

Wonderland



Wonderland is a brand new project created by pianist **Ashley Wass** and violinist **Matthew Trusler** in order to raise money for the Lenny Trusler Children's Foundation - a foundation started by Matthew and of which Ashley is a Trustee. The foundation is dedicated to providing relief from suffering and illness in very sick babies and children.

2015 marks the 150th anniversary of the publication of Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, one of the great works of children's literature. The book contains 12 chapters and a prefatory poem, and 12 composers have been asked to write short pieces. The pieces will be performed in order so they follow the story's narrative and will be interspersed by an actor reading a specially written script by Louis de Bernieres (author of *Captain Corelli's Mandolin*). Some of the world's most renowned composers have committed to the project, all of them writing voluntarily.

Wonderland will be released on Orchid Classics in November 2015 to coincide with the month in which the hugely successful 2nd Edition of *Alice in Wonderland* was published. All profits from the CD will go to the LTCF. The project will also be toured as a live event throughout 2015 and beyond, with performances already scheduled in several countries around the world.

A key element of Wonderland is its appeal across all age groups, a reflection of the enduring popularity of the original book. The composers chosen to write for the project represent a number of different styles and genres, while the script will draw everything together to form a clear and compelling narrative.

This project has been created to raise funds as well as to build further awareness for the Lenny Trusler Children's Foundation. It is intended to be the first of several projects designed to create a legacy of new music inspired by children's literature.



MATTHEW TRUSLER violin

On graduating from Philadelphia's Curtis Institute in 1998, the Times declared of Matthew Trusler that "we might just have an authentic, though British, virtuoso." Since then he has developed a reputation as one of Britain's leading violinists, performing with many of the world's great orchestras, and receiving huge critical acclaim for his diverse recordings. He has also founded the record label Orchid Classics on which some of the most important artists of today are recording, and the Lenny Trusler Children's Foundation, which raises money for desperately ill babies.

Performing on a bow once owned by Heifetz, Trusler has received particular acclaim for his performances of works from the 20th century, including concertos by Walton, Berg and Britten. His recording of concertos by Korngold and Rozsa with the Dusseldorf Symphony received 5 stars in BBC Music Magazine, and the headline "Hotter than Heifetz?"

Trusler has been invited to perform as a recitalist and concerto soloist throughout Europe, Australia, the USA, Japan and South Africa. In the UK he has performed with the BBC Symphony, BBC Scottish and BBC Welsh orchestras, the Philharmonia, London Philharmonic, Royal Philharmonic, CBSO, Halle and Academy of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, and has appeared further afield with the Minnesota Orchestra, NDR Hanover, Helsinki Philharmonic, Deutsche Symphony Berlin, Malaysian Philharmonic and Johannesburg Philharmonic.

Trusler founded Orchid Classics in 2005, and the label now has major distribution internationally, as well as a separate division for PR and concert promotion.

In his own words

"Bringing great works of children's literature together with classical music has become an integral part of our fundraising activity for the Lenny Trusler Children's Foundation. I'm especially excited that with this project we'll be creating an entirely new suite of music; a work of art which will not only provide pleasure for young people, but will also directly raise money for very young children and babies who have been given a bad start in their lives."

Matthew Trusler, September 2014



ASHLEY WASS piano

Described as an ‘endlessly fascinating artist’, Ashley Wass is firmly established as one of the leading performers of his generation. He is the only British winner of the London International Piano Competition, prize-winner at the Leeds Piano Competition, and a former BBC Radio 3 New Generation Artist.

Increasingly in demand on the international stage, Ashley has performed at many of the world’s finest concert halls including Wigmore Hall, Carnegie Hall, Concertgebouw and the Vienna Konzerthaus. He has performed as soloist with numerous leading ensembles, including all of the BBC orchestras, the Philharmonia, Orchestre National de Lille, Vienna Chamber Orchestra, Hong Kong Philharmonic, RLPO, CBSO, Bournemouth Symphony and under the baton of conductors such as

Simon Rattle, Osmo Vanska, Donald Runnicles, Ilan Volkov and Vassily Sinaisky.

He appeared in a gala concert at Buckingham Palace to mark the Golden Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II, a performance broadcast live to millions of viewers around the world. In recent years he has become a regular guest at the BBC Proms. Renowned for an eclectic repertoire, Ashley has received great critical acclaim for his recordings of music across a wide range of styles. His survey of Bax’s piano music was nominated for a Gramophone Award and his discography boasts a number of Gramophone ‘Editor’s Choice’ recordings and BBC Music Magazine ‘Choices’.

