



## PRESS RELEASE

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### City Music Foundation announces 2016 artists

City Music Foundation (CMF) today announces the 7 musicians who will join the 2016 CMF Artist programme: **Tabea Debus** (recorder); **Miguel Gorodi** (jazz trumpet); **Joseph Houston** (piano); **Hannah Morgan** (oboe); **Ligeti Quartet** (string quartet); **Nérija** (contemporary jazz ensemble); and **Mihai Ritivoiu** (piano). The diverse cohort undertakes CMF's unique two-year development programme which focuses on turning great talent into professional success by equipping outstanding musicians at the outset of their careers with the tools, skills, experience and networks they need to pursue music as a viable and rewarding livelihood.

Over the two years, CMF provides tailored professional development workshops from key industry figures, City institutions and commerce from CMF's extensive network of contacts. Topics covered include tax and financial management, networking, presentation skills, agents, PR and much more. The mentoring continues with day to day access to the CMF team as well as artistic guidance from established players with international careers. On top of this, CMF Artists receive essential promotional tools such as websites, images and recordings, as well as help with new commissions to ensure each musician develops a unique niche and selling point. CMF's key position in the City also ensures Artists receive an unparalleled experience, knowledge and connections through the City's institutions and the corporate world.

#### **2016 CMF Artist Biographies**

##### Tabea Debus - Recorder

Tabea Debus, who's playing has been described as an "absolute delight, with a beautiful sense of musical line and phrasing, wearing her obvious virtuosity light", recently graduated from the Royal Academy of Music where she is now Meaker Fellow.

As well as being a 2016 City Music Foundation Artist, Tabea was selected as St John's Smith Square Young Artist in 2015/16 and won first prizes at the 2nd International hülsta woodwinds competition (2011), the 8th International Johann Heinrich Schmelzer - Competition (2014) and received the runner-up prize in The Arts Club- Sir Karl Jenkins Music Award (2016).

Performances have taken her to renowned concert halls such as the Konzerthaus Vienna, the Tonhalle Zurich and the Wigmore Hall as well as to Japan, Malaysia and Singapore. She has recently appeared on BBC Radio 3 In Tune and the BBC Radio 3 Early Music Show. Her first CD *Upon a Ground* was released in 2012 and her second recording *Cantata per Flauto* in April 2016.

[www.tabeadebus.de](http://www.tabeadebus.de)

### Miguel Gorodi – Jazz Trumpet

Miguel Gorodi is a composer and trumpet player performing across a broad spectrum of jazz and improvised music. Born in 1990 in Spain where he spent his formative years, Miguel also grew up in Saudi Arabia and Thailand before moving to Somerset in 2006 upon receiving a music scholarship from Wells Cathedral School. Here Miguel furthered his classical music studies whilst travelling to London to take jazz lessons from trumpeters Martin Shaw and Nick Smart.

Miguel moved to London in 2008 to study jazz at The Guildhall School of Music & Drama. He was picked up soon after by jazz singer Ian Shaw, and recorded on Shaw's album *The Abbey Road Sessions* in 2010, which featured jazz great Peter Ind. Since graduating in 2012, Miguel has enjoyed a diverse performing career as a sideman whilst experimenting with his own projects, most notably the Miguel Gorodi Nonet, which saw its debut performance last year and is due to be performed in the 2016 EFG London Jazz Festival. He currently plays in the Barry Green Sextet, SEED, the London City Big Band, The Engines Orchestra (project with Femi Temowo) and the Dixie Ticklers.

### Joseph Houston – Piano

Joseph Houston is a pianist based in London and Berlin. His wide-ranging curiosity has led to activity in a variety of fields, particularly in Contemporary and Experimental Music. He has performed all over Europe and in China, and his playing has been broadcast on BBC Radio 3 and 4.

Collaboration with composers is a large portion of Joseph's work. He has given first performances of pieces by an array of composers including Colin Matthews, Christian Mason, Michael Zev Gordon, Martin Suckling, Charlotte Bray, Thomas Simaku, Christian Wolff and Simon Holt.

After studying at York University and Royal College of Music, Houston was winner of the 2nd Prize in the British Contemporary Piano Competition and has been a selected artist on the Making Music Philip and Dorothy Green Award for Young Concert Artists, won a Help Musicians UK 'Emerging Excellence' award and a Park Lane Group Young Artist.

<http://www.josephhouston.co.uk/>

### Hannah Morgan - Oboe

Oboist Hannah Morgan studied with Melanie Ragge at The Royal Academy of Music and graduated in 2013 with First Class Honours. Her post-graduate studies included three years in Germany where, as a member of the Karajan Academy, she performed regularly with the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra.

Hannah is passionate about music education, writing and directing five children's concerts for the Berlin Philharmonic. She has been a tutor for the National Youth Wind Ensemble of Great Britain; enjoys teaching reed-making at The Purcell School; and is currently an Open Academy Fellow at the Royal Academy of Music.

The recipient of numerous prizes, including the Hattori Foundation Senior Award and 1st Prize at the Third International Barbirolli Competition, she makes her Wigmore Hall debut in November 2016. Hannah is grateful for the support she has received from the City Music Foundation, Countess of Munster Musical Trust and DAAD.

