

**Q:** What's the common definition of an accountant?

**A:** Someone who solves a problem you didn't know you had in a way you don't understand

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## THURSDAY 16TH JULY

listeners this may seem like a positive review, but salon-goers sought pleasant background music, not an exhausting adventure. The Op.12 violin sonatas are dedicated to Antonio Salieri, with whom Beethoven was studying vocal composition in Vienna.

### *Habañera from Spanish Dances, Op.21*

**Pablo de Sarasate** (1844-1908)

Spanish violinist Pablo de Sarasate was a child prodigy who became famous all over Europe for his virtuosic, seemingly effortless, playing. He attracted the admiration and friendship of many famous composers who dedicated their works to him, including Bruch, Saint-Saëns, Lalo and Dvorák. He also achieved fame as a composer of virtuoso violin music including 'Zigeunerweisen' and his 'Carmen Fantasy'. Between 1878 and 1882 he composed four books of Spanish Dances, making use of folk tunes in elegant arrangements. The first book included two pieces for violin and piano, a Malagueña and this Habañera (a nineteenth-century dance form not in fact native to Spain, but imported from Cuba - the name derives from Havana). Like most of Sarasate's short pieces, these dances are salon music at its most sophisticated and charming, filled with ravishing Spanish melody and intricate virtuoso elaboration. 'Habañera', which makes flexible use of the habañera ostinato, the recurrent *habañera* rhythm, is in turns coy, dramatic and dazzling.

### *Tzigane*

**Maurice Ravel** (1875-1937)

'Tzigane' is French for 'gypsy' and this work reflects Ravel's interest in gypsies and Hungarian culture. The piece was dedicated to the Hungarian violinist Jelly D'Arányi, a great-niece of the legendary violinist Josef Joachim. It can be broadly divided into two sections: the Cadenza tells the tale of a gypsy's life - his misery, passions, memories, surroundings and dreams. We are transported into the countryside for the post-Cadenza section, which peaks in a festive, frenzied dance depicting the gaiety of the gypsies' lives.

**Katy Smith** was born in 1992 and began to play the violin when she was five, initially studying with Alex Brulo. She played in the Peterborough Youth Orchestra and the Birmingham Junior Symphony Orchestra, and in July 2003 won a competition to play Lalo's 'Symphony Espagnole' with one of the Birmingham orchestras. In September 2003 she joined the Yehudi Menuhin School, where she became a student of Berent Korfker. In 2007 the Menuhin School presented her, along with other students, on a tour of Scotland, performing violin-piano repertoire.

In 2007 Katy performed the Violin Concerto No.3 by Saint-Saëns with the Uttlesford Orchestra and Wieniawski at the Corn Exchange in Cambridge. In 2008 she played the Mendelssohn Violin Concerto with the Warwickshire County Youth Orchestra under Colin Touchin and with the City of Peterborough Symphony Orchestra under Russell Keable.

In January 2009 she was invited, as a featured student of Berent Korfker, to participate in the international Australian String Academy at the Sydney Conservatory, where she took part in numerous solo and chamber music concerts at the prestigious Verbruggen Hall, performed for Robert Masters in a masterclass, and was awarded a prize in the Academy's Concerto Competition. In March she played the Glazunov.

Concerto with the RCM Junior Department Symphony Orchestra under Richard Dickens as a result of winning this year's Concerto Competition.



**Alison Rhind** was educated at Chetham's School of Music, Oxford University and the Guildhall School of Music and Drama where she studied with Edith Vogel. She was invited back to Chetham's to join the accompanists' team there and during this period was also asked to be the official accompanist for the BBC Young Musician of The Year Competition and for the Aberdeen Festival of Youth. From 1993 to 2006 she was the accompanist at the Yehudi Menuhin School where she accompanied masterclasses given by Yehudi Menuhin, Daniil Shafran, Janos Starker, Steven Isserlis, Mstislav Rostropovich and András Schiff, amongst others, and toured extensively with Menuhin School pupils.

Alison has also been an accompanist at the prestigious Kronberg Cello Festival in Germany and was recently the official accompanist for the String Final Recitals at the Royal College of Music. She is the regular accompanist of Nicola Benedetti with whom she has played for the past nine years and with whom she enjoys a busy touring schedule - 2006 took them twice to Japan, Europe and the USA, as well as many appearances in the UK. Other regular recital partners have included violinists Dora Schwarzberg and Alina Ibragimova, the great French bassist François Rabbath and cellist Leonid Gorokhov.

*Refreshments available before the recital.*

The recital ends at 10.40pm.