

STOKE NEWINGTON
EARLY MUSIC FESTIVAL

Saturday 24th January 2026 7.30 pm
The Old Church, Stoke Newington N16 9ES

ROYALIST OR REVOLUTIONARY?

Chamber music by William Shield with flute quartets by Mozart and Viotti

Rachel Brown—flute **Adrian**

Butterfield—violin **Rachel**

Stott—viola

Ruth Alford—cello

Trio in D major (1811)

flute, violin and cello

Tempo Giusto - Musette - Tempo di Polacca

William Shield

(1748-1829)

Quartet in F major Op.3 No.2 (1782)

flute, violin, viola and cello

Moderato—Allegretto

William Shield

Quartet in C minor

flute, violin, viola and cello

Moderato ed espressivo—Menuetto Presto—Allegro

Agitato e con fuoco

Giovanni Battista Viotti

(1755—1824)

Trio No.2 in G major (1811)

violin, viola and cello

Allegro—Siciliano larghetto—Rondo allegro

William Shield

Quartet in D major K. 285

flute, violin, viola and cello

Allegro—Adagio—Rondo

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

(1756—1791)

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Dr AMELIE ADDISON: a thumbnail sketch of William Shield's career- William Shield (1748-1829) was born on industrial Tyneside and began his career playing fiddle for touring theatre companies. From c.1771 he performed with London opera orchestras and was house composer at Covent Garden Theatre 1783-1797. His chamber music represents his love of social musicmaking, with friends including members of both the radical Stoke Newington set and the royal family. In 1787 Shield joined the King's Musicians in Ordinary, and in 1817 was appointed Master of the King's Music. Although buried in Westminster Abbey, his grave remained unmarked until Newcastle MP Joseph Cowen spearheaded a campaign to rectify this in 1893.



RACHEL BROWN: background to flute quartets by Viotti and Mozart The tumultuous events of the revolution had a profound effect on the working lives of musicians in France. Some profited by the changes, but the Italian violinist and composer Giovanni Battista Viotti, who spent much of his working life in Paris, was forced to seek refuge in England, where he was a great success at Salmon's concerts in the Hanover Square Rooms and as manager and orchestral leader of the King's Theatre.

When Mozart arrived in Mannheim in October 1777, the musicians there received him with open arms, foremost among them the flautist Wendling and his family. When, after much petitioning, Mozart was informed that there would be no job for him, Wendling found him free accommodation and provided meals every day and a room in his house where he could compose. He found him some pupils and obtained a commission for him from Ferdinand De Jean, a wealthy Dutchman working as a doctor with the East India Company, who offered 200 gulden for "3 short, easy concertos, and a pair of quartets for the flute." However, it seemed that the time for composing was never right; social parties, gala celebrations or carnival festivities were forever on the agenda. This was also the period of Mozart's infatuation with the young singer Aloysia Weber. The D major flute quartet is dated Christmas Day 1777.



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Gemini Trio
String trios by Ernest John Moeran, Gerald Finzi and Cecilia McDowall

Wednesday May 27th 7.30pm

Xuefei Yang
Classical guitar

Stoke Newington Early Music Festival (SNEMF), founded by Vanessa Coode, is a community event that has brought the finest Medieval, Renaissance, Baroque and Classical music to Stoke Newington for a quarter of a century. The festival's traditional home is The Old Church, the only Elizabethan church in London; a warm acoustic and intimate atmosphere make this building uniquely suitable for early music. Concerts also take place at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church, Bouverie Rd, Abney Park Chapel., West Reservoir Centre and other more informal venues. The summer festivals also include an afternoon concert by students from the historical music department of the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in St Mary's, Stoke Newington.

Stoke Newington Early Music Festival is grateful to its main sponsors, Bridgewood and Neitzert, for their generous and consistent support, as well as its other long-standing sponsors and those who have joined our supporters more recently.

Heartfelt thanks are due to the festival Friends and to the Volunteers who assist with many aspects of publicity and admin. Without such people, no festival could happen!

Friends of SNEMF pay an annual subscription of £40. Benefits include invitation to private musical social events. If you would like to become a Friend of SNEMF, please get in touch:

rachelSNEMF@protonmail.com

Special thanks to our website manager www.carolynclarke.co.uk for creating and maintaining the beautiful festival website.

Thank you also to Deirdre Malynn at The Old Church, Anne Taylor at St Mary's, Luisa Rayworth at Our Lady of Good Counsel and Lutumba Nzinga at Hackney Venues for facilitating the hire of the concert venues.

Finally, thank YOU for lending your ears to all the wonderful musicians performing at this year's festival.