

Wednesday 12 June & Thursday 13 June | 2.30pm | Peter Pears Recital Room

Festival Masterclasses: Gweneth Ann Rand and Simon Lepper

The Britten Pears Young Artist Programme (BPYAP) was founded in 1972 by Benjamin Britten and Peter Pears, and offers early-career professional musicians high-level performance training from some of the world's finest performers, teachers and creatives.

The young artists participating in these masterclasses are part of the 2023–24 cohort of singers and pianists who took part in the BPYAP English Song course last October, led by Gweneth Ann Rand, Julia Faulkner, Audrey Hyland and Julius Drake. Gweneth Ann Rand now returns to coach in these Festival masterclasses along with her regular collaborator, pianist Simon Lepper. These sessions will focus on the interpretation and performance of both English and French language repertoire.

Some of these young artists are also performing at other events during the Aldeburgh Festival, including in the Messiaen Song Cycles II and III concerts (14 and 17 June) alongside Gweneth Ann Rand and other Festival artists. On 18 June the BPYAP Alumni Concert at Aldeburgh Church features young artists Jonathan Eyers, Emily Hoh and Lindsey Reynolds in a programme of English language repertoire inspired by the natural world.

Duration: approx 180'
including a 20-minute interval

Young Artists:

Emily Jennings soprano
Lindsey Reynolds soprano
Jonathan Eyers baritone
Stephen Whitford baritone
Emily Hoh piano
Juliette Journaux piano
Ilan Kurtser piano

Tutors:

Gweneth Ann Rand soprano
Simon Lepper piano

The Britten Pears Young Artist Programme is made possible with the generous support of Trusts & Foundations and individual supporters

Juliette Journaux is the Viola Tunnard Young Artist
Emily Jennings is an Elizabeth Harwood Memorial Award holder
Lindsey Reynolds is a Mary Mackintosh Award holder

Jonathan Eyers

New Zealand baritone Jonathan Eyers trained at the University of Waikato and Guildhall School of Music and Drama, and this year was a Young Artist on the Global Talent Programme at the National Opera Studio, generously supported by the Elizabeth Barnard Memorial Bursary. His operatic experience includes Papageno in *Die Zauberflöte* (Nevill Holt Festival), Figaro in *Il barbiere di Siviglia* (Charles Court Opera), *It's a Wonderful Life* (ENO), Owen Hart in *Dead Man Walking*, Simon in Judith Weir's *Miss Fortune*, Der Zar in Weill's *Der Zar lässt sich fotografieren* (Guildhall), Crook in *Candide* (London Symphony Orchestra/Barbican), Schaunard in *La Bohème* (Berlin Italian Opera), and Billy in Ross Harris' *Brass Poppies* (NZ Opera). He is an Oxford Song Young Artist, a City Music Foundation Artist and a founding member of Whānau Voices.

Emily Hoh

Emily Hoh is a Swedish-Taiwanese collaborative pianist and the recipient of the 2023 Royal Overseas League Collaborative piano award. She graduated with distinction from the Royal College of Music, where she studied under Simon Lepper, Kathron Sturrock and Roger Vignoles, and won prizes in the Lieder and English song competitions. In 2023 she won the first pianist prize at the inaugural Ashburnham English Song competition. Emily is also a Samling Artist and recent performance venues include the Oxford International Song Festival and Wigmore Hall. Emily is the accompanist-in-residence at Westminster School and looks forward to joining the 2024 Oxenfoord Summer School made possible by the Robert Turnbull Piano Foundation.

Emily Jennings

Emily Jennings studied at the Royal College of Music where she completed both an undergraduate and master's degree supported by an Alice Templeton award. A passionate performer of art song, Emily was recently selected to compete in the 2024 Wigmore Hall International Song Competition. She is also a SongEasel Young Artist and has recently performed in a masterclass with Roderick Williams as part of the programme. Emily has a long love of folk music and was thrilled to make her solo debut at Glastonbury Festival last year where she performed a self-accompanied recital of traditional folksongs and English art songs on the Mandala Stage. Recent highlights include Meleagro in Handel's *Atalanta* with Orkestra Nord as part of Trondheim's Barokkfest. Upcoming highlights include Bach's St Matthew Passion with the Utopia Orchestra at the Salzburger Festspiele.

Juliette Journaux

Juliette Journaux is a French collaborative pianist and vocal coach based in Paris and Geneva. She holds master's degrees in piano, vocal accompaniment and opera conducting from the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique de Paris. She has appeared at the Festival d'Aix-en-Provence as part of the Opera Academy. She works as a vocal coach in numerous opera houses such as the Opéra Comique, the Opéra de Rouen, the Théâtre du Châtelet, the Philharmonie de Paris and the Grand Théâtre de Provence. She has worked with prestigious conductors including Laurence Equilbey, Christophe Rousset, Karsten Januschke and Duncan Ward. As a collaborative pianist, she is laureate of the Orsay-Royaumont Academy. Her debut solo album 'Wanderer Without Words' (Alpha Classics) was released to critical acclaim in 2023.