Ashley is Professor of Piano at the Royal College of Music, London and is the Artistic Director of the Lincolnshire International Chamber Music Festival.

In his own words

“This is a project of which we are extremely proud. Chronicling the vivid imagery of Alice in Wonderland through the medium of music will encourage us all to let our imaginations run wild. Moreover, it should hold huge appeal both to children and adults, and to fans of the book and to followers of contemporary music. It’s hugely exciting and we are thrilled to have so many wonderful composers involved; that it’s all in aid of a truly wonderful cause makes it very special indeed.”

Ashley Wass, September 2014

Chapter One - Down the Rabbit-Hole



Alice is feeling bored while sitting on the riverbank with her elder sister, when she notices a talking, clothed White Rabbit with a pocket watch run past. She follows it down a rabbit hole when suddenly she falls a long way to a curious hall with many locked doors of all sizes. She finds a small key to a door too small for her to fit through, but through it she sees an attractive garden. She then discovers a bottle on a table labelled "DRINK ME," the contents of which cause her to shrink too small to reach the key which she has left on the table. She eats a cake with "EAT ME" written on it in currants as the chapter closes.



Roxanna Panufnik is one of the UK's most popular and loved composers whose works have struck a deep emotional chord with audiences everywhere. Since studying composition at London's Royal Academy of Music, Roxanna's since written a wide range of pieces including opera, ballet, music theatre, choral works, chamber compositions and music for film and television which are regularly performed all over the world. Roxanna's compositions have been recorded by many companies including Warner Classics and EMI Classics. Three Paths to Peace, commissioned by the World Orchestra for Peace and conducted by Valery Gergiev, received its BBC Proms premiere this summer.

Chapter Two - The Pool of Tears



Chapter Two opens with Alice growing to such a tremendous size her head hits the ceiling. Alice is unhappy and, as she cries, her tears flood the hallway. After shrinking down again due to a fan she had picked up, Alice swims through her own tears and meets a Mouse, who is swimming as well. She tries to make small talk with him in elementary French (thinking he may be a French mouse) but her opening gambit "Où est ma chatte?" (that is "Where is my cat?") offends the mouse and he tries to escape her.



A composer of truly international stature, **Mark-Anthony Turnage** is among the most relevant communicators and creators of today. Born in Britain in 1960, Turnage studied with Oliver Knussen and John Lambert, and later with Gunther Schuller. With the encouragement of Hans Werner Henze, he wrote his first opera for the Munich Biennale festival, Greek, which received a triumphant premiere in 1988. The many ensuing productions worldwide established Turnage's international reputation. Mark-Anthony Turnage has served as Composer in Residence at the CBSO (with Rattle), BBC Symphony, London Philharmonic and Chicago Symphony orchestras.

Chapter Three - A Caucus-Race and a Long Tail



The sea of tears becomes crowded with other animals and birds that have been swept away by the rising waters. Alice and the other animals convene on the bank and the question among them is how to get dry again. The Mouse gives them a very dry lecture on William the Conqueror. A Dodo decides that the best thing to dry them off would be a Caucus-Race, which consists of everyone running in a circle with no clear winner. Alice eventually frightens all the animals away, unwittingly, by talking about her (moderately ferocious) cat.



Stuart MacRae studied at Durham University with Philip Cashian and Michael Zev Gordon, and subsequently with Simon Bainbridge and Robert Saxton at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. By his mid-twenties he was writing astonishingly original and powerfully expressive works, and was receiving commissions from organisations such as the BBC and the London Sinfonietta as well as being appointed Composer-in-Association with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra. Often inspired by aspects of the natural landscape, MacRae's style draws on various strands of European modernism, including the music of Stravinsky, Carter, Xenakis and Maxwell Davies.

Chapter Four - The Rabbit Sends in a Little Bill



The White Rabbit appears again in search of the Duchess's gloves and fan. Mistaking her for his maidservant, Mary Ann, he orders Alice to go into the house and retrieve them, but once she gets inside she starts growing. The horrified Rabbit orders his gardener, Bill the Lizard, to climb on the roof and go down the chimney. Outside, Alice hears the voices of animals that have gathered to gawk at her giant arm. The crowd hurls pebbles at her, which turn into little cakes. Alice eats them, and they reduce her again in size.



