

Benjamin Roskams

Violinist & Violist

Benjamin Roskams began playing the violin at the age of nine in Cardiff where he studied with Harry Cawood before going on to win a scholarship to study with Lydia Mordkovitch and Emanuel Hurwitz at the Royal Academy of Music. Benjamin continued his studies at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama with David Takeno as a scholarship holder and then with Professor Ilya Grubert at the Amsterdam Conservatoire. Then he sought inspiration from Ivry Gitlis in Paris.

A keen chamber musician Benjamin has collaborated with many leading artists at international chamber music festivals such as the Brodsky Quartet, Ivry Gitlis, Emanuel Hurwitz, Mats Lidstrom, Alexander Baillie, Priya Mitchell, David Cohen and Thomas Carroll. As a viola player he was a member of the award winning Artea Quartet, performing in venues such as the Conway Hall, Purcell Room and Wigmore Hall as well as appearances on BBC radio 3 "In Tune" and a chamber music prom concert broadcast from the V&A on the BBC. He was also awarded scholarships to attend IMS Prussia Cove, Dartington International Summer School, Pro Corda Musical Encounters and the Amadeus Quartet course.

As an experienced orchestral musician he has led the Dutch National Ballet as well as acting as guest deputy concertmaster of the Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra and Holland Symfonia. In the UK he works regularly with the LSO, LPO and Philharmonia Orchestra and used to be a member of the 1st violin section with the BBC Symphony Orchestra.

He is indebted to Albert Cooper's family for the generous loan of the c.1720 Joseph filius Andrea Guarneri violin on which he plays.