Ilan Kurtser

Ilan Kurtser is a Samling Artist and Leeds Lieder Young Artist. He has won many prizes in competitions, including first prize at the Copenhagen International Lied Duo Competition, the Kathleen Ferrier Awards Accompanist Prize and the Bampton Classical Opera Competition Accompanist Prize. Ilan was a Bicentenary Scholar at the Royal Academy of Music (RAM), where he studied piano accompaniment under Michael Dussek, James Baillieu and Malcolm Martineau. As part of his Bicentenary Scholarship, he is recording his debut CD of the complete Goethe-Lieder by Hugo Wolf. Concert highlights include performances at the Leeds Lieder Festival, Wigmore Hall and International Lied Festival Zeist. Ilan is a Fellow at the RAM where he curates concerts for the Academy Song Circle and Academy Voices concert series, and coaches singers and pianists.

Lindsey Reynolds

American soprano Lindsey Reynolds recently completed her tenure as a Ryan Opera Center Ensemble member at the Lyric Opera of Chicago, where she showcased her talent in various productions, including *Jenůfa*, *Le Comte Ory*, *Don Carlos*, and the world premiere of *Proximity*. Future plans include the soprano soloist in Poulenc's *Stabat Mater* at the Grant Park Music Festival and Poulenc's *Gloria* with the Utah Symphony, the role of Ashley Devon in the USA premiere of Missy Mazzoli's *The Listeners* with Opera Philadelphia, her New Orleans Opera debut as Adina in *L'elisir d'amore*, and the world premiere of *She Who Dared* (Chicago Opera) composed by Jasmine Barnes. She holds degrees from the Curtis Institute of Music, where she earned both her Bachelor of Music and Master of Music.

Stephen Whitford

Stephen Whitford is a versatile baritone, whose appearances include full-scale operas and oratorios, as well as intimate recitals. His repertoire ranges from very new to very old music, as well as some things in between. He is delighted to be returning to Snape Maltings after singing a set of recitals in last summer's Festival – a series curated by Roderick Williams and Ann Murray – and having taken part in two masterclass courses, led by Gweneth Ann Rand, Antonio Pappano and Julius Drake, among others. Stephen's recent opera credits include: Marcello in Puccini's *La Bohème*, Derrick in Planquette's *Rip van Winkle* and creating the role of Kerel in the world premiere of Linton-France's *Episoden von K. und G.* in Vienna's Schönbrunner Schloßtheater. Stephen studied at the University of Music and Performing Arts in Vienna, the Royal Academy of Music and King's College, Cambridge.

Gweneth Ann Rand *tutor*

Gweneth Ann Rand trained at the University of Exeter, Goldsmith's College and the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. In 2001 she represented England at BBC Cardiff Singer of the World. She is currently an associate artist at Wigmore Hall. She is widely known for her acclaimed interpretations of Messiaen's song cycles *Harawi*, *Poèmes pour Mi* and *Chants de terre et de ciel* – all of which she is performing during the 2024 Aldeburgh Festival. Her recordings include *Mélodies Passagères: the Songs of Samuel Barber* (Quartz Music); Janáček's *The Eternal Gospel* with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra (Hyperion); Messiaen's *Poèmes pour Mi* (Sanctuary Classics); and John Metcalf's *Under Milk Wood* (Ty Cerrd). This season she has also performed in Phenomenal Women – a recital for International Women's Day (Wigmore Hall) – and as part of the Colour Revolution series at the Oxford International Song Festival.

Simon Lepper *tutor*

Simon Lepper read music at King's College, Cambridge, before studying piano accompaniment with Michael Dussek at the Royal Academy of Music and later with Ruben Lifschitz at the Fondation Royaumont. He is currently assistant head of keyboard (collaborative piano) at the Royal College of Music, where he is also a vocal repertoire coach. Since 2003 he has been an official accompanist for the BBC Cardiff Singer of the World Competition. Future highlights include a European tour with Stéphane Degout, recitals at the Wigmore Hall with Sally Matthews, and an American tour with Elizabeth Llewellyn. Recent recordings include the songs of Samuel Coleridge-Taylor with Elizabeth Llewellyn, Schubert songs with tenor Ilker Arcayürek, and a recital disc 'Poèmes d'un jour' which was a Gramophone magazine editor's choice.