

BENEDICT HOLLAND – BIOGRAPHY

Benedict Holland studied the violin at the Royal Academy of Music with Manoug Parikian and later with Yossi Zivoni at the Royal Northern College of Music.

As a chamber musician, he was a founder member of the Matisse Piano quartet and the Music Group of Manchester, broadcasting regularly for the BBC and undertaking British Council tours. As an orchestral player, he has guest led many of the country's major orchestras, including the Hallé, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, Northern Sinfonia, Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and Scottish Ensemble. Since 2006 he has been a regular guest leader of the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra, working with conductors such as Gianandrea Noseda, Vassily Sinaiski and Juan-Jo Mena. In the past three years, he has particularly enjoyed working on contemporary repertoire with the Orchestra with composers James MacMillan, Steve Mackey and Brett Dean.

Given his enthusiasm for working with living composers, Ben was delighted to be asked, in early 2011, to join the acclaimed chamber ensemble 'Psappha', with whom he has already performed in the University of Manchester contemporary music series and at the Lakeland Summer Music festival.

Ben has been the Leader of Sinfonia ViVa since April 2001 and became its Artistic Advisor in May 2006, appearing as Director and Soloist. Recent appearances with ViVa have included performances of concertos by Mozart, Kurt Weill, Vaughan-Williams, and Vivaldi's Four Seasons; chamber music has taken him from duos to octets and he has directed Viennese concerts from the violin and collaborated with students from schools and colleges in the East Midlands.

Ben devotes much of his time to teaching, with classes at the RNCM, and Chetham's School of Music and has recently taken up a string teaching consultancy in Jersey. He has acted as External Examiner for Trinity College of Music and Leeds College of Music and taken masterclasses at St Mary's School, Edinburgh, the universities of Oxford and Liverpool, Uppingham School and The National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain.

He currently plays on a fine Italian violin by J Rocca.