

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

Tuesday 16th April

FILLING THE CITY WITH SONG
LEEDS LIEDER FESTIVAL
2024

ON WINGS *of* SONG

LEEDS LIEDER 20TH
ANNIVERSARY FESTIVAL



Howard
Assembly
Room



LEEDS
CONSERVATOIRE



Leeds
Minster



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LOTTERY FUNDED

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ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND

Director's Welcome

LEEDS LIEDER FESTIVAL 2024

For the 20th Anniversary Festival I have turned to one of the most beloved lyrics in all of Lieder, Heine's *Auf Flügeln des Gesanges*, made immortal for song lovers by Mendelssohn. Heine describes being carried "On wings of song... To the sweetest place I know...". The sweetest place must surely be one of mankind's greatest faculties - our imagination. This sacred space is ripe for exploring in the concert hall. Song gives us the possibility to fly to far-off lands, to empathise with others, and to explore our innermost feelings, all from the comfort of a concert hall seat. On these wings we can connect with others and connect with ourselves.

The feeling of unadulterated joy that can be magicked-up by attending a song concert was surely the *raison d'être* some 20 years ago for a group of inspired friends deciding to get together and promote a song concert in Leeds. With that act, Leeds Lieder was born. The early years of the Festival saw some of the greatest interpreters of Lieder come to Yorkshire: Dame Margaret Price, Dame Janet Baker, Barbara Bonney, Sir Thomas Allen to name a few, and for the first five Festivals the greatest song pianists of our time (Roger Vignoles, Graham Johnson, Julius Drake, Malcolm Martineau and Iain Burnside) each took it in turns as Artistic Director to bring their friends to the city. Those of us who came to Leeds Lieder later are indebted to this merry band of song aficionados led by the Festival founder, Jane Anthony. Her legacy has been kept aloft by subsequent volunteers, all giving selflessly to the charity so that song can thrive in Yorkshire.

As ever, we are indebted to the unwavering support of the artists we champion, promote and commission, our audience and community of Friends, who have rallied in the most generous of ways. We are so grateful to everyone who has invested in the charity. Thanks to you we are able to present this year's 20th Anniversary Festival, and I do hope you like what we have in store for you.



The music on offer is eclectic in scope and outstanding in quality. Thanks to our Friends and supporters we will continue to reach thousands of school children with our education projects and train a new cohort of Young Artists.

On behalf of the whole Leeds Lieder team, we are delighted to welcome you to "your" song Festival and look forward to being carried "on wings of song" together as we enter the next decade of Leeds Lieder.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph Middleton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style and is positioned above a thin horizontal line.

Joseph Middleton
Director



President's Welcome

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT ELLY AMELING

LUCKY LEEDS!

Welcome to all of you who have chosen to attend the Leeds Lieder Festival again. I wish I could be with you....

This year's programme is an incredibly rich choice of Art Songs, performed by the greatest talents of today's singers and pianists. Yes: today's musicians are still utterly thrilled to perform that intimate, moving and at the same time so brilliant kind of *music - on - text*.

The programme presents songs from Schubert to Bernstein - and a fantastic diversity of international composers in between those two. My great compliments to the artists who have assembled this rich FEAST of Art Song.

LEEDS IS LUCKY!

Elly Ameling
President, Leeds Lieder



At a Glance

SATURDAY 13 APRIL

2pm - 4pm SongPath musical walking trail Kirkstall Abbey

SUNDAY 14 APRIL - 20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

1pm Schubertiade lunchtime opening recital: Nikola Hillebrand, Joseph Middleton and Oliver Casanovas Nuevo The Venue, LC

4pm - 5.30pm Young Artists Schubertiade: Richard Stokes and Leeds Lieder Young Artists The Venue, LC

6.15pm Friends' private reception The Rooftop Bar, LC

7.30pm Schubertiade 20th Anniversary Gala recital: Roderick Williams, Roger Vignoles, Nikola Hillebrand, Joseph Middleton and Leeds Lieder Young Artists The Venue, LC

MONDAY 15 APRIL

2.30pm - 5.30pm Friends' Festival Masterclass I: Sir Thomas Allen Leeds Minster

TUESDAY 16 APRIL

7.30pm Evening recital: Nina Kanter, Oscar Castellino and Keval Shah Sikh Centre

WEDNESDAY 17 APRIL

11am - 12pm Schools Culmination Concert I - Living Lieder The Ballroom, Pudsey Civic Hall

