

About the 5 musicians who make up the Goldcrest Ensemble



The Goldcrest Ensemble was formed in 2016 by Duke Dobing and Miriam Keogh. Performing a variety of chamber music ranging from Mozart to the present day, Goldcrest comprises a quintet of flute, string trio and harp, making available a considerable range of instrumental combinations.

Duke Dobing, flute, took up the flute aged 10, and four years later joined the National Youth Orchestra, where he became Principal Flute. He made his debut as a professional with the English Chamber Orchestra aged 18, and over the ensuing six years, participated in a number of Aldeburgh Festival concerts and recordings conducted by Benjamin Britten. Duke has played as Guest Principal Flute with most of London's major orchestras, while his core commitment was as Principal Flute of City of London Sinfonia, a position he held for 25 years. With CLS, Duke appeared as soloist throughout the UK and on foreign tours, giving many broadcasts including the UK première of Jean Françaix's Double Concerto and Radio 3's "*A Breath of Virtuosity*" series, playing concertos by Mozart and Nigel Osborne.

Kenneth Sillito, violin, studied at the Royal Academy of Music with David Martin and in Rome with Remy Principe. On returning to England in 1961 he was appointed associate leader of the newly formed English Chamber Orchestra and subsequently becoming Leader, a position he held until 1973.

In 1967 Kenneth Sillito founded the Gabrieli String Quartet and remained their leader until 1987, during which time the quartet gained an international reputation. In 1980,

he became Artistic Director of The Academy of St. Martin in the Fields and leader of the Chamber Ensemble, touring the world and making many recordings.

.In 1971 he was honoured by being made a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Music and in 2017 he was awarded the prestigious Cobbett Medal for services to Chamber Music. Kenneth Sillito lives in Westleton.

Raphael Hurwitz, viola studied the viola with Jonathan Barritt at the Junior Royal Academy of Music and began his career as section leader of the National Youth Strings Orchestra, London International Orchestra and subsequently went on to form the London FILMharmonic Orchestra in 2012. As a prominent multi-instrumentalist, his work has taken him around the world as well as performing in many West-End shows and independent theatre as a freelance Musical Director. Raphael has also worked in collaboration with Pizza Express Jazz Club Dean Street and King's Place for the Global Music Foundation. As well as performing chamber music, Raphael also works as a fine instruments and bows dealer and specialist.

Michael Hurwitz, cello was born in England to a family where his father was the acclaimed violinist Emanuel Hurwitz CBE who led the English Chamber Orchestra, Melos Quartet and the New Philharmonia Orchestra among others. Michael started to learn the cello when he was just 8 years old and went on to study with tutors that included Amaryllis Fleming and Keith Harvey. In 1970 he played with the progressive rock and jazz big band Centipede and joined the Amphion String Quartet around 1975, remaining with them for fifteen years before joining the Philharmonia Orchestra. Michael's recordings include the Amphion String Quartet, September Energy by Centipede, Hoople by Mott the Hoople, Bump 'N' Grind by Jackson Heights, Blue Moves by Elton John and Latin Cello by London Cello Sound and Mercadente: *Decimi/La Poesia* by The Philharmonia Soloists.

Miriam Keogh, harp was born in Dublin into a large musical family; both her parents were professional musicians. Miriam was awarded a Countess of Munster Trust Scholarship to study the harp with Osian Ellis at the Royal Academy of Music, and she undertook further studies with Renata Scheffell Stein.

As a freelance harpist her career has taken her to many countries including the USA, Europe and the Far East as Guest Principal harpist with leading orchestras, including The London Symphony Orchestra, The Philharmonia and The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. Miriam was awarded an ARAM by the Royal Academy of Music "for achieving distinction in the profession".

As well as performing chamber music with several groups, Miriam enjoys teaching at the Royal Academy of Music, coaching for various youth orchestras, organising master classes and summer schools and has a busy private teaching practice.