

THE REVOLUTIONARY DRAWING ROOM

SATURDAY 12th JUNE 2010 AT 7.30 p.m.



Programme

Spohr	Double Quartet No 1 Op. 65
Humme	Clarinet Quartet: Solo Colin Lawson
Brahms	Sextet No1 in B flat

'The English play with a sure and articulated style and draw out of their period instruments, even in the virtuoso passages, an astonishingly clean sound, surprisingly well-blended yet remaining transparent... the highest quality... leaves no wish unfulfilled.'
Fonoforum, Germany

The Revolutionary Drawing Room is that rare group, a string quartet that performs late 18th- and early 19th-century repertoire with a sound derived from the beauty and flexibility of gut strings. The political upheavals of the time were matched by breathless pace of change and the forging of new styles, forms and tastes both in the music and in the instruments used. Using original bows, or modern copies, the players often employ more than one in a concert depending on the range of repertoire.

The Revolutionary Drawing Room also works with some of the world's top wind and keyboard players, such as Rachel Brown (flute), Colin Lawson (clarinet), Alastair Mitchell (bassoon), Roger Montgomery (horn) and Geoffrey Govier (fortepiano), and their ground-breaking collections attest to the radical transformation their instruments were undergoing during this period.

The name 'Revolutionary Drawing Room' refers to the revolutionary years in Europe between 1789 and 1848. The "drawing room" was where chamber music was performed in Georgian times, in the houses of musicians and their patrons. The dates are only a guide to give an idea of the period of music we cover but we often perform works written both before and after these dates.

The ensemble, founded in 1990 by Angela East, has performed across Europe and North America and recorded for CPO and the BBC. They have performed in the Ottawa Chamber Music Festival, in Stuttgart, Potsdam, Holland, Austria, Switzerland and the UK. They have held residencies at Southampton University and in the English Haydn Festival, and have appeared more recently in Exeter, Norwich, Cambridge and London in the UK, and in Denmark in the Odsherreds Chamber Music Festival.

'...the outstanding issue is the Revolutionary String Quartet's recording of the Boccherini quartets from Op39 and 41, music that combines gently sophisticated utterance with real depth of feeling which these players do not fail to catch.'
Gramophone 'Critics' Choice'

'These were excellent performances of a repertoire that does not always get the period instruments and style that it deserves' (Early Music Review, August 2008)

'their interpretation has a freshness of sound and a subtle spontaneity that is doubly enhanced by the colourful nuance and bright rhythm in very good taste.'
Repertoire, France

'...a genuine jewel of a recording made by four excellent players' Wuster, Holland

Perfect music for a Summer's evening. As usual, concertgoers are invited to picnic in the grounds from 6.00 p.m. and to join for complimentary Pimms at 7.00 p.m. by the Pre Prep.

SINGLE TICKET £18.00

CHILD /STUDENT/UNEMPLOYED/REG.DISABLED TICKET £13.00

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