Lyudmila Kovnatskaya holds a professorship from St Petersburg Conservatoire and is a Leading Researcher at the Russian Institute (Zubovsky) of Fine Arts History. She is one of the foremost Russian scholars of British music; she published a monograph on Benjamin Britten in 1974 and her book on British Music (1986) remains the only treatment of this subject in Russian. She has organized many concerts and conferences, including a Britten Festival in Yerevan, Armenia during 1996. She edited a symposium on Shostakovich published that year, and a second is in preparation for 1999.

Vera Lukomsky, currently a PhD Candidate at the University of California, San Diego, has a degree in Musicology from the St Petersburg State Rimsky-Korsakov Conservatory. She has lived in the USA since 1990 and is completing her doctorate dissertation 'Songs of the GULAG' based on her interviews with GULAG survivors.

Solomon Volkov, whose publication of Testimony: The Memoirs of Shostakovich caused widespread controversy, lives in New York. Among his other books are Conversations with George Balashov, Memoirs of Nathan Milstein and a Cultural History of St Petersburg.

John Shand studied philosophy at Manchester University and King’s College, Cambridge. He is an Associate Lecturer in Philosophy for the Open University and the author of Philosophy and Philosophers (Penguin, 1994).

Peter Quinn is writing up his PhD Thesis on the music of Arov Part.

Geoffrey Ahern obtained a D.Phil from York in 1989 and a prize in the Royal Overseas League Music Competition the following year. This May his wind quintet The Laughing Lotus was performed at the Oxford Festival of Contemporary Music. He is working on his Second Symphony, The Five Seasons.

Mark Coster’s violin piece Pyeza was premiered in July at the Yehudi Menuhin school by Medina Melchitskeva. His Through the Lens (with Swedish singer-songwriter Amanda Ericson), about Charles Ludwig Dodgson, was recorded earlier this year to coincide with the centenary of the writer’s death.

Peter Palmer is giving a series of lectures this winter at the Department of Music, Nottingham University, on Romantic and Modern Swiss Music with the support of the Pro Helvetia Foundation.

Robert Stein is a writer on literary theory, poetry and music. Thea Derks is a musicologist who works as a producer for Radio 4, the Dutch classical Radio station. She is a freelance author of articles and reviews for several music magazines.

Guy Richards is the author of Hindemith, Honeck and Henze and Shelton in Phaidon Press’s 20th Century Composers’ Series.

Maria Matsakis, a Greek-born pianist, studied at the RCM and has just completed the Master in Performance and Related Studies degree course at Goldsmiths College, London University. She has recently prepared the first edition of Six Songs on poems by T.S. Eliot for mezzo-soprano and piano, by the Greek composer Jani Christou (1926-70).

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- **Simon Holt** *The Nightingale’s to Blame* - world premiere
  - Opera North conducted by Nicholas Kok
  - Thu 19 Nov 7.30pm, Sat 21 Nov 7.30pm, Sun 22 Nov 5pm
  - Lawrence Batley Theatre

- **Simon Holt** *Piano Concerto* - world premiere
  - London Sinfonietta conducted by Elgar Howarth; Rolf Hind piano
  - Fri 20 Nov 7.30pm, St Paul’s Hall
  - Prog. includes music by de Pablo and Carter.

- **Luis de Pablo** *Eros; Dibujos; Segunda Lectura* - UK premieres
  - Nuove Sincronie conducted by Renalto Rivolta
  - Sun 22 Nov 2.30pm, St Paul’s Hall

- **Tan Dun** *Marco Polo* - UK premiere (concert performance)
  - BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra conducted by Tan Dun with international cast of soloists
  - Sun 22 Nov 7.30pm, Town Hall

- **James Dillon** *Hyadès* - world premiere
  - Soll-Tutti conducted by Denis Gauthier
  - Sun 22 Nov 10pm, St Paul’s Hall
  - Prog. includes music by Ohana and Nunes.

- **Arvo Pärt** *Canon of Repentance* - UK premiere
  - Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir conducted by Tonu Kaljuste
  - Mon 23 Nov 8pm, St Paul’s Hall

- **Elliott Carter** *Piano Quintet* - European premiere
  - Arditti String Quartet; Ursula Oppens piano
  - Fri 27 Nov 7.30pm, St Paul’s Hall
  - An all-Carter programme.

- **Michael Torke** *Overnight Mail* - UK premiere
  - Orkest de Volharding
  - Fri 27 Nov 10pm
  - Lawrence Batley Theatre
  - Prog. includes van Manen, McPherson & Martland.

- **Harrison Birtwistle** *Punch and Judy* - Music Theatre Wales
  - Sat 28 Nov 7.30pm
  - Lawrence Batley Theatre

- **John Adams** *Hallelujah Junction* - European premiere
  - Richard Casey and Nicolas Hodges pianos
  - Sun 29 Nov 11am, Recital Hall

- **Harry Partch** *Daphne of the Dunes; On the Seventh Day Petals Fell from Petaluma; Castor and Pollux*
  - Sun 29 Nov 5pm
  - Lawrence Batley Theatre

- **Steve Reich and Beryl Korot** *Hindenburg* - UK premiere complete
  - Ensemble Bash; Smith Quartet; Synergy; Clive Williamson and Shelagh Sutherland keyboards; conducted by Nicholas Kok.
  - Sun 29 Nov 8pm, Town Hall

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