

ANIMO, flute and piano duo

Based in the Forest of Dean in Gloucestershire U.K., Animo, has been born out of a desire to create music, programmes and experiences without boundaries and expectations, that can feed our collective desire for something soulful and extraordinary.

We have been producing and recording music since the beginning of our Duo, in 2019. During the same year we started a 5-year 'new music project' by commissioning up to five composers annually to bring something different and new to the world which is strongly rooted to our sound and style.

Following a very successful Launch at Gloucester Blackfriars in October 2019, Animo have continued to build our repertoire and expand our networking with other musicians beyond our locality. In June 2020, in the middle of the pandemic, we were invited to participate (virtually) at an International Music Conference and have one of our 'new music' works included on the accompanying CD alongside the conference's Academic Papers publication.

Animo have kept busy performing in our Home Studio with weekly livestreams, collaborating online with our composers and, more recently, finished recording 'Animo Two' which features 11 'new music' tracks which will be released later this year.

Sarah Waycott, flautist

A graduate of Bath Spa and the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, Sarah has been described as 'A fine flautist' by Robert Bigio in the British Flute Society Journal.

Sarah is a UK-based versatile flautist, cellist, choral conductor, and music teacher with experience in performing a wide range of musical styles. An eclectic musician, Sarah studied Jazz, World music and Baroque flute, Baroque cello and viol. More recently she has ventured into experimenting with electronics to layer and manipulate the sound of the flute and create new textures to her sound.

An established freelancer, Sarah has performed in the UK and overseas which she balances with teaching students of all ages and levels and conducting local choirs. Sarah is also a founding member of the 'ELO Again Tribute Band' and as their lead cellist she had the opportunity to 'let her hair down' and perform an entirely different repertoire in large venues across the UK and Europe for several years. Sarah has also performed worldwide with pianist Hannah Mitchell and their duo 'Tranquillo' and with harpist Jemima Phillips with 'Duel'.

Yanna Zissiadou, pianist

Yanna was born in Thessaloniki, Greece and has lived in the UK for over 27 years. A graduate of the Royal Academy of Music, London and the Eastman School of Music, U.S.A., Yanna developed a professional career which spans over 30 years as a Concert Pianist, Chamber Musician, Accompanist, Conductor, Educator and Musical Director.

Her music heritage transcends the traditions of her family's ancestry (Asia Minor), the diversity of her musical education and her parents' eclectic taste in music which encompassed anything from Sinatra and Theodorakis to Wagner, Verdi and Schoenberg.

Yanna has returned to a concert career with Animo but also her own study of Greek piano music.