

## St George's Bristol Prize for Music Recipients 2018

2018 Michelle Falcon & Ruth O'Shea, Bath Strings Academy



Image: Evan Dawson/St George's Bristol February 2019

Bath String Academy was set up in 2016 by Michelle Falcon and Ruth O'Shea, two professional string players, passionate about chamber music and the provision of high quality and inclusive music education. Their aim is to support and grow the community of string players within the Bath area, providing affordable musical opportunities to players of all ages and backgrounds, whilst working alongside the current Local Authority provision. Everyone at Bath String Academy believes passionately in the potential of every individual. They strive to create an atmosphere that values every musician with the same respect, regardless of their level of experience, using innovative teaching methods with a holistic approach, designed to fully engage mind and body in expressive, successful and joyful music-making and promoting peer support. A strong belief in the power of shared musical experiences where the least experienced and most advanced players work together lies at the heart of their work.

*"As a parent I feel so blessed to have such amazing music making opportunities for our children in Bath. It brought back so many memories of the stuff I did as a child and I felt quite emotional listening to my daughter playing with such talented and delightful musical children."*

*"We can't emphasise enough how much we appreciate the fact that St George's runs a scheme like this. Providing performance opportunities and recognition for organisations like ours is so important. For us personally, the prize could not have come at a better time, and has given us the motivation we need to keep plugging away. It has also given all those young people an incredible experience, and has brought us out of our rehearsal rooms into the public eye. Thank you so much for thinking of us, and for being so supportive. We definitely feel a renewed vigour and determination! Very best wishes, Ruth and Michelle."*

### Previous St George's Bristol Prize for Music Recipients

2017 Christine Wright (Retired), South Gloucestershire Music Hub

2016 Gillian Holmes (Retired), Thornbury Castle School - Panache Steel Pan Ensemble

2015 Penny Rawlings & the Bristol Ensemble Preludes Team