

# MUSICIANS MADE AND IN THE MAKING

The following four pages provide a focus for the main theme of this issue of *Preserve Harmony*; the support provided to young artists by the Musicians' Company. This page and page 12 include biographical details, printed by kind agreement, and personal recollections of well-known and long-established musicians who benefited from the Company's support some time ago. By comparison, pages 10 and 11 concentrate on more recent prize-winners, giving them the opportunity to explain what the work of the Company has meant to them and their careers.



*Levon Chilingirian Quartet*

**LEVON CHILINGIRIAN – VIOLIN**  
*Maisie Lewis Young Artist 1970*  
*Cobbett Medal 1995*  
*Current Company Fellow*

"I well remember the delight and excitement with which my very recently graduated quartet learned of being selected to give the inaugural Maisie Lewis Young Artist's Fund Concert. Although we

**SUSAN TOMES – PIANO**  
*Maisie Lewis Young Artist 1983*

Susan Tomes won the Maisie Lewis award in 1983. Recently, *Piano Magazine* described her as 'one of the brightest jewels in Britain's cultural crown'. Susan, with Anthony Marwood and Robert Lester, formed the Florestan Trio, which has enjoyed extraordinary critical success, but Susan also gives solo recitals and also appears regularly playing concertos with well-recognised orchestras.

Her discography includes 45 CDs of solo, duo and chamber music. Many of these have won international awards.

Susan's playing on a recording of Mozart's three piano concertos K 413-5, with the Gaudier Ensemble, was acclaimed: 'Susan Tomes' playing has all the qualities for which Mozart himself was renowned: delicacy, agility, neatness, expressive eloquence' (*Telegraph*). In recent years she has developed a parallel career as a writer, placing her in the front rank of commentators on performance issues. She has a loyal readership in the *Guardian*, and has also appeared as a writer and presenter both on Radio Three

and Radio Four. Her first book 'Beyond the Notes', appeared in 2004, and a second book on performance topics, 'A Musician's Alphabet' was published by Faber a few months ago. Both books were critics' choices in the national press. The Musicians' Company is proud to have been connected with this fine performer.

had had numerous opportunities to perform at the Royal College of Music and had built up a varied repertoire, the prospect of a "London Début" at a well-known concert hall was the most important stepping stone into the profession. However much one practises, the real test is to see if the years of hard work translate into a performance which moves not only friends but also seasoned concert-goers and critics. Although competitive in the selection process, the physical reality of appearing on the same platform as much respected senior colleagues gives enormous confidence to aspiring young artists. The experience, if successful, can be the basis of being accepted by concert societies, festivals and broadcasting/recording organisations.

I am happy that the Worshipful Company Musicians' awards are going from strength to strength. So many established musicians have fond memories of their "Maisie Lewis" debut. Even the most talented and aspiring artists need a helping hand at this crucial time in their careers. The sympathetic promotion of musicians' concerts at venues with good acoustics will surely develop the individual personalities into voices which must be heard."



Photo: Franzesco Kangaris

Photo: Camilla Jessel

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