

Florica & Helen – Violin and Harp Duo

Helen Radice, harp

Helen had a scholarship at Oxford, where she graduated with a first. She then went to the Royal College of Music to study with Ieuan Jones. She was awarded a distinction in her postgraduate performance studies, thanks to his inspiring lessons. Her prizes and awards include the Quigley, Gibbs, Vaughan Morgan and Charles Oldham Prize 2000, the North London Festival 2003, and in March 2003 she came second in the UFAM International Music Competition in Paris. She has recently been awarded the Drapers Scholarship at Trinity College of Music for further study with Imogen Barford.

This year, Helen's solo and chamber recital engagements include St Martin-in-the-Fields; St George's, Bristol; the Buxton, Woolpit, Little Smarden, Keswick, Little Missenden and Stratford Flute Festivals; Blackheath Halls Young Artists' Series; City Music Society and Music in Lyddington.

Florica Grigoras, violin

Florica studied with Professor Stefan Gheorghiu in Romania, and Itzhak Rashkovsky and Yossi Zivoni in England. In 1997 she was awarded the Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother Scholarship supported by a Gandar Dower Award at the Royal College of Music in London. In 2002 she was awarded further scholarships from the RCM, Martin Musical Fund and Musicians' Benevolent Fund towards her postgraduate studies, also at the RCM. Her other national and international prizes include the C Porumbescu National Competition, Kloster Schontal, Germany and the Brasov International Competition, Romania. In 2001 she was selected to play with the London Symphony Orchestra as part of their String Experience Scheme and she has won the RCM concerto trials twice.

Florica has taken part in master classes with Sylvia Rosenberg, Thomas Zehetmair and Ida Haendel. Among her concerto performances are Chausson's *Poème* with Yan-Pascal Tortelier, Prokofiev's 2nd violin concerto with Neil Thompson, and in August 2004 she will perform the Mendelssohn concerto.

Florica is currently on trial for first violin with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.