1.30pm - 2.30pm Schools Culmination Concert II - Discovering Lieder The Ballroom, Pudsey Civic Hall

4pm - 5.30pm Composers & Poets Forum Showcase: *A Leeds Songbook* Leeds Minster

8pm Evening recital: James Newby and Joseph Middleton Hyde Park Book Club

THURSDAY 18 APRIL - A DAY OF FRENCH SONG

10am - 12pm Festival Masterclass II: Dame Felicity Lott The Rooftop Bar, LC

1pm - 2pm Lunchtime lecture recital: Graham Johnson, Sarah Fox and Florian Störtz The Venue, LC

3pm - 6pm Festival Masterclass III: Graham Johnson The Venue, LC

7pm - 7.30pm Pre-concert talk with Professor Barbara Kelly The Rooftop Bar, LC

8pm Evening recital: James Gilchrist and Anna Tilbrook The Venue, LC

FRIDAY 19 APRIL

12pm - 1.30pm Lunchtime recital: Young Artists Showcase HAR

3pm - 6pm Festival Masterclass IV: James Gilchrist and Anna Tilbrook Howard Opera Centre

6.30pm - 7pm Pre-concert talk with Dr George Kennaway HAR

7.30pm Evening recital: Carolyn Sampson and Joseph Middleton HAR

10pm - 11pm Late night cabaret: Claire Barnett-Jones and Libby Burgess Kino @ HAR

SATURDAY 20 APRIL

10am - 12pm Festival Masterclass V: Benjamin Appl Howard Opera Centre

1pm - 2pm Lunchtime recital: Harriet Burns, Nick Pritchard, Christopher Glynn and Kate Wakeling HAR

2.30pm - 5pm Bring and Sing! rehearsal Leeds Minster

5.30pm - 6.30pm Bring and Sing! concert: Vivaldi *Gloria* Leeds Minster

6.30pm - 7pm Pre-concert talk with Tansy Davies HAR

7.30pm Evening recital: Ema Nikolovska and Joseph Middleton HAR

10pm - 11pm Lieder Lounge with Leeds Lieder Young Artists Kino @ HAR

SUNDAY 21 APRIL

1pm - 2pm Lunchtime recital: Fleur Barron and Joseph Middleton The Venue, LC

2.30pm - 3.30pm Film screening: *Sense ficció - Brava, Victoria!* The Venue, LC

5pm - 6.30pm Finale concert: Leeds Lieder Young Artists The Venue, LC

7.30pm Evening closing recital: Benjamin Appl and Sholto Kynoch The Venue, LC

HAR = Howard Assembly Room | LC = Leeds Conservatoire | All information correct at the time of going to print. Leeds Lieder reserves the right to change artists, programmes and events if necessary.

TODAY

Tuesday 16 April

TUE 16 APRIL | 7:30PM
THE SIKH CENTRE

Punjabi Proverbs

Nina Kanter soprano

Oscar Castellino baritone

Keval Shah piano

Cheryl Frances-Hoad composer

KAMALA SANKARAM

The Far Shore

FRANK BRIDGE

Three Songs of Rabindranath Tagore

REENA ESMAIL

Dhire, Dhire

JOHN HARBISON

The Flute of Interior Time

CHERYL FRANCES-HOAD

*Punjabi Proverbs**

*A Leeds Lieder commission & world première

REENA ESMAIL

This Love Between Us



© Harry Livingstone



Especially for the 2024 Festival, a programme to celebrate the fusion of Western and Indian classical arts, with British and diaspora Indian composers setting poetry by writers including Kabir, Mirabai and Tagore. Three outstanding artists - Nina Kanter (faculty member at Chennai Music Conservatory), Oscar Castellino (“a rising star in the opera world” BBC News) and award-winning pianist Keval Shah - also give the world première of a new collection of Punjabi miniatures by Cheryl Frances-Hoad.

We are delighted to present this new commission in co-promotion with South Asian Arts UK.





Event Foreword

This evening's programme is something of a door opening, a first step into a relatively under-acknowledged body of repertoire in the world of the song recital, namely the music composed to texts by Indian poets. More specifically, the programme focuses on settings of three poets who have all contributed significantly to the body of Indian poetry and who have influenced, or been influenced by, Sikhism. These poets, Kabir, Mirabai and Rabindranath Tagore, differ markedly in their poetic styles, but they share a certain philosophical perspective. This idea of an Indian 'philosophy' or perspective is also at the heart of a new cycle of songs being premiered in tonight's concert, composed by Cheryl Frances-Hoad, who has selected a collection of Punjabi proverbs and aphorisms to set to music. Alongside this sits another English song collection, Frank Bridge's *Three Songs of Rabindranath Tagore*, and songs by American composers Reena Esmail, Kamala Sankaram and John Harbison.

