

LUNCHTIME RECITAL

THURSDAY 5TH MARCH 2026

RUDDOCK HALL, 13.10

LI WAN – *violin*

YILIN CHEN – *piano*

PRIYAMVADA AGARWAL – *violin*

TRIO

(**CONNIE ZHANG**, *flute*; **HILARY CHEUNG**, *violin*;
JESSICA HONG, *piano*)

PIANO ACCOMPANISTS: KATE THOMPSON AND MICHELLE SANDERS

Violin Concerto in E minor, Op. 64

FELIX MENDELSSOHN

Ballade no. 1 in G minor, Op. 23

FRÉDÉRIC CHOPIN

Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso

CAMILLE SAINT-SAËNS

Trio for Flute, Violin, and Piano, H.300 **BOHUSLAV JAN MARTINŮ**

ii. Adagio

iii. Andante – Allegretto scherzando

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-47): Violin Concerto in E minor, Op.64 (1838-1844)

Felix Mendelssohn was a German composer, pianist and conductor, who became one of the leading figures of the early Romantic period. Born in Hamburg, he showed exceptional musical talent from a young age. By his early twenties, he had already composed several major works and established an international reputation.

Mendelssohn's music is often admired for its blend of expressive warmth and clear, balanced structure. As a conductor, he played an important role in bringing attention to earlier composers, especially J. S. Bach. Although his life was relatively short, his impact on nineteenth-century music was considerable, and his works remain central to concert repertoire.

Composed in 1844 and written for the violinist Ferdinand David, Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto in E minor is one of the most beloved works in the violin repertoire. Mendelssohn and David were close friends and worked closely, resulting in a concerto that is both technically challenging and musically expressive.

The first movement begins unusually, with the solo violin entering almost immediately with the main theme, rather than following a long orchestral introduction. This direct opening creates an immediate sense of intensity while introducing the movement's lyrical character. Throughout the movement, Mendelssohn blends virtuosic passages with flowing melodic lines. The cadenza appears before the recapitulation, which was an innovative feature at the time, helping to maintain the movement's momentum and structure. The work combines passion and technique and has lasting popularity with performers and audiences alike.

Li Wan, Lower Fifths

Frédéric Chopin (1810-49): Ballade no. 1 in G minor, Op. 23 (1835)

Frédéric Chopin was a Romantic composer and virtuoso pianist who needs little introduction. One of the leading composers of his time, he is famous for his works for solo piano, which forever influenced piano writing in his period and eras to come. Chopin is responsible for many different types of musical form; namely the *nocturne* as we know it, as well as establishing the *ballade* and *scherzo* as stand-alone concert pieces. His compositions display masterfully crafted musical ideas as well as beautiful, expressive qualities which continue to win the hearts of musicians to this day.

The First Ballade in G minor is one of Chopin's most popular works. The ballade, meaning story or poem, was first introduced as a musical form by Chopin, this work described after its composition as his 'dearest'. Considered to be one of his most musically as well as technically demanding works, the piece is known for its differently characterised sections, the last being a fiery coda to end the piece.

Yilin Chen, Fifths

Camille Saint-Saëns (1835-1921): *Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso* (1863)

Camille Saint-Saëns was a French composer, pianist, and organist. A child prodigy, he studied at the Paris Conservatoire, where he later became known as a performer and composer. His music reflects strong ties to Classical forms while incorporating elements of the Romantic style. Saint-Saëns composed a variety of works, including symphonies, concertos, chamber music, operas, and orchestral works; among his best-known compositions is *The Carnival of the Animals*. He remained active as a composer and performer throughout his life and continued to have an influence on French music into the early 20th century.

Composed in 1863 for the great violinist Pablo de Sarasate, *Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso* is one of Saint-Saëns' most popular works. The piece highlights both lyrical expressiveness and dazzling virtuosity.

The opening introduction is slow and expressive, featuring a dark, improvisatory character with rich colours in the accompaniment highlighting the singing violin lines. This section gradually builds tension before launching into the lively *Rondo Capriccioso*.

The rondo is spirited and rhythmically driven, infused with Spanish flavour through its dance-like rhythms, sharp accents, and playful exchanges between soloist and accompaniment. Rapid passages, left-hand pizzicato, harmonics, and brilliant bowing techniques showcase the violinist's technical mastery. The work remains a staple of the violin repertoire.

Priyamvada Agarwal, Lower Fifths

Bohuslav Jan Martinů (1890–1959): Trio for Flute, Violin, and Piano, H.300 (1944)

- i. Poco allegretto
- ii. Adagio
- iii. Andante – Allegretto scherzando

Bohuslav Martinu was a Czech composer known for his use of folk-inspired lyrical melodies, lively rhythms, polyphonic textures and colorful instrumental writing. He was born in the small town of Polička, then he later studied in Prague. In the 1920s he moved to Paris where he was exposed to new musical ideas and composers such as Stravinsky whose sharp rhythms and neoclassical style influenced his writing. When the Second World War forced him to leave Europe, Martinu settled in the United States where he continued to compose prolifically. Throughout his life, his music retained elements of Czech folk style.

Martinu's Trio for Flute, Violin and Piano (1944) is written for an unusual and colorful combination of instruments, allowing lively conversational interaction between the players and creates a bright and transparent sound. The work as a whole reflects his characteristic rhythmic energy and bright instrumental writing while also containing moments of lyricism. The second movement Adagio provides a calm contrast, with the flute introducing a long and expressive melody supported by the violin and gently accompanied by the piano. Although the overall mood is peaceful, the subtle harmonic shifts create an underlying tension giving the movement more emotional depth. The third movement Moderato returns to a more energetic character with the piano driving the rhythm and the flute and violin exchanging motifs. The syncopated rhythms and dynamic contrasts create excitement and builds up energy towards a bright ending.

