

# pluck

The World's Funniest String Trio

Education Pack 2010

## Introduction

**Pluck** is an internationally award-winning comedy string trio. Their performances combine theatre, music and comedy in equal measure, making the classical genre accessible and fun for everyone.



Owing much to comedic legends such as the Marx Brothers and Laurel and Hardy, **Pluck** presents classical music like you have never seen it before. Three idiotic characters compete, argue, ridicule and seduce their way through hugely popular works from across the centuries, challenging the usual decorum of the classical performance whilst performing fearless physical feats and outrageous antics.

**Pluck** has performed a string rendition of the 'Big Brother' theme on **Channel 4**, stunned an audience of 8000 in a football stadium, been locked up in 'The Slammer' on **CBBC**, played the Glastonbury Festival in white tie, tails, and Wellington boots, tangoed with patients in hospitals, and interviewed the President of Slovenia in a boxing ring!

**Pluck** has been touring in the UK and internationally since 2003, and now has **three critically acclaimed theatre shows**. Our schools package also offers **educational workshops** devised around elements of the National Curriculum for Music.

### **Pluck press:**

*"If you think classical music is stuffy and pretentious... Pluck will cure you of that notion."* – Seattle Post (2007)

*"...a mix of sweet music and complete mayhem..."* - Time Out, London (2004)

*"Gloriously funny"* - The Scotsman, Edinburgh (2005)

# Education

**Pluck's education workshops** are tailored to the size, age and musical ability of the group of pupils. Assembly-style workshops will typically suit a larger, younger audience. Masterclass-style workshops will be more suitable for smaller groups of older, more musically able students and will focus more on aspects of performance. The longer the session, the more opportunities there will be to work with small groups or individuals. Each workshop will begin with a short performance by Pluck.

The **aims of the workshop programme** are:

- To develop a greater understanding of musical performance, including different performance skills and their uses in different contexts.
- To promote an interest in learning musical instruments among school-aged students.
- To make the classical genre accessible and fun for children of all ages and backgrounds.
- To tie in with many parts of the National Curriculum for Music, for example:
  - Use of instrumental and vocal techniques.
  - Roles of instruments in an ensemble.
  - Discussions using common musical vocabulary.
  - Listening to and analysing musical performance.
  - Understanding performance in different contexts (eg. Venues, genres, occasions).

## Testimonial

*"Everyone had a great day at the pluck workshop; it helped us put the fun back into teaching and performing by reminding us of the importance of drama and gesture in everything that we do. This is what teacher training is all about!" - Michael Williamson, Manager, County Performance Groups, Warwickshire County Music Service (formerly Head of Strings) (2009)*



**Pluck's performers have a wealth of experience in musical performance and education:**

*Kit Massey* (violin/ piano) has a degree in performance from Trinity College of Music and is a freelance violinist and jazz pianist. Before joining Pluck he spent a year with the Orchestra Symphonia de Santiago in Chile. He has run educational workshops for Surrey Youth Music, Live Music Now and the Cavatina Trust.

*Jon Regan* (viola) holds a degree in music from Exeter University, an MMus from Trinity College of Music, and a PGCE in Secondary Music. He has taught violin and viola in schools in the South East, and done outreach work with an amateur orchestra which he conducts in his spare time.

*Flora Allison* (cello/ voice) graduated from Guildhall School of Music and Drama. She has worked as a music teacher and freelance musician in the London area and participated in the Connect Project workshops at GSMD, working in schools across East London.

*Siân Kadifachi* (cello/ voice) studied cello and jazz singing at Guildhall School of Music and Drama. She has taught the cello in South London for a number of years and worked as a tutor for The East London Late Starters Orchestra. Before joining Pluck she toured with a band, playing her pink electric cello!

# Performance

Pluck have three critically acclaimed theatre shows:

## ***Musical Arson!***

Directed by John Fealey & Toby Sedgwick

The hilariously incompetent pluck are not so much a classical trio as a classical mistake! They compete, argue, scheme, ridicule, dance, fight and seduce their way through 'Bach to Beatles. They play Brahms, Ravel and Vivaldi but in a way that would have the composers laughing in their graves! Join them for 90 minutes of totally unpredictable ***Musical Arson!***



## ***The Specialists***

Directed by Cal McCrystal.

The three most stupid musicians in the world have been invited to perform at last! Highly strung violinist Yarlberg has designs on the perfect concert and ever enthusiastic Mr Abanathie aims to please with a variety of instruments. Meanwhile, budget celebrity Kadifachi's surprisingly passionate relationship with her cello threatens to hijack the entire performance...

## ***The Titanic Show \****

Directed by Cal McCrystal

*The Titanic Show* is Pluck's tribute to the musicians who played on until the end. Nobody knows what filled the days of those brave few before tragedy struck... So Pluck have made it up! Sensitive lead violinist Wally and brutally sincere multi-instrumentalist W'Theodore are joined aboard the fated vessel by stowaway Roger, a strangely small yet enthusiastic young man. As they entertain the guests on board, tensions build as Wally and W'Theodore begin to suspect that Roger is not quite the man he claims to be...



### **Audience comments:**

*"You have inspired me to attempt the cancan while playing the violin" (2009)*

*"We laughed so much we wet ourselves.... brilliant! ...Gabriel (9) has made you an exclusive film of himself walking about playing the cello in homage.." (2009)*

*"I was wondering because I love your shows so much if it would be possible to get a workshop done at my school and show all my friends how cool classical music can be! I am going to try and learn violin!" Ellie, age 13 (2009)*

*"It was one of the best shows i have ever seen. The only disappointment was the fact that the wigs didn't come off! I bought Musical Arson and it is massively popular among my year-group at the school. COME BACK SOON!!" (2009)*

*"Fantastic. My daughters thought you were amazing. My 16 year has said 'that's what I want to do' for the first time in her life! My fourteen year old wants to take all her friends to see you." (2008)*

*"A most entertaining and amusing performance" – Keith Beniston, Chief Examiner, Trinity Guildhall, (2009)*

# How to book

Prices start from £300 + VAT. For further information please contact **Jenni Halton** on **07773 010094** / **[jenni@pluck.me.uk](mailto:jenni@pluck.me.uk)**