



# Carl Austin

Professional Viola Player

## Biography - 250 words

As a scholarship student of the Royal Academy of Music, Carl won the Sir Arthur Bliss Prize, was 'Commended' in the Theodore Holland Viola Prize, and won the James Wright Award. He studies viola with James Sleight. Piano and baroque viola second studies were with Daniel-Ben Pienaar and Annette Isserlis, respectively.

Carl's music education began at Chetham's School of Music when, aged ten, he became a chorister. He completed ABRSM Diplomas in viola and piano as a teenager and began four years in the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain (NYO) within five years of his first lesson. The Vicci Wardman Prize was another earlier success.

As well as the NYO, Carl's early orchestral experiences were in Youth or School Orchestras such as Lancashire, Bolton, and Chetham's. At the Royal Academy, Carl has been a member of the String, Chamber and Symphony Orchestras, as well as Baroque ensembles. He has been viola section leader for the Academy Concert Orchestra, Chetham's Symphony Orchestra and Capriccio String Ensemble.

Carl's solo and chamber music performances have been wide-ranging. Venues have included the David Josefowitz Recital Hall, the Southbank Centre, the Tate Gallery, and Ronnie Scott's Jazz Club in London; and Accrington Clef Club (with Martin Roscoe), Leigh Music Society, and other northern venues. He has performed in master classes with an extensive list of internationally renowned viola players.

Because of generous contributions from Chetham's Instrument Fund, the EMI Sound Foundation, the Musicians' Benevolent Fund and Music for Alice, Carl plays a Michetschläger viola.

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