Hilary Cheng, Lower Sixths

PRIYAMVADA AGARWAL is 16 years old and has played the violin since the age of 4 and piano since age 6, and recently began learning viola and organ. She achieved her violin ARSM diploma at 14 and Grade 8 piano at 13, and is now pursuing the violin LRSM diploma and Grade 8 viola under Sarah Murphy, the piano LRSM diploma and Grade 8 music theory under Shi Ling Chin, and Grade 7 Organ with Darren Hogg. She is concertmaster of the KES/KEHS Symphony Orchestra, leads the KEHS Chamber Orchestra, and has played in the CBSO Youth Orchestra since 2023, alongside numerous other ensembles.

She studies Maths, Further Maths, Physics, Computer Science and Music at A-Level. She also enjoys programming, cipher decryption, and maths competitions.

YILIN CHEN is 15 years old and began playing the piano with Rosie Cross at the age of 6 and completed his Grade 8 in 2021. He now studies the piano with Sarah Daniels. He has played at the Birmingham Piano Festival over the past few years and has performed well. Yilin has also played the clarinet since the age of 7 and studies with Rela Spyrou, having achieved a distinction in his Grade 8 last term. He plays both the clarinet and the bass clarinet in the schools' Symphony Orchestra.

Yilin enjoys playing table tennis and will pursue music at A-Level, alongside chemistry, biology and mathematics.

LI WAN is 15 years old and has been playing the violin since the age of 6. She was taught by Lucy Akehurst for 6 years, where she achieved violin grade 8 distinction in Year 7, and now she studies under Peter Campbell-Kelly. She has led the school symphony orchestra and has performed in multiple musical ensembles.

Apart from music, Li is currently studying for her GCSEs and enjoys playing hockey and doing baking.

HILARY CHENG is 16 years old and began studying violin at the age of 6 at the Takako Nishizaki Violin Studio in Hong Kong. She is currently studying with Mr Campbell-Kelly at Kehs. Hilary is principal second violin in Symphony Orchestra and has been a member of the NYO Inspire for the past three years. She achieved a Distinction in Grade 8 Violin in 2021 and is currently preparing for her ATCL Diploma.

She is currently taking A Levels in Chemistry, Biology, Psychology and Music and hopes to pursue a career in Dentistry.

JESSIE HONG is 16 years old and began playing the piano when she was 6. Previously, she attended the Royal Junior Birmingham Conservatoire and studied under Marika Slater. She has won many prizes in domestic music festivals and competitions over the years and obtained a Diploma in the Val Tidone International Music Competition. Enthusiastic about languages and art, Jessie often enjoys painting, photography, reading, and writing in her free time.

She is currently studying for her A Levels (English Literature, French, Drama, and Art), with plans to enter the arts sector in the future.

CONNIE ZHANG is 16 years old and first began playing the flute at 6 years old. She has been studying with Sandy Hay since she was 7, after a year of playing the fife under Henrik Linneman, and has passed both her ARSM (in 2023) and her LTCL Diploma (in June 2025). In addition to the flute, she also plays the piano and the Chinese zither (guzheng) and is an active member of her school's Symphony Orchestra.

Aside from music, her hobbies include reading and travelling.

FORTHCOMING CONCERTS

CHORAL AND ORCHESTRAL CONCERT 1

Sunday 8 March 2026, 14.30 | Ruddock Hall | £10.00 adults, £5.00 conc.
Choral Society and KES/KEHS Symphony Orchestra
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791): 'Nettuno s'onori' from *Idomeneo*
Anton Bruckner (1824-96): Locus Iste (1869)
Franz Schubert (1787-1828): Mass in G (1815)
Johannes Brahms (1833-97): Symphony no. 4, op. 98 (1885)

CHORAL AND ORCHESTRAL CONCERT 2

Monday 9 March 2026, 19.00 | Ruddock Hall | £10.00 adults, £5.00 conc.
Simon, clarinet; Karen, viola; Max, piano
KES/KEHS Symphony Orchestra
Óscar Navarro (1981-): Concerto for clarinet and orchestra (2007)
Max Bruch (1838-1920): Romance for viola and orchestra, op.85 (1911)
Maurice Ravel (1875-1937): Concerto in D for left hand and orchestra (1930)
Johannes Brahms (1833-97): Symphony no. 4, op.98 (1885)

SPRING CONCERT

Monday 23 March 2026, 19.00 | Ruddock Hall | £10.00 adults, £5.00 conc.
Performances by choirs, bands, and orchestras from both schools.
Tickets available to everyone on Tuesday 10 March 2026.

LUNCHTIME RECITAL

Thursday 23 April 2026, 13.10 | Ruddock Hall | Admission free.
Aran, 'cello; Esmee, 'cello; Michelle, piano; Mark, violin

PERFORMERS' PLATFORM

Tuesday 9 June 2026, 18.00 | Ruddock Hall | Admission free.
A short concert of solo performances and chamber music given by advanced musicians from both schools.

LUNCHTIME RECITAL

Thursday 18 June 2026, 13.10 | Ruddock Hall | Admission free.
Josh, 'cello; Aidan, piano; Siyao and Siyuan, viola duet
String Quartet: Li, violin; Clarice, violin; Siyuan, viola;
Esmee, 'cello

For information on these and other concerts, visit **www.ruddockpac.co.uk**.
If you have a query or need to book an accessible space, please contact the Box Office
by email: **ruddockpac@keschools.org.uk**.