

## *Simon Ertz*

Simon Ertz joined the Degas Quartet in June 2002; before that he was pursuing a doctoral degree in viola performance at Michigan State University where he was also a teaching assistant. Simon grew up in the north west of Scotland and moved to Manchester to study at Chethams and to have regular lessons at the age of seventeen. After two years there he studied viola at the Royal Northern College of Music with Roger Raphael and Simon Rowland-Jones. Simon was a member of several chamber music groups which won prizes including the Terrence Weil and Leonard Hirsch competitions. He was also awarded the Thomas Barret memorial prize for viola. By the time Simon graduated from the RNCM he was working with orchestras such as the BBC Philharmonic, Northern Chamber, and the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic.

After two years working in the UK, Simon moved to Michigan to continue his education. As well as completing his Master's degree at Michigan State University, he served as assistant principal viola of the Greater Lansing Symphony and played in the orchestra's string quartet.

Simon Ertz plays a viola made by his brother, Neil Ertz.