When building this programme, performed in Leeds's Sikh Cultural Centre, it was essential for us to place Sikhism, and Sikh culture, at the centre of our thinking. The Indian poets we have chosen were writing in different centuries and their contact with Sikh culture varies: from the writings of Kabir, an important 15th century Hindu poet and saint, whose writings are included in the Guru Granth Sahib (the main religious scripture of Sikhism) to Mirabai, the 16th century poet whose writings were

taken out of the Granth Sahib in its final form, but whose work was read and circulated in the court of Guru Gobind Singh, the tenth and final human Guru of Sikhism. Rabindranath Tagore (1861-1941) was a Bengali poet, playwright, composer, artist and philosopher, and the first non-European to win the Nobel Prize for Literature. His huge body of writing includes poems about Guru Gobind Singh and the Sikh warrior Banda Singh Bahadur, and Tagore also translated the poetry of Kabir into English, enabling this 15th century literature to be made accessible to Western audiences for the first time.

The process of putting together the programme for this concert has made it clear just how vast the corpus of song repertoire by Indian composers (native and diasporic) and Indian poets is, as well as the enormous body of music by non-Indian composers setting Indian texts, and that there are perspectives, topics and philosophies which this repertoire touches upon which are unique to the Indian subcontinent and the cultures found therein. This opportunity to dive into the world of Indian song repertoire, and its complex relationship with Western art and culture, is hopefully the first step in bringing more of this music to audiences, and to start programming it alongside European song repertoires in a fruitful and thought-provoking stylistic and philosophical dialogue.

Keval Shah

Punjabi Proverbs

1.

Turreya te apparreya.
Parayi aas, aayi na raas.
Aap bure taañ jag bura, aap bhale taañ jag bhala.

Sajjan uho jehra munh te sach aakhe.
Aasa jiye, nirasa mare.

2.

Neoñh na lagda jori da.
Nain mila ke kade chain nai milda.
Rakhiye te preet, nahi te paleet.

3.

Muh di ballay ballay te hathan di harrtaal!
Kartoot na koi palle, karni balle balle!
Rab nede me ghassun?
Jiddi baandari ohi nachave.
Kothe ton digg payi, vehrre naal russ payi.
Aakar phoon te fitte mu.

4.

Kothi wala roway, chhappar wala soway.
Ranjha, sub da sanjha.

5.

Vele di namaz, kavele dian takkran.
Gana te rona sabh nu aanda ae.

6.

Ik iklaapa, sau siyapa.
Aasa jiye, nirasa mare.

7.

Palle nai dhela, kardi mela mela?
Paisa ohda, jihde pallay.
Rab vi bhareyan nu hi bharda ae.
Paisay wali da ee baal khede.

8.

Paawe har koi, thamkawe koi. -

Aasa jiye, nirasa mare.

9.

Jehra sukh chhaju de chobare,
oh balakh na bukhare.
Aasa jiye, nirasa mare.

1.

You will get there, provided you start.
Expectations lead to disappointments.
Be good and people will be good to you.
Be bad and expect the same.
A friend is one who speaks truth to your face.
Hope keeps you alive.

2.

You can't make yourself fall in love.
Fall in love, embrace restlessness.
It's love if you sustain it, lust otherwise.

3.

All talk and no action!
Got nothing to show for it but boasting all the time!
What's closer, God or my punch?
Not my circus, not my monkeys.
Fallen off the roof but pissed at the courtyard.
Nobody welcomes an arrogant bastard.

4.

The rich are restless, the poor sleep peacefully.
It's the same God everyone looks up to.

5.

Some things are best done in their proper time.
You'll sing and you'll cry. That is human.

6.

Loneliness is the cause of a hundred issues.
Hope keeps you alive.

7.

Got no money but want to go shopping, eh?
Money works for those who own it.
Only the rich get richer.
A rich woman's boy can play.

8.

Every woman wears anklets,
but only some can make them tinkle.
Hope keeps you alive.

9.

East or west, home is best.

Hope keeps you alive.