Poul Ruders trained as an organist and has also studied orchestration with the composer Karl Aage Rasmussen. Today he is the most frequently played living Danish composer both in Denmark and abroad. His 2000 opera, *The Handmaid's Tale*, was a resounding success and has since celebrated triumphs in London, Minnesota and Toronto. Poul Ruders was named "Composer of the Year" at MIDEM and the recording of the opera was nominated for two Grammys. Commissions have since come from the Berlin Philharmonic, the New York Philharmonic and the BBC Symphony Orchestra. In 2005 Ruders was awarded the Wilhelm Hansen Composer's Prize.

Chapter Five - Advice from a Caterpillar



Alice comes upon a mushroom and sitting on it is a blue Caterpillar smoking a hookah. The Caterpillar questions Alice and she admits to her current identity crisis, compounded by her inability to remember a poem. Before crawling away, the caterpillar tells Alice that one side of the mushroom will make her taller and the other side will make her shorter. She breaks off two pieces from the mushroom. One side makes her shrink smaller than ever, while another causes her neck to grow high into the trees, where a pigeon mistakes her for a serpent. With some effort, Alice brings herself back to her normal height. She stumbles upon a small estate and uses the mushroom to reach a more appropriate height.



Howard Blake is an English composer, pianist and conductor whose career has spanned over 50 years and produced more than 650 works. Blake's most famous work is his Oscar-nominated soundtrack to Channel 4's animated film, *The Snowman*. The feature song 'Walking in the Air' was a global hit and the stage version has recently celebrated 17 consecutive years of Christmas success in London's West End. He has written extensively for film and television, has received commissions from the likes of the Philharmonia Orchestra (a piano concerto for the 30th birthday of Princess Diana) and has been awarded an OBE for his services to music.

Chapter Six - Pig and Pepper



A Fish-Footman has an invitation for the Duchess of the house, which he delivers to a Frog-Footman. Alice observes this transaction and, after a perplexing conversation with the frog, lets herself into the house. The Duchess's Cook is throwing dishes and making a soup that has too much pepper, which causes Alice, the Duchess, and her baby (but not the cook or grinning Cheshire Cat) to sneeze violently. Alice is given the baby by the Duchess and to her surprise, the baby turns into a pig. The Cheshire Cat appears in a tree, directing her to the March Hare's house. He disappears but his grin remains behind to float on its own in the air prompting Alice to remark that she has often seen a cat without a grin but never a grin without a cat.



A consummate all-round musician, **Carl Davis** is widely known internationally in many spheres of music-making. He has been enormously successful in the world of theatre and is equally well-known in the field of dance, working with the major choreographers of the day. Davis's output for film and television is vast, including *The World At War*, *The French Lieutenant's Woman* (the winner of both the BAFTA and Ivor Novello awards) and *Pride & Prejudice*. In 1991 his first collaboration with Paul McCartney produced the Liverpool Oratorio, now being performed in many countries throughout the world.

Chapter Seven - A Mad Tea-Party



Alice becomes a guest at a "mad" tea party along with the March Hare, the Hatter, and a very tired Dormouse who falls asleep frequently, only to be violently woken up moments later by the March Hare and the Hatter. The characters give Alice many riddles and stories, including the famous 'Why is a raven like a writing desk?'. The Hatter reveals that they have tea all day because Time has punished him by eternally standing still at 6 pm (tea time). Alice becomes insulted and tired of being bombarded with riddles and she leaves claiming that it was the stupidest tea party that she had ever been to.



Stephen Hough is widely regarded as one of the most important and distinctive pianists of his generation. He was awarded a prestigious MacArthur Fellowship in 2001 in recognition of his achievements, and in the 2014 New Year's Honours List he was made a Commander of the Order of the British Empire. His extensive list of recordings has won four Grammy nominations and eight Gramophone Awards—including two 'Record of the Year' awards. Stephen is also an avid writer of music and prose. He has a book published by Continuum Books and many compositions and transcriptions are published by Josef Weinberger Ltd.

Chapter Eight - The Queen's Croquet Ground



Alice leaves the tea party and comes upon three living playing cards painting the white roses on a rose tree red because The Queen of Hearts hates white roses. A procession enters the garden. Alice then meets the King and Queen. The Queen introduces her trademark phrase "Off with his head!" Alice is invited to play a game of croquet but the game quickly descends into chaos. Live flamingos are used as mallets and hedgehogs as balls and Alice once again meets the Cheshire Cat. The Queen of Hearts then orders the Cat to be beheaded, only to have her executioner complain that this is impossible since the head is all that can be seen of him. Because the cat belongs to the Duchess, the Queen is prompted to release the Duchess from prison to resolve the matter.



