



## **Cowbridge Music Festival announces appointment of new Artistic Directors**

Cowbridge Music Festival's Chair of the Board of Trustees, Mary Elliott-Rose, announces Rosalind Ventris and Joseph Fort as the new Artistic Directors of the Festival. This husband-and-wife team will build on the success of the past ten years, which have seen the Festival bring to Cowbridge world-class artists including Nicola Benedetti, Jacqui Dankworth, the Doric Quartet, Stile Antico, Tenebrae, Elin Manahan Thomas and Maya Youssef. Rosalind and Joseph will lead the Festival with energy and a bold artistic vision as it continues in its mission to bring international artistic excellence to Cowbridge, to inspire and educate the next generation of young musicians, and to promote its life-affirming concerts to everyone in the community and beyond. As live music returns, 2021 promises a wonderful series of concerts and events, with the Festival's characteristic mix of classical, folk, jazz and more. Should restrictions continue further, the Festival has planned a resilient set of measures to ensure that music lovers will still be able to enjoy a rich programme this year.

Rosalind is one of the UK's leading violists, and is no stranger to Cowbridge, having played at the Festival several times. She performs widely as a soloist and chamber musician collaborating with renowned artists such as Festival Patron violinist Nicola Benedetti, pianist Mitsuko Uchida, cellist Sheku Kanneh-Mason, the Belgian National Orchestra and actor Simon Russell Beale. Some highlights over the past few months include concerts at the Wigmore Hall with the Kaleidoscope Chamber Collective, and recording her debut solo CD of music by female composers (the first of its kind). As the violist of Trio Anima, Rosalind will be shortly recording a disc featuring Welsh music for Tŷ Cerdd. Passionate about education, she teaches the viola at the Royal Irish Academy of Music. Joseph is a conductor and musicologist based at King's College London. At King's, Joseph directs the Choir, broadcasting on Radio 3 and recording for Delphian Records ('a performance of astonishing intensity and musicality'—Gramophone), and he lectures in the Music Department, where he is the Director of Performance. He completed his PhD at Harvard University, and previously studied at Emmanuel College, Cambridge and the Royal Academy of Music, who in 2017 elected him to their Associateship. His research focuses on eighteenth-century music, and he is currently completing a new book on Haydn and the minuet. He is also devoted to public musicology, and gives numerous talks aimed at enhancing audience members' appreciation of the repertoire, for festivals and concert venues.

Founder and former Artistic Director Mary Elliott-Rose will remain closely involved with the Festival as its Chair of the Board of Trustees. She comments:

'As hard as it is to step aside as Artistic Director, from this role that I have loved and cherished for the last decade, I do so knowing that the Festival is now in the best possible hands. After this particularly difficult year, we are beyond excited to finally be able to

start dreaming again about the possibility of live events, and to see where Rosalind and Joseph's impressive artistic vision takes us. They are already working incredibly hard on ensuring that the 2021 Festival brings hope and joy to as many people as possible in the Cowbridge community and beyond!

Rosalind and Joseph write:

'We are absolutely thrilled to be joining the wonderful team of the Cowbridge Music Festival. Having played at the Festival several times, Rosalind knows only too well what a special place Cowbridge is, and just how unique the Festival is—the warmth of everyone involved, the openness to all, and the commitment to the highest artistic standards. We are very excited to be welcoming artists and audiences to this beautiful market town in the future. We are working closely with the team to bring world-class musicians to Cowbridge later this year, and look forward to getting to know the whole community really well over the coming months. This year's edition will place the local Cowbridge community at the heart of the Festival's programme and we can't wait to share our plans with you shortly. The success that Mary, Andrew and the team have achieved over the last ten years really is remarkable, and it is an honour and a joy to be trusted with carrying the Festival into its next decade.'

More information about the Cowbridge Music Festival can be found at <https://cowbridgemusicfestival.co.uk/>. A further announcement regarding the 2021 Festival programme and Fringe will be made soon.