Punjabi Proverbs

੧. ਤੁਰਿਆ ਤੇ ਅੱਪੜਿਆ
ਪਰਾਈ ਆਸ, ਆਈ ਨਾ ਰਾਸ
ਆਪ ਬੁਰੇ ਤਾਂ ਜੱਗ ਬੁਰਾ, ਆਪ ਭਲੇ ਤਾਂ ਜੱਗ ਭਲਾ
ਸੱਜਣ ਉਹੋ ਜਿਹੜਾ ਮੁੱਹ ਤੇ ਸੱਚ ਆਖੇ
ਆਸਾ ਜੀਏ ਨਿਰਾਸਾ ਮਰੇ
੨. ਨਿੱਉ ਨ ਲੱਗਦਾ ਜੋੜੀ ਦਾ
ਨੈਣ ਮਿਲਾ ਕੇ ਕਦੇ ਚੈਨ ਨਹੀਂ ਮਿਲਦਾ
ਰਖਿਏ ਤੇ ਪ੍ਰੀਤ, ਨਹੀਂ ਤੇ ਪਲੀਤ
੩. ਮੂੰਹ ਦੀ ਬੱਲੇ ਬੱਲੇ, ਤੇ ਹੱਥਾਂ ਦੀ ਹੜਤਾਲ
ਕਰਤੂਤ ਨ ਕੋਈ ਪੱਲੇ, ਕਰਨੀ ਬੱਲੇ ਬੱਲੇ
ਰੱਬ ਨੇੜੇ ਕੇ ਘਸੁੰਨ
ਜਿਹਦੀ ਬਾਂਦਰੀ ਉਹੀ ਨਚਾਵੇ
ਕੋਠੇ ਤੋਂ ਡਿੱਗ ਪਈ, ਵੇਹੜੇ ਨਾਲ ਰੁੱਸ ਪਈ
ਆ ਕਰ ਫੂੱ, ਤੇ ਫਿਟੇ ਮੂੰਹ
੪. ਕੋਠੀ ਵਾਲਾ ਰੋਵੇ, ਛੱਪਰ ਵਾਲਾ ਸੋਵੇ
ਰਾਂਝਾ, ਸਭ ਦਾ ਸਾਂਝਾ
੫. ਵੇਲੇ ਦੀ ਨਮਾਜ਼, ਕੁਵੇਲੇ ਦਿਆਂ ਟੱਕਰਾਂ
ਗੋਣਾ ਤੇ ਰੋਣਾ ਸਭ ਨੂੰ ਅਓਂਦਾ ਏ
੬. ਇੱਕ ਇੱਕਲਾਪਾ, ਸੌ ਸਿਆਪਾ
ਆਸਾ ਜੀਏ, ਨਿਰਾਸਾ ਮਰੇ
੭. ਪੱਲੇ ਨਈ ਧੇਲਾ, ਕਰਦੀ ਮੇਲਾ ਮੇਲਾ
ਪੈਸਾ ਓਹਦਾ, ਜਿਦੇ ਪੱਲੇ
ਰੱਬ ਵੀ ਭਰਿਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਹੀ ਭਰਦਾ ਏ
ਪੈਸੇ ਵਾਲੀ ਦਾ ਹੀ ਬਾਲ ਖੇਡੇ
੮. ਪਾਵੇ ਹਰ ਕੋਈ, ਠਮਕਾਵੇ ਕੋਈ ਕੋਈ
ਆਸਾ ਜੀਏ, ਨਿਰਾਸਾ ਮਰੇ
੯. ਜੇਹੜਾ ਸੁੱਖ ਛੱਜੁ ਦੇ ਚੋਬਾਰੇ, ਉਹ ਬਲਖ ਨ ਬੁਖਾਰੇ
ਆਸਾ ਜੀਏ, ਨਿਰਾਸਾ ਮਰੇ

Oscar Castellino

Baritone

Oscar Castellino is a baritone from India. Hailed as “a rising star in the opera world” (BBC News) he was born in Mumbai and first studied physics and computer science. While working at a software job in Mumbai he was scouted for his talent by soprano Patricia Rozario OBE during a concert tour in India.

Oscar is passionate about finding a common ground between opera and his ethnic background. Along with sitarist Baluji Shrivastav OBE he has performed an adaptation of *Largo al Factotum* with tabla accompaniment and hopes to extend this work into a complete opera. He has also composed a carol in Hindi.

