

The Ancora Duo

Anne Allen & Sarah Freestone

Flute & Guitar



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'their undoubted talents...springs into life with its optimism and freshness.' 'A beautiful interpretation...which perfectly illustrates their artistry and command. Superb'

Musician Magazine Review of Ancora's CD *Entrada*

Anne Allen graduated from Cambridge University and the Royal Northern College of Music since when she has combined her solo career with orchestral playing and a busy chamber music schedule. An international prizewinner, Anne has been asked to perform as a soloist across Europe, the Far East, Africa, Russia and South America as well as in the UK, where her performances have been broadcast on BBC Radio 3, BBC TV and Sky TV.

Anne is an accomplished orchestral player, appearing with many professional orchestras, ballet and opera companies including the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra, English National Ballet and at the Royal Opera House. Winning the *Audience Favour Prize* in Moscow, whilst appearing as Principal Flute in the Orchestra of the World conducted by Valery Gergiev in Red Square has been a highlight in Anne's orchestral playing career.

Having spent a great deal of time in hospital recovering from a bone tumour, a highly valued side to Anne's career is performing for the charity "Music In Hospitals" which brings specialised entertainment to the ill and elderly within the community. For more information about this and more details about Anne's biog and solo performances, please visit Anne's website at www.anne-allen.com

'Anne played the flute with sweet clarity every night' **The Times**

Sarah Freestone began her musical career aged 7 playing and singing in folk clubs and by the age of 11 was gigging regularly with her Junior School jazz combo "The Average Height Band". She went on to study guitar and violin as joint principal studies at the Royal Academy of Music, winning several prizes and awards along the way including the Julian Bream Prize, Queensland Conservatorium of Music Guitar Prize and semi-finalist in the Tarrega International Guitar Competition.

Sarah has worked in a wide variety of musical genres, as writer, performer, conductor, workshop leader and presenter from classical music to jazz, rock and pop. Her composition and arranging work includes recent commissions from the BBC and the Royal Opera House. She is in demand as a multi-instrumentalist, performing with the legendary Lee Hazlewood on violin, guitar, vocals and percussion at the South Bank's 2004 Meltdown Festival and recently toured the UK and US with Alison Moyet as her backing vocalist, violinist and guitarist. Sarah is a violinist with the BBC Concert Orchestra and can often be heard on "Friday Night is Music Night", the world's longest-running live music radio programme. For more information about Sarah's work please see www.sarahfreestone.com

'A most compelling performance. An adroit feeling for tone colour and dynamic variation which gave many beautiful moments' **Julian Bream**

The Ancora Duo formed in 2008 releasing their debut CD *Entrada* to critical acclaim a year later. They have a busy and varied schedule performing and presenting recitals, running education projects and recording as well as being asked to play for weddings and corporate events. Ancora are proud that their concerts have led to invitations to perform at many varied events and venues - recent examples include Lord Snowdon's 80th birthday party, a sell-out concert of Eastern European music with the Romanian Ambassador as special guest and a gig at the world-famous rock venue the Troubadour Club...

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