

Amanda Cook

Amanda began her studies with Alexander Levtoev before receiving a scholarship to study at the Royal College of Music Junior Department as a pupil of Charles Ramirez. In 1994 Amanda became a full time BMus degree student at the college as a foundation scholar, where she continued to study with Mr Ramirez and later with Gary Ryan and Jakob Lindberg, graduating in 1998. While at the college she was awarded several prizes including the Jack Morrison Guitar Prize, the Peter Pears Duo Prize and the Madeline Walton Guitar Prize. In the spring of '99, Amanda spent 2 months in New York studying with Ben Verdery with the help of the Countess of Munster Musical Trust. Her competition successes have included 1st Prize in the 1995 Admira Young Guitarist of the Year Award, the 1997 Ivor Mairants Guitar Award and the 1998 Carol Evershed Martin Award, along with 3rd Prize in Krynica International Guitar Competition, Poland 2000. Her concerto work includes the Aranjuez Concierto by Rodrigo in Arundel Cathedral and the Vivaldi Concerto in D with the Edinburgh Chamber Orchestra. Amanda has performed throughout England, Ireland and Scotland, including two performances at the Wigmore Hall and recitals for the Classical Guitar Festival of G.B and the Bath International Guitar Festival. She has given concerts in New York, Sicily, Belgium, Switzerland, Hawaii, Brazil and Northern Ireland, where she played a specially commissioned piece by William Lovelady for the 1st Anniversary of the bombing in Omagh (featured on "Debut").

Hayley Savage

Hayley Savage studied classical guitar with Rod Faulkner, and John Mills from the age of fifteen. She was offered a place at the Royal Academy of Music and the Royal Welsh College of Music to study guitar and piano, choosing the RWCMD where she continued her lessons with John. She twice won the RWCMD Guitar Prize. Since graduating in 1996, Hayley has established a dual career in performance and composition. She gives solo recitals and duo concerts with violinist Roger Huckle and flautist Claire Heaney, and regularly performs with Bristol's professional Emerald Ensemble. Hayley has performed her own compositions, as well as the Aranjuez Guitar Concerto, the Boccherini Guitar Concerto in E and the Vivaldi Guitar Concerto in D with other symphony and chamber orchestras. She was a recitalist and tutor at the Bath International Guitar Festival 2000. Hayley has had 16 premieres of her own works, mostly commissions. Her compositions have ranged from concerto and symphonic music to choral music. Her concerto, written for John Mills in 1995 "English Fantasia for Guitar and String Orchestra" has now received nine performances in England, Europe and Canada – where it was broadcast in 2002 on CBC Radio. In 1999 Hayley won the Worshipful Company of Musicians Ivor Mairants Guitar Award and was subsequently interviewed on Radio 3 Music Matters. Future work includes three new commissions: a piano concerto, an orchestral work and a choral piece written as a homage to Sir Michael Tippett

Rebecca Baulch

Rebecca Baulch began playing the guitar before she can remember, initially taught by her parents, both guitarists. After winning first prize in a number of local music festivals, she was offered a scholarship to study at the Purcell School of Music and was subsequently chosen to represent the school, playing at Buckingham Palace, the Royal Yacht Squadron and the Kodaly Institute in Hungary. After leaving the Purcell School Rebecca won first prize in the Admira Young Musician of the Year competition at Bath International Guitar Festival and continued her studies with Colin Downs at the Royal Academy of Music for a year. In 1999 she was offered a Foundation scholarship to complete her degree at the Royal College of Music where she studied with Gary Ryan. Rebecca's career has taken her all over the UK, performing in venues such as the Wigmore Hall, Knebworth House, Blackheath Concert Halls where she shared a concert with Jools Holland, the International Guitar Festival of Great Britain where she gave two recitals in 2001, the Britten Theatre at the Royal College of Music, where she played in a charity gala concert alongside the actors Sir Timothy Ackroyd, Emilia Fox and Pam St. Clements, the Long Room at the Oval where she played to John Major, and the International Guitar Festival in Bath where she gave a recital at the Michael Tippett Centre. She has also toured France with the guitar trio Triumvirate, appeared on Channel Five and BBC Children in Need as accompanist to Andrea Bocelli and on Open House with Gloria Hunniford accompanying Russell Watson. As a soloist she appeared on BBC3 playing Villa-Lobos' first Prelude.