His other interests include space exploration. In 2017 he composed the *Mars Anthem* commissioned by the Mars Society USA. This year he is collaborating with leading space scientist Robert Zubrin towards an adaptation of Verdi's *Va Pensiero for Mars* which will be performed at the Mars Convention in Seattle.

Oscar's recent performance of Figaro at Ian McMillan's Yorkshire-adapted *Barber of Seville* has received rave reviews in the British press.



Cheryl Frances-Hoad

Composer

Cheryl Frances-Hoad was born in Essex in 1980 and received her musical education at the Yehudi Menuhin School, the University of Cambridge (where she was awarded a double 1st for her BA in Music and a distinction for her MPhil in Composition) and Kings College London (PhD, Composition). Her music has been described as “like a declaration of faith in the eternal verities of composition” (The Times), with “a voice overflowing not only with ideas, but also with the discipline and artistry necessary to harness them” (The Scotsman).

Chosen to be a featured composer on BBC Radio 3’s ‘Composer of the Week’ (‘Five under 35, March 2015), her works have garnered many awards, from the BBC Lloyds Bank Composer of the Year award when she was just 15 to more recently the Mendelssohn Scholarship, The Bliss Prize, The Cambridge Composers Competition, The Robert Helps International Composition Prize (USA), The Sun River Prize (China), The International String Orchestra Composition Prize (Malta), The RPS Composition Prize, and three Ivor Novello (formally BASCA) British Composer Awards (for *Psalm 1* and *Stolen Rhythm* in 2010, and *Scenes from the Wild* in 2022).

She has received two awards from the PRS Women Make Music Fund for *The Madness Industry* (a brass quintet for Onyx Brass) and *Sailing to the Marvellous* (a ninety minute oratorio for four choirs and ensemble for Bridlington Priory) and has held the posts of Leverhulme Musician in Residence (at the University of Cambridge Psychiatry Department, 2008), Rambert Composer in Residence (2012/13), Opera North/Leeds University Cultural Fellow in Opera Related Arts (2010/12), and Visiting Research Fellow in the Creative Arts at Merton College Oxford (2021/22). Cheryl was also one of the first recipients of the PRS Composer’s Fund Awards, in 2016.

Cheryl has released six celebrated CDs. Her recent disc of vocal music (featuring Nicky Spence, Sophie Daneman, Mark Stone and Sholto Kynoch amongst others) was released on the Champs Hill Records label in November 2018. *Magic Lantern Tales* has been highly praised: “the longer you listen to this beautifully crafted CD (...) the deeper you fall under its spell” (SWR2 Treffpunkt Klassik, Germany), “Frances-Hoad’s *Magic Lantern Tales* disorientate and delight in equal measure.” (Opera Today). Her



2011 CD of chamber works, *The Glory Tree*, was selected as “Chamber Music Choice” by BBC Music Magazine.

Cheryl’s works include two piano concertos, a Cello Concerto (*Katharsis*), three piano trios, a 90 minute opera about the life of Amy Johnston (*Amy’s Last Dive* with librettist Adam Strickson), and several large scale works involving young musicians; *A Young Person’s Guide to Composition* was premièred by the London Chamber Orchestra and 150 children conducted by Christopher Warren Green in May 2014. 2015 saw Cheryl’s BBC Proms debut with a new work for the Cardinal’s Musick entitled *From the Beginning of the World*.

Recent projects include *Your Servant, Elizabeth*, commissioned by the BBC Proms for The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Prom on 22nd July 2022 at the Royal Albert Hall. The work, which paid homage to both Queen Elizabeth II and William Byrd was picked by Ivan Hewett in The Telegraph as the highlight of the 2022 Proms season: “like all the best “classical music”, it was fresh and surprising, yet rooted in tradition, and gave plenty of hope that an embattled art form has plenty of life in it yet”. Cheryl was composer-in-residence at Presteigne Festival 2019 and was Associate Composer at Oxford Lieder Festival from 2019-2021: her half-hour song cycle, *everything grows extravagantly*, written with poet Kate Wakeling, was premièred by baritone Marcus Farnsworth and Libby Burgess in 2021 at St. John the Evangelist, Oxford and was chosen as one of the five best classical events of 2021 by The Times. November 2021 brought the premièred of *Scenes from the Wild*, a 70 minute cycle for tenor and chamber orchestra, commissioned to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of City of London Sinfonia, and in May 2023 Laura van der Heijden premiered Cheryl’s new cello concerto with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra conducted by Ryan Wigglesworth.