After starting music at the age of 20, **Richard Dubugnon** was accepted to the Paris Conservatory in 1992, where he graduated with prizes in Double Bass, Counterpoint, and Fugue. He also studied composition at the Royal Academy of Music in London, becoming a fellow there in 1998. His music, characterized as "driven by a playful, modern sensibility," has been commissioned and performed by such artists as Janine Jansen, Esa-Pekka Salonen, Julian Rachlin, and Gautier Capuçon, earning awards such as the Pierre Cardin Prize and the Grand Prix Lycéen. Forthcoming projects include a concerto for two pianos for the Labèques, a co-commission by the LA Philharmonic, Gewandhaus Leipzig, Orchestre de la Suisse Romande and Orchestre de Paris.

Chapter Nine - The Mock Turtle's Story



The Duchess is brought to the croquet ground at Alice's request. She ruminates on finding morals in everything around her. The Queen of Hearts dismisses her on the threat of execution and she introduces Alice to the Gryphon, who takes her to the Mock Turtle. The Mock Turtle is very sad, even though he has no sorrow. He tries to tell his story about how he used to be a real turtle in school, which the Gryphon interrupts so they can play a game.

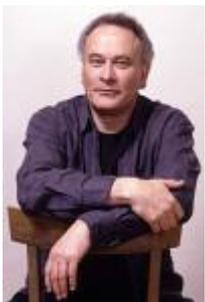


Winner of the 1998 International Violin Competition 'Premio Paganini', **Ilya Gringolts** studied violin and composition at the St Petersburg Special Music School and at the Juilliard School in New York with Itzhak Perlman and the late Dorothy Delay. He was also one of twelve young artists selected by the BBC for their New Generation Artists scheme. Ilya has performed with the world's leading orchestras and conductors, and has recorded for Deutsche Grammophon—including a Gramophone Award-winning CD of Taneyev chamber music—BIS, Hyperion, Onyx and Orchid Classics. Renowned in the field of contemporary music, his own compositions have been recorded by BIS.

Chapter Ten - The Lobster Quadrille



The Mock Turtle and the Gryphon dance to the Lobster Quadrille, while Alice recites (rather incorrectly) "'Tis the Voice of the Lobster". The Mock Turtle sings them "Beautiful Soup" during which the Gryphon drags Alice away for an impending trial.



Colin Matthews was born in London and worked as assistant to Benjamin Britten from 1972 - 6, and with Imogen Holst from 1971 - 84. Since the early 1970s his music has been played worldwide, with recordings on numerous labels. From 1992-9 he was Associate Composer with the London Symphony Orchestra, writing amongst other works his 2nd Cello Concerto, for Rostropovich. In 1997 his choral/orchestral *Renewal*, commissioned for the 50th anniversary of BBC Radio 3, was given a RPS Award. His works have been played and commissioned by the New York and Berlin Philharmonics, the LPO, Halle, Leipzig Gewandhaus and the Concertgebouw Orchestra, amongst many others.

Chapter Eleven - Who Stole the Tarts?



Alice attends a trial whereby the Knave of Hearts is accused of stealing the Queen's tarts. The jury is composed of various animals, including Bill the Lizard, the White Rabbit is the court's trumpeter, and the judge is the King of Hearts. During the proceedings, Alice finds that she is steadily growing larger. The dormouse scolds Alice and tells her she has no right to grow at such a rapid pace and take up all the air. Alice scoffs and calls the dormouse's accusation ridiculous because everyone grows and she cannot help it. Meanwhile, witnesses at the trial include the Hatter, who displeases and frustrates the King through his indirect answers to the questioning, and the Duchess's cook.



Gwilym Simcock is one of the most gifted pianists and imaginative composers on the British scene. Able to move effortlessly between jazz and classical music, he can, at times, inhabit both worlds and has been described as stylistically reminiscent of Keith Jarrett. His music has been widely acclaimed as 'engaging, exciting, often unexpected, melodically enthralling, complex and wonderfully optimistic'. Gwilym's influences include Keith Jarrett, Chick Corea and classical composers Maurice Ravel, Igor Stravinsky and Mark-Anthony Turnage. Although principally a jazz artist, Gwilym is breaking new ground between genres and often uses classical reference points in his composed work.

