

# Our Six Judges 2018

## PIANO



**Ian Fountain** started his musical training as a chorister at New College, Oxford and then went to Winchester College and the Royal Northern College of Music. Since winning the Rubenstein Competition at 19, he has performed with many orchestras and in international festivals and made critically acclaimed recordings. He is also an avid chamber musician and has embarked on performances as a conductor. Since 2001, Ian Fountain has been a piano professor at the Royal Academy of Music, London. He holds an annual summer masterclass in Italy, and further masterclasses around the world. He has served on the juries of many international piano competitions.



**Benjamin Frith** began his career early, winning the Dudley Piano Competition aged only 14. Since then, he has won many more awards, including the Gold Medal at the 1989 Arthur Rubinstein Piano Competition in Israel; first prize in the Mozart Memorial Competition (London) and top prize in the Busoni International Piano Competition. He has played with many of the world's finest orchestras and chamber music ensembles. He has a wide-ranging and impressive discography, which has garnered many rave reviews. He is a member of the Gould Piano Trio and a tutor at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester, and has recently formed the Frith Piano Quartet.

## STRINGS



**Levon Chilingirian** is one of the best-known names in classical music. Coming from a very musical family, he was introduced to music at an early age. He has performed as a soloist in concert halls and with orchestras across the world, is musical director of several different festivals and he is, of course, the founder of the world-famous Chilingirian Quartet. He has an extensive discography both as a soloist and with the Quartet. As well as performing, Levon is a highly regarded teacher, and has organised competitions and festivals in several different countries. His long experience makes him much in demand for the giving of master classes.



**David Strange** is a musician of international reputation. He has played a significant role in the musical education of young people, with experience and influence in all branches of the profession, inspiring the highest standards of musicianship in performance and teaching, the development of major academic and artistic initiatives and promoting centres of musical excellence throughout the world. He has taught at the Royal Academy of Music since 1975; for 30 years, he was associated with the EU Youth Orchestra; he regularly conducts and gives masterclasses; and is an experienced judge. He has long played with leading orchestras throughout the world and is a founding member of the Nash Ensemble.

## WIND



**George Caird** has combined a career as an oboist with one as a music educationist since 1970, firstly teaching and later in senior posts at the Royal Academy of Music, then as Principal of the Birmingham Conservatoire and latterly as Artistic Director of Rotterdam Classical Music Academy, Codarts Rotterdam. He studied oboe with leading teachers, and after gaining an MA in music at Peterhouse, Cambridge, went on to work with many of London's major orchestras. He has been a member of leading ensembles, and a founder member of three. As a committed teacher and educationist, he has been involved in many different areas of music education. He has sat on several different adjudication panels, given master classes and taught at summer schools around the world.



**Michael Collins'** dazzling virtuosity and sensitive musicianship have earned him recognition as one of today's most distinguished artists and a leading exponent of his instrument. At 16, he won the woodwind prize in the first BBC Young Musician of the Year Competition, going on to make his US debut at New York's Carnegie Hall at the age of 22. He has since performed as soloist with many of the world's most significant orchestras and formed strong links with leading conductors. Michael has the distinction of being the most frequently invited wind soloist to the BBC Proms, including several appearances at the renowned Last Night of the Proms. He is also highly regarded and much in demand as a conductor.