

MUSICIAN BIOGRAPHIES

Mark Derudder was born in Fukuoka, Japan but grew up in Belgium, where he started playing the violin at the age of six. He studied at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London with Krzysztof Smietana and David Takeno.

As a soloist and chamber musician, Mark has performed at venues such as Carnegie Hall in New York, BeethovenHaus in Bonn, La Monnaie in Brussels, and in London at the Wigmore Hall, Barbican Hall, Royal Festival Hall, St Martin in the Fields, and Purcell Room.

Mark is also a founder and the first violinist of the Idomeneo String Quartet, with which he performs in the UK and Europe. Recent concerts include tours of Scotland, Brazil, and Germany. Performances have been broadcast on German Radio, and the quartet has recently recorded for Champs Hill Records. Prizes include the Jeunesse Musicale Award in Germany, the Tunnell Trust and Park Lane Young Artists Awards in the UK, and 2nd prize at the Trondheim International Chamber Music Competition.

As an orchestral musician, Mark was formerly a member of the Philharmonia Orchestra in London, and in 2014 he became Co-Leader of the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra. Additionally, Mark has appeared as Guest Leader of the BBC Symphony Orchestra, the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Flemish Symphony Orchestra.

London-based American violinist **Shana Douglas** earned her Bachelor's Degree in Violin Performance at the age of 20 from the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, where she was a student of Ida Kavafian and Arnold Steinhardt and the recipient of the Harry Springman Memorial Fellowship. She went on to receive her Master's Degree with Distinction one year later from the Guildhall School, London, where she studied with David Takeno. Other important musical mentors of Shana's have included Shmuel Ashkenasi, David Cerone, Pamela Frank, and Miriam Fried.

Shana has performed recitals at the Chicago Cultural Center as part of the Dame Myra Hess series, at the Apollo Theater in New York, La Salle Molière in Lyon, France, and at Barbican Hall, Cadogan Hall, and Kings Place in London. She has appeared as concerto soloist with orchestra at the Kennedy Center in Washington DC and at other venues in the USA and Europe. A dedicated chamber musician, Shana has collaborated in this capacity with renowned artists such as Boris Brovtsyn, Kim Kashkashian, Jakob Koranyi, and Steve Tenenbom; and she has appeared at important festivals including Ravinia (Chicago) and IMS Prussia Cove (UK).

For the past ten years, Shana has held the Sub-Leader position in the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, where she is also on the Board of Directors. Additionally, she has appeared as Guest Leader of the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra and the Orchestra of the English National Opera, and in other principal chairs with the Philharmonia Orchestra and the English Chamber Orchestra. Her orchestral career has taken her all over the world from Jamaica to Azerbaijan to China, and she has performed in celebrated concert halls such as Carnegie Hall New York and the Musikverein Vienna.

Recently, Shana has developed an interest in orchestral conducting, stemming from both her deep love of the symphonic repertoire and also her extensive experience in leadership roles within orchestras. She has benefited from conducting tuition with Rene Gulikers, James Henshaw, Jonathan Mann, Jorma Panula, Toby Purser, and Lior Shambadal; and she has appeared as conductor in concert with the Hradec Kralove Philharmonic Orchestra in the Czech Republic and the Sonderjyllands Symfoniorkester in Denmark.

Outside of music, Shana is a great lover of baking, and her specialty is a New-York style Jewish chocolate babka.

Lithuanian-born violist **Ugne Tiskute** is a versatile performer and teacher. She is a member of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in London and is also an active concert violist in the UK and Europe. She has recently been a visiting viola teacher at the Royal Academy of Music in London.

Inspired by her violinist mother, Ugne began her musical studies at the age of six. She moved to London in 2009 and completed her Bachelor's, Master's, and Advanced Diploma Degrees with Distinction at the Royal Academy of Music. Her studies were kindly supported by numerous major foundations, including the Royal Academy of Music, the Countess of Munster Musical Trust, Help Musicians UK, the Solti Foundation, the Drake Calleja Trust, and the Marylebone Educational Trust. Ugne is an active member of the Ensemble Mirage Chamber Music Group, and she also serves on the International Jury of the London Young Musicians Online Competition.

Ugne performed at the Menuhin International Violin Competition of 2016, collaborating in chamber music with renowned violinist Jack Liebeck and the Junior Semifinalists. She has also taken part in the Prussia Cove IMS Masterclasses, studying with Thomas Riebl, as well as their prestigious Open Chamber Music Sessions. Other festival appearances include the Mendelssohn on Mull Festival, Hellens-Music 2016, the International Menuhin Festival in Gstaad Strings Academy, and the Santander Encuentro de Musica y Academia. Ugne has studied with distinguished soloists such as Nobuko Imai, Lawrence Power, Wolfram Christ, Hartmut Rohde, Jerzy Cosmala, Avri Levitan, Ettore Causa, and Maxim Vengerov. As a soloist and chamber musician, Ugne has appeared at various concert venues across Europe and Asia including the Wigmore Hall, Royal Festival Hall, Shanghai Oriental Art Centre,

Palacio de Festivales in Cantabria, St. Johns Smith Square, Lithuanian National Philharmonic Hall, and many more.

Ugne performs on a Claudio Manfio viola, the “Emilie Flöge,” made in 2016.

Roberto Sorrentino began playing the cello at the age of 11 in North London. He won scholarships to all the major music colleges in London, and after studying at the Royal Northern College of Music with the American cellist Donald McCall, he became Co-Principal Cellist of the Gulbenkian Orchestra in Lisbon, Portugal, and also played with the the Arturo Toscanini Orchestra in Parma, Italy. Roberto turned back to studying, attending the Banff Centre in Canada, and subsequently returned to London and freelanced with most of London’s orchestras. After 13 years as Sub-Principal Cellist of the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, he joined the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in 2005.

Roberto has been a member of the contemporary ensemble Kokoro since 1995, performing and recording widely. He has also been active as a session musician, performing on soundtracks including the Harry Potter films, BBC productions, the X-Factor, and many pop recordings.

Roberto is a keen and active member of the RPO’s education department and has been involved in numerous projects throughout the UK in schools, community centres, retirement homes, hospices, and prisons.

Roberto has three children and plays on a Joseph Hill cello dated 1768.