### Ligeti Quartet – String Quartet

The Ligeti Quartet is dedicated to performing modern and contemporary music, commissioning new works, and engaging a diverse audience. Formed in 2010, violinists Mandhira de Saram and Patrick Dawkins; violist Richard Jones; and cellist Val Welbanks were united by their fascination with the music of György Ligeti, and have since established a reputation as leading exponents of new music.

Engagements have taken them throughout the UK and abroad, with performances including the Wigmore Hall, Purcell Room, St James's Piccadilly and the Pablo Casals Festival (France), Musik 21 Nachwuchsfestival (Germany) and 'HellHot!' New Music Festival (Hong Kong). This autumn they begin a 2-year residency as Ensemble in Residence at the University of Sheffield.

The Ligeti Quartet regularly works with artists outside classical music; they have performed with musicians such as Wadada, Leo Smith, Shabaka Hutchings, Laura Jurd, Meilyr Jones, You Are Wolf and recorded with many others. In 2016 the quartet releases a CD for Signum Classics featuring a collection of new British works for string quartet and trumpet.

<http://ligetiquartet.com/>

### Nérija – Contemporary Jazz

Recently nominated for Jazz FM Breakthrough Act of the Year 2016, Nérija are a collective of up and coming, London-based musicians playing exciting and original music inspired by Jazz, Hip Hop, and Afrobeat. Together they have toured across Europe and the UK in addition to performing alongside top UK jazz musicians such as Nathaniel Facey of Empirical, pianist Zoe Rahman, and supporting Jazz Jamaica at the renowned Ronnie Scott's Jazz Club.

Nérija's most recent performances include UK festivals Love Supreme, Latitude, Brainchild, Manchester Jazz Festival, Jazz Re:Fest as well as at the Barbican Centre and Royal Albert Hall, as part of the BBC Proms Late Night Series. At the end of 2015, they also had the incredible opportunity to support Hypnotic Brass Ensemble, their Manchester Jazz Festival set being featured on BBC Radio 3. Nérija will feature in two performances in the upcoming EFG London Jazz Festival.

The line-up includes: Sheila Maurice-Grey (trumpet), Rosie Turton (trombone), Cassie Kinoshi (alto saxophone), Nubya Garcia (tenor saxophone), Shirley Tetteh (guitar), Inga Eichler (double bass) and Lizy Exell (drums).

<http://www.nerijamusic.com/>

### Mihai Ritivoiu – Piano

Mihai Ritivoiu was born in Bucharest and began piano lessons at the age of 6. In 2012 he graduated with the highest honours from the National University of Music in Bucharest and graduated from the Guildhall School of Music & Drama in 2016.

Mihai won the Dinu Lipatti National Competition in Bucharest in 2010 and was a laureate of the George Enescu International Piano Competition in 2011. Following these he was invited to record the Rachmaninov's Second Piano Concerto for the Romanian Broadcasting Corporation, with the Romanian Radio Orchestra, conducted by Gheorghe Costin. He has played as a soloist and chamber musician in such venues as the Romanian Athenaeum, Wigmore Hall and Barbican. His performances

have been broadcast by Radio România Muzical, Radio Suisse Romande - Espace 2 and he has appeared on BBC Radio 3 In Tune.

Most recently, Mihai was awarded the Gold Medal in the Beethoven Piano Society of Europe Intercollegiate Competition, and his future engagements include recitals at St. Martin-in-the-Fields and Steinway Hall, as well as concerto performances with the Bucharest Philharmonic Orchestra and the Lausanne Chamber Orchestra.

<http://www.mihairitivoiu.com/>

### **About City Music Foundation**

City Music Foundation's mission is to turn exceptional musical talent into professional success by equipping outstanding musicians at the outset of their careers with the tools, skills, experience and networks they need to pursue music as a viable and rewarding livelihood. Following a rigorous annual audition process, successful applicants from the classical genre as well as jazz, folk and world musicians, join the two year CMF Artists Programme.

CMF provides, over up to two years:

- Senior business people as personal mentors through collaborations with City firms
- A series of tailored professional development workshops and seminars drawing on our extensive network of contacts in the music industry and in City institutions and commerce. Topics include tax and financial management, networking, presentation skills, contracts and legal issues, agents, PR, using social media, pitching and programming and many more.
- A concert or recital in the CMF concert series in the City, as an adjunct to the personal development workshops.
- Essential promotional tools such as a new website designed and tailored to their requirements, high quality recordings and a CD, and high quality photos, film and videos.
- Day to day access to the CMF team, including our Artist Manager who works almost like an agent to achieve as many live performance opportunities as possible for our musicians.
- Help with new commissions – musical, visual arts, poetry – to help CMF artists develop a unique niche and selling point.
- The City Music Foundation uses its key position in the City to provide unrivalled experience, knowledge and connections through the City's institutions and the corporate world. By investing in these talented musicians early in their professional careers, City Music Foundation can not only secure their employment, but help to ensure the future of quality music in the UK and beyond.
- Artistic mentoring with established, internationally acclaimed players.

For further information, please go to [www.citymusicfoundation.org](http://www.citymusicfoundation.org)

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