

We are delighted to announce the return of the Bradfield Festival of Music in 2022!

Bradfield
FESTIVAL OF MUSIC

In preparation for the Festival two of the musicians who will be performing were interviewed - **Jeneba Kanneh-Mason** and **Paul Cassidy** of the *Brodsky Quartet*.

Who inspired you in your early life to become a musician?

Definitely my siblings! I have four older siblings who were always playing their instruments - piano, cello and violin - and it inspired me. Also listening to Rubenstein and Rachmaninov which I loved from an early age. I love that old style of music. I was drawn to the piano from an early age because I love the



sound and I like the sense of having all of the instruments at your fingertips on a piano. There is such a wide repertoire to play which is exciting and inspiring.

Who are your heroes in the world of music?

In the classical music world my hero is Yuja Wang. I love listening to her play and as a young female pianist she is a role model for me in how she plays, how she performs, and

the clothes she wears for her performances. My sister Isata and my brother Sheku are also my heroes, and my parents.

What have you discovered about what music means to you during the pandemic?

I have discovered how important it is that in lonely and dark times people have access to music. Music has the capacity to restore you as an individual, and also you are connecting into music which is universal and there for everyone. Social media and Spotify are fantastic because everyone has access to superb music through these channels. The pandemic and lockdown have been a formative time for me because in September 2021 I began my contract with Kathryn Enticott Music – a really important step for me.

What is it about performing in a concert that you particularly enjoy?

I love the direct response from the audience. There are always nerves in preparing for and performing in a concert, but I find that this helps me to play really well because it sharpens my focus. The quality of listening of the audience impacts on how I play and it becomes a unique performance.

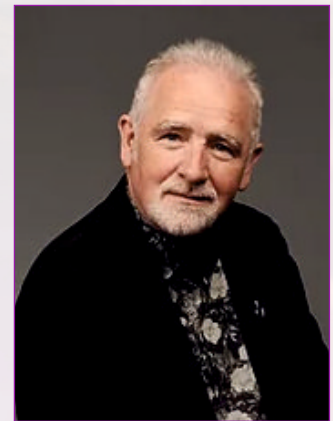
This year's festival takes place from
25th June - 2nd July 2022

Congratulations on the 50th Anniversary of the Brodsky Quartet! What was the inspiration that led to the formation of the Brodsky's 50 years ago?

The two founding members of the Brodsky's are Jacqueline and Ian who are still part of the quartet today. Jacqueline (Cello) was 10 and Ian (Violin) was 11 when they formed the quartet with two other 11 year olds!! Amazing! The inspiration was making beautiful music together at such a young age. I joined the quartet 40 years ago!

As a quartet who are your heroes in the world of music?

We have been inspired by the Hollywood Quartet who are an American group. They are not well known here as they have only toured in the UK once, but their music is incredible. We have found it inspirational to listen to their sound as part of discovering and developing our distinctive sound.



What have you discovered about what music means to you during lockdown?

We put our instruments away for six months when lockdown began! Having played every day for years and years it felt strange, but it has been good. It allowed me to fulfil something I have wanted to do for a long time, but never had time for, which is arrange Bach's three solo violin sonatas for string quartet. A huge challenge but I have done it and we have now recorded these with Chandos. I enjoyed London in the pandemic – the quietude of the city, no cars, walking through Piccadilly Circus with no one else around, and no jet trails overhead. As we begin to play again I realise music means even more to me, but it is also a huge challenge to start performing again.

What is it about performing at a concert that you particularly enjoy?

It is what we put all the hours of rehearsal in for. There is nothing like playing for a live audience. It is happening right here, and right now. Both the audience and the setting create something special and unique, and this has an effect on our performance in extraordinary ways. Some performances go crazy, some are very intimate. There is a buzz which I just love and look forward to. We are really excited about performing for the audience at the Bradfield Festival of Music in June 2022 in such a unique and fabulous setting!

Tickets and information from www.bradfieldfestivalofmusic.co.uk and 0114 234 1209