

# MUSIC IN THE VILLAGE

ST. MARY'S CHURCH,  
Walthamstow  
19th May 2016



## The Fitzwilliam String Quartet

Lucy Russell and Marcus Barcham-Stevens violins  
Alan George viola  
Sally Pendlebury cello

Fantazia no.8 (Z.739)

Henry Purcell  
(1659-95)

Double on Fantazia no.8 by Purcell (2014)

Marcus Barcham-Stevens  
(b.1974)

Quartet in D minor op. 76/2

Josef Haydn  
(1732-1809)

*Allegro*

*Andante o piu tosto Allegretto*

*Menuet: Allegro*

*Vivace assai*

\*\*\*\*\* Interval\*\*\*\*\*

Quartet in Bb major Op.130 (revised version)

Ludwig van Beethoven  
(1770-1827)

*Adagio ma non troppo - Allegro*

*Presto*

*Poco scherzoso: Andante con moto, ma non troppo*

*Alla danza tedesca: Allegro assai*

*Cavatina: Adagio molto espressivo*

*Finale : Allegro*

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**MUSIC IN THE VILLAGE** is very grateful  
for the kind and very generous support of many audience members,  
and to **WalthamSoft.com**, who create and host our website:

<http://villagemusic.walthamsoft.com>

The wine for this performance is provided courtesy of **The English Custard Society**.

The FSQ is now one of the longest established string quartets in the world, yet this most recent era of its history is built around a younger generation of players combining amicably with one original member! Founded in Michaelmas Term 1968 by four Cambridge undergraduates, the quartet achieved international recognition at the very outset of its career, as a result of its members' personal friendship with Dmitri Shostakovich towards the end of his life and their championing of all his string quartets following his death. He entrusted them with the Western premières of the last three, and before long they had become the first ever group to perform and record all fifteen. These discs, which gained many international awards, secured for them a worldwide concert schedule, and a long term contract with Decca – all of them are newly available on their London or Eloquence labels. Since 2000 their recordings have been produced by either Linn Records or Divine Art, one of the most recent being a jazz fusion collaboration with German saxophonist/composer Uwe Steinmetz and former Turtle Island Quartet violinist Mads Tolling. Newly issued is the Bruckner String Quintet/Quartet – begun while Jonathan Sparey was still second violinist but delayed by his

retirement, and released thanks to generous sponsorship by the Bruckner Society of America and The Bruckner Journal (UK): copies are available this evening! Under consideration for the future are quartets by Verdi, Grieg, Barber, Nielsen, and Tchaikovsky, plus a disc of Purcell dance music based on a collection put together after his death by his widow Frances. Also in the pipeline are the complete quartets by award winning English composer Liz Johnson – all of them have now been put down, with only a new clarinet quintet to follow next month. A more long term ambition to record Beethoven quartets on gut strings – following the success of their previous recordings on historical instruments – had been scheduled for last November, with a CD of Opp.74, 95, and 135, but delayed for a year by Heather Tuach's maternity leave. Nevertheless, the Fitzwilliam still remains one of the few prominent quartets to play on older set-ups, but has simultaneously brought about the addition of over 50 new works to the repertoire. Whilst their pre-eminence in the interpretation of Shostakovich has persisted, the authority gained has also been put at the service of diverse other composers, from the late 17th century to the present day. Their involvement in 2013 with celebrating Britten's anniversary, and before that the chamber works of Delius and Grainger, are only the most recent manifestations of the players' enthusiasm for using anniversaries to promote less familiar music – following Vaughan Williams in 2008. It would appear that England is gradually taking its place alongside Russia and Vienna as a principal area of speciality, while last year they looked further north, to honour the joint 150<sup>th</sup> birthdays of Glazunov, Sibelius and Carl Nielsen.

Having been Quartet-in-Residence at York for twelve years and at Warwick for three, their university work continues at Fitzwilliam College Cambridge, at Bucknell (USA), and latterly at St Andrews – where they run an annual quartet course (“Strings in Spring”), alongside their regular coaching weekend for Benslow Music in Hertfordshire.

Over the past couple of years they have been collaborating with Prof Nancy November (Auckland University, New Zealand) on a new edition of Beethoven quartets for Henle, and plans are in progress to make a film in the Beethovenhaus (Bonn) about editing and performing his music. In July 2014 they embarked on a recording project with St Salvator's Chapel Choir, featuring English anthems (also now available) – after which they travelled to the Petworth Festival, and thence to the Three Choirs in Worcester for a complete performance of Haydn's *Seven Last Words* to round off the Summer season. The beginning of 2015 saw them flying to Newfoundland (Canada), Israel, and back to the U.S. for the last two weeks of March, before launching a new weekend event in Hay-on-Wye (Wales) – the first in a festival season which took in Leamington, Buxton, Ryedale, Fishguard, and Whithorn. Just before Easter they arrived in Cambridge more or less straight off the plane from New York, and from there went on to their other British university at St. Andrews, with the second Fitzwilliam Hay-on-Wye Festival squeezed in between. Another busy clutch of festivals is presently under way, culminating in the honour of performing the opening concert at this year's City of London Festival, in the Mansion House.

Regular listeners here will notice the absence of Heather Tuach: she has recently become a mother! Although she returned last month to play in the Hay festival she is still officially on maternity leave; so the quartet is very grateful to have secured the services of the eminent cellist Sally Pendlebury for this month. Having grown up in Manchester and attended Chetham's School of Music, at the age of fourteen she became the youngest founding member of the European Community Youth Orchestra and was its principal cellist for three years. Currently a member of the Chamber Orchestra of Europe, the London Sinfonietta, and the Angell Trio, Sally was also a founder member of the Vellinger String Quartet, which won the 1994 London International String Quartet Competition, and toured regularly throughout Europe, Japan and the USA.

[www.fitzwilliamquartet.org](http://www.fitzwilliamquartet.org)

See the Fitzwilliam String Quartet in this years **Stow Festival!**

Friday September 16th 7.30pm at St. Michael and All Angels Church,  
Northcote Rd E17 6PQ £13 (£6.50 concessions) <http://www.stowfestival.com>

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**The Music in the Village 2016-17 season will start on October 13th.**

October 13th 2016	The English Cornett and Sackbut Ensemble
November 24th 2016	Carole Cerasi, virtuoso harpsichordist
March 2nd 2017	The Fitzwilliam String Quartet with Anna Tilbrook, piano & Tom Randle, tenor
May 11th 2017	Collegium Musicum 90 directed from the violin by Simon Standage

**Two more concerts, one in January and another late March/early April are under discussion.**

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