fritas
Wolfgang A. Mozart	Divertimento K563 in E-flat major