Nina Kanter

Soprano

London-born Nina Kanter is a soprano, educator and community musician. Of Slavic Ashkenazi Jewish heritage and previously based in Chennai, India, Nina's seeks to explore themes of identity through transcultural dialogue in music. Nina is founder and Artistic Director of *Art Song India*, a new festival working with Indian performers and composers to reimagine the western classical art song tradition. Her work in running and developing the festival is the focus of her current doctoral research at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. Alongside her frequent collaborator, tenor Sandeep Gurrupadi, her highlights for 2024 include a lecture recital on Indian Art Song for the first Global Art Song conference at the Hochschule für Musik, Freiburg, and a community music residency for students at Bucknell University.

Nina has performed in concert and opera in venues throughout the UK, Europe and India, including the Aldeburgh Festival, Oxford International Song Festival, Royal Festival Hall and the Bangalore International Centre. Praised for her "full, rich and intense voice", she is particularly at home in Slavic and Italian repertoire, with roles including Tatyana in *Eugene Onegin* and Santuzza in *Cavalleria Rusticana*. Nina's successes include being selected for the prestigious Britten-Pears young artist programme at the Aldeburgh Festival and as an ENOA Artist at Teatr Wielki, Polish National Opera, as well as winning second prize in the 2018 North International Music Competition. She was a member of English National Opera's Opera Works and the Glyndebourne Academy opera studio programmes. She has sung with many of the UK's professional choirs, and was a recent chorus member for the first Saudi International Opera Festival in Riyadh.

Nina is passionate about teaching and bringing music to diverse communities and has developed



© Harry Livingstone

a parallel career as a sought-after educator and workshop leader. In 2023 she was appointed Visiting Lecturer in Voice at London's Middlesex University, where she teaches Western classical singing and directs the MDX Singers. Nina has also taught at the University of West London and KM Music Conservatory, Chennai, and has been a guest workshop leader for the Royal Opera House, Mumbai and SIFF Young Artiste talent programme in India. She is a frequent co-facilitator for music and leadership workshops at Oxford University's Saïd Business School with conductor Peter Hanke.

Nina's choral background has led to a love of working with choirs, and she has worked as a conductor and vocal coach for many groups in London and Chennai. Since 2022 she has worked with Jewish care home residents on choir projects, using music to help alleviate the symptoms of dementia. Nina is a trustee for Songbound, which runs choir projects with vulnerable communities in India, and was previously a mentor for the Target Oxbridge programme.

Nina read Music as a choral scholar at Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, graduating with first class honours and the Sir Rudolph Peters' Prize for Music, and then studied at the Royal Academy of Music, where she was awarded Distinction and the Grabowsky Connell Prize for high achievement.

Keval Shah

Piano

Keval Shah has quickly established himself at the forefront of a new generation of collaborative pianists, recognised for the intellectual and artistic originality of his programming and playing. Since 2020, he has been Lecturer of Lied at the Sibelius Academy, Helsinki, an appointment which made him the institution's youngest professor, and he now divides his time between running the Academy's Lied programme and appearing in recital at venues and festivals across Europe, as well as maintaining a busy schedule as a guest teacher, artistic curator and broadcaster.

Engagements in the 2023/2024 season include recitals at Wigmore Hall, the Hugo Wolf Akademie, Stuttgart, Oxford International Song Festival, Leeds Lieder Festival, Leicester International Music Festival and Oulu Music Festival, collaborating with artists including Louise Alder, Erika Baikoff, Iryna Kyshliaruk, Theodore Platt, and Tomi Punkeri. Recent highlights include a recital at Wigmore Hall with Karita Mattila, performances of *Winterreise* with Roderick Williams, and Saariaho songs with Anu Komsu, in the presence of the composer, as well as a residency with Dame Imogen Cooper and Henk Neven as a scholarship holder of the Imogen Cooper Music Trust.

Keval is a laureate of multiple international song competitions including 1st Prize at the 13th International Art Song Competition Stuttgart, 2nd Prize at the Copenhagen Lied Duo Competition, both with Theodore Platt, and winning the Oxford Lieder Young Artist Competition with Michael Mofidian.



