



Belsize Baroque 2018 Leadership Awards

Belsize Baroque is delighted to announce the award of the 2018 Belsize Baroque Leader Scholarship and 2018 Belsize Baroque Bursary to Simone Pirri and Alice Poppleton respectively. Alice will lead the orchestra in our concert directed by Catherine Martin on September 30th. Simone will be leading the orchestra for the rest of the year commencing with our concert directed by Catherine Martin on November 25th.

We would like to thank the many excellent candidates who applied, and all of those whose support of the orchestra makes our scholarship programme possible.



SIMONE PIRRI

Simone is a captivating and rising young violinist from Italy, based in the UK, who performs primarily on period instruments. He recently graduated with distinction from masters programmes at both the Royal Academy of Music in London and the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama in Cardiff, where he specialised in historical performance, studying with leading experts such as Rachel Podger, Simon Standage and Nicolette Moonen. Since completing his postgraduate studies, he has played with a number of well-known groups such as

Il Pomo d'Oro (with whom he also appeared as a soloist), Ensemble Diderot, La Nuova Musica, and Dutch Baroque Orchestra, to name a few. He was the winner of London's Nancy Nuttall Early Music Prize for two consecutive years and has received grants from The Countess of Munster Musical Trust, the Loan Fund for Musical Instruments, The Gane Trust and The Kirsten Scott Memorial Trust. In May 2017, after winning an online world contest, he was invited to join Symphoniacs (a classical electro crossover band signed to Universal Music) on their highly acclaimed European tour. Most recently, he has performed at the 2018 Clifton International Festival of Music in Bristol with FIGO, his own baroque group and ensemble-in-residence at the festival. Simone is extremely grateful to Belsize Baroque for awarding him the leader scholarship and is looking forward to living the experience to the full.

Simone comments, "I am so delighted to have been chosen as winner of the Belsize Baroque Leader Scholarship 2018. It is a great privilege to be in charge of the group's musical activities and I can't wait to share with everyone my profound enthusiasm for early music. I am committed to shaping the group's activities, working on lots of engaging repertoire, and presenting the 'best Belsize Baroque' to audiences. This unique opportunity will be so beneficial to me and my future career that I would like to give my heartfelt thanks to everyone at Belsize Baroque for offering it to me."



ALICE POPPLETON

Alice, originally from Salisbury, is a freelance violinist and viola player specializing in historical performance, and an enthusiastic educator. In July 2018 Alice graduated with an MA with Distinction in Historical Performance from the Royal Academy of Music, where she studied as an Enlightenment Scholar under the tutelage of Rachel Podger, Nicolette Moonan and Jane Rogers. She has performed at The Wigmore Hall (on both violin and viola), at St John's Smith Square and in the Kohn Bach Cantata Series, working with directors such as Jane Glover and Philippe Herreweghe. In July 2017 Alice received a Postgraduate Diploma with Distinction from The Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, where she was an EMI Sound Foundation Scholar. Alice graduated with a BA Honours in Music from the University of Bristol in 2015, where she led the symphony, chamber and festival orchestras and was awarded the Ladyman Bequest Prize. Alice is looking forward to her playing commitments with groups such as La Nuova Musica and The Instruments of Time and Truth, performing under the BREMF LIVE! Scheme 2018 with her baroque chamber group, FIGO (Ensemble in Residence at the Clifton International Festival of Music and Exon Singers Festival 2018), commencing her Open Academy Fellowship 2018/19, and returning to Salisbury to perform Bach's Double Violin concerto in 2019.



Alice comments, "I am very much looking forward to performing with Belsize Baroque and will relish the opportunity to lead a period instrument orchestra of this high standard, as well as the chance to work closely with such acclaimed guest directors. I am passionate about historical performance and can't wait to join this community of committed historical performers from different walks of life."

ADA WITCZYK

Ada Witczyk, the 2017 Belsize Baroque scholar, performed her last concert with us in June.

Ada comments, "Belsize Baroque has created a very unique opportunity for young people crossing the bridge in between studying and professional life. The leadership scheme has helped me grow up as a musician and learn from the UK's leading soloists such as Catherine Martin, Simon Standage and Bojan Cacic amongst others.

Being surrounded by lovely and caring people enabled me to feel comfortable enough to play my best and learn leadership skills in the friendliest environment.

Thanks to the support of Belsize Baroque members my future engagements will include productions at the ROH, Warwick Arts Centre and solo recitals in Poland, Switzerland and Austria."

We wish our outgoing scholar, Ada Witczyk, the very best in her future career.

