

RUTH GIBSON - VIOLA

Ruth is from Dublin and began studying the violin aged five with Maria Keleman and later with Ronald Masin, transferring her studies to viola at the age of 11. During 2004, she was a finalist in the European String Teachers' Association Young Musician of the Year, coming runner-up overall in her category.

In 2005, Ruth began her degree at the Royal Northern College of Music and was the recipient of an RNCM Entrance Award. She participated in solo masterclasses with Thomas Riebl, Isabel Charisius and Marco van Pagee and chamber music classes with the Endellion and New Zealand string quartets. In 2007, she won first prize in the RNCM Viola Competition and the Nossek Chamber music prize with the Roberts String Quartet. During her third year, Ruth was a finalist in both the RNCM's Paganini Prize and the J&A Beare Solo Bach Competition in London. In 2008, she took part in the Bantry Chamber Music Festival in Ireland and performed at the Cheltenham Festival Academy at the Cheltenham Festival. She was a finalist in the RNCM Concerto auditions and also performed the York Bowen Concerto with the Manchester Beethoven Orchestra in November 2008. She graduated in 2009 with First class Honours.

As member of the Finzi Quartet, she was winner of the 2nd prize at the 5th International Trondheim String quartet competition in September 2009 and won first prize in the 2010 Royal Over-Seas League. Having been selected by the Tillett Trust and the Park Lane Group, 2009/2010 saw the Quartet's debut at both the Wigmore Hall and the Purcell Room to critical acclaim. The quartet is also a recipient of this years' Tunnell Trust Award, which led to a concert tour of Scotland.

This year, Ruth is continuing her studies at the Royal College of Music with Lawrence Power where she has been kindly supported by the Musicians Benevolent Fund, RCM, South Dublin County Council and the Worshipful Company of Musicians. In March, she participated in the Lionel Tertis International Viola Competition on the Isle of Man.

Next year Ruth will be able to continue her studies at the RCM with the kind support of an Ian Fleming Award administered by the Musicians Benevolent Fund. As an Allcard winner, Ruth will be giving solo recitals at the St. Lawrence Jewry Festival in August and St. John Smith's Square this October.