Away from the concert platform, Keval regularly presents programmes on BBC Radio 3 and the BBC World Service. In Spring 2022, he hosted a three-part series on song and chamber music, titled 'The Art of Accompaniment', and most recently he presented a documentary about the Finnish composer Kaija Saariaho for the BBC World Service. Keval is the founder and artistic director of the Sibelius Academy's *Soiva Kieli* recital series, and curator of Lied recitals at Helsinki Seriös, Finland's premier international chamber music series. In June 2024, Keval will join Soile Isokoski, Dawn Upshaw and Bo Skovhus on the jury of the Mirjam Helin International Singing Competition, the first pianist to be invited to join the jury in the competition's history.

In addition to teaching at the Sibelius Academy, Keval has taught at the Royal Academy of Music, the Royal College of Music, the Royal Danish Academy of Music, the Academy of Music and Opera at Mälardalen University, Sweden, the Norwegian Academy of Music and The Juilliard School, New York.

About Leeds Lieder



Leeds Lieder was founded in 2004 by Jane Anthony, in partnership with a group of individuals and Leeds College of Music, to promote the enjoyment, understanding, appreciation, composition and performance of art song.

With relatively few opportunities to hear the art song repertoire in live performance outside London, this gap in the musical landscape provided the inspiration for Leeds Lieder.

Leeds Lieder was inaugurated with a Festival of song in 2005 and there followed a decade of biennial Festivals attracting some of the finest singers and pianists of our time. Encouraged by this success, in 2017 it was decided that the Festival should become an annual event. In between Festivals, audiences are able to enjoy a lively season of concerts and masterclasses presented as co-promotions with our principal partners, the Howard Assembly Room, the University of Leeds, Leeds International Concert Season and Leeds Conservatoire.

The pianist Joseph Middleton was appointed Director of Leeds Lieder in December 2014.

Leeds Lieder People

FOUNDER

Jane Anthony

PRESIDENT

Elly Ameling

DIRECTOR

Joseph Middleton

HONORARY PATRONS

Dame Sarah Connolly CBE
John Gilhooly CBE
Graham Johnson OBE
Dame Felicity Lott DBE
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LEEDS LIEDER STAFF

Rita Grudzień *Young Artists Coordinator*
Madeleine Middleton *Concerts and Festival Manager*
Karen Pitchford *PR*
Jessie Randhawa *Marketing and Media Manager*
Tristan Watson *General Manager*
Phil Wilcox *Learning and Participation Manager*

Thank You

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Helen Stephens
Translations

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Festival Event Streaming

Christopher Glynn, Dr George Kennaway,
Natasha Loges, Carolyn Sampson, Keval
Shah and Richard Stokes
Programme Notes

Tansy Davies, Dr George Kennaway and
Prof. Barbara Kelly
Pre-concert Talks

Ruth Hansford
Surtitles

Martin Iddon and Hannah Stone
Composers & Poets Forum Leaders

John Tordoff
Piano Tuner and Technician

Sheridan Hatfield, Helen Moody
and colleagues
Leeds Conservatoire

Richard Ashton, Andrew Bradley
and colleagues
Howard Assembly Room

Jess Dandy and Joanna Harries
SongPath

Wendy Bloom, Iain Hallow and
Paul Maybury
Leeds Minster

Jack Bazalgette and Jack Crozier
Through the Noise

Kirkstall Abbey
Pudsey Civic Hall

Keranjeet Kaur Virdee
SAA-UK

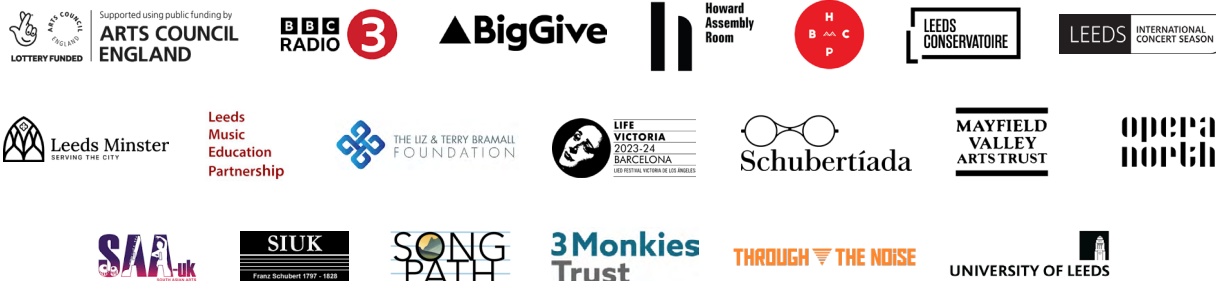
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