Chapter Twelve - Alice's Evidence



Alice is then called up as a witness. She accidentally knocks over the jury box with the animals inside them and the King orders the animals be placed back into their seats before the trial continues. The King and Queen order Alice to be gone, citing Rule 42 ("All persons more than a mile high to leave the court"), but Alice disputes their judgement and refuses to leave. She argues over the ridiculous proceedings. The Queen shouts "Off with her head!" but Alice is unafraid, calling them out as just a pack of cards, just as they start to swarm over her. Alice's sister wakes her up for tea, brushing what turns out to be some leaves and not a shower of playing cards from Alice's face. Alice leaves her sister on the bank to imagine all the curious happenings for herself.



Augusta Read Thomas, born in New York, was the Mead Composer-in-Residence for Pierre Boulez and Daniel Barenboim at the Chicago Symphony Orchestra from 1997 through 2006. In 2007, her *Astral Canticle* was one of the two finalists for the Pulitzer Prize in Music. The "Colors of Love" CD which features two of Thomas' compositions, won a Grammy award. G. Schirmer, Inc. is the exclusive publisher of her music worldwide, and her discography includes 63 commercially recorded CDs. Her music has been commissioned and performed by the Boston Symphony, LSO, Orchestre de Paris, BBC Proms and Berlin Philharmonic, and by artists such as Barenboim and Boulez.

The Organizers:

Founded in 1998, the Cyprus-based **Pharos Arts Foundation** is a non-profit cultural and educational organization dedicated to the promotion of a wide range of activities in the fields of the humanities and the arts. The Foundation presents cultural and educational programmes that are characterised by a strong commitment to artistic excellence and the creative process. Through the Concert and Recital Series, for which the Foundation has established worldwide reputation, a great number of performances by outstanding soloists and chamber music ensembles from all over the world are presented, annually culminating with the International Pharos Chamber Music Festival. In 2009, the Pharos Arts Foundation introduced the International Contemporary Music Festival, the mission of which is to propagate the music of 20th and 21st centuries and present contemporary works and newly-commissioned compositions. The Music Education Programme presents concerts for the benefit of students of state and private schools from different ethnic, religious and cultural backgrounds, promoting music as a non-verbal expression vehicle which transcends the boundaries of language. The Foundation's series include the Visual Arts Programme, featuring contemporary art exhibitions by distinguished international artists at the Pharos Centre for Contemporary Art and exhibition catalogues published by Pharos Publishers, the Lecture Series, and a Residency Programme.

The **International Motion Festival Cyprus**, now in its 3rd edition, has been established as a platform for showcasing innovative motion art videos, spanning from motion graphics, to 2D and 3D animation, video art, and shorts in the wider Mediterranean region. As each year, the IMF is interested in showcasing innovative and ground-breaking approaches in the field of motion art and video, experimental techniques and creative takes on matters of society, culture, relationships, politics and the economy, science, imagination and art. In 2015, the Festival is particularly interested in environmental and sustainable energy related videos. The IMF welcomes productions from all over the world and at the same time strongly encourages the participation of Cypriot production.

With the support of:

Orchid Classics was founded in 2005 by violinist Matthew Trusler, with the goal of producing artist-focused recordings of the highest quality and artistic interest. The label, still under Trusler's artistic direction and now chaired by James Brown, managing director of Hazard Chase, has quickly established a reputation for distinctive recordings of high quality and originality. Orchid Classics albums have gained an exceptional degree of positive press coverage, regularly receiving accolades such as Editor's Choice in Gramophone Magazine, Critic's choice in BBC Music Magazine, and album of the week in national broadsheets as well as on Classic FM. The company has now expanded to include a PR consultancy division, providing a wide range of services to artists and organisations. <http://www.orchidclassics.com>

The **Lenny Trusler Children's Foundation** (LTCF) is dedicated to helping provide the relief of serious illness in newborn babies and infants, both in the UK and abroad. The foundation has collaborated with a range of performers, raising funds through musical projects. In recent years the foundation has been able to buy vital life saving equipment including a new incubator, for the neonatal unit of the Whittington Hospital, and has begun supporting a children's hospice, "Helen & Douglas House" in Oxford. <http://www.ltcf.co.uk>

For more information:

THE WONDERLAND WEBSITE

<http://www.wonderland150.com>

ORGANIZERS IN CYPRUS:

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 **Pharos Arts Foundation**

