



The Song Within

"Music before all else."
Paul Verlaine



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2027 Festival
Saturday 10 –
Saturday 17 April

"The ever-inventive Leeds Song... exploring the outer reaches and boundaries of the art song tradition... WORLD CLASS." *The Times*

"Leeds's top-tier celebration of the vocal arts continues to push the envelope... typical of director Joseph Middleton's determination to think outside the box while honouring the festival's roots in the traditional recital."

The Guardian

President
Elly Ameling

Director
Joseph Middleton

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The Song Within

"De la musique avant toute chose."
"Music before all else."

Paul Verlaine

Welcome to Leeds Song Festival 2027

Following the extraordinary success of last year's Festival — described as offering "world-class" music-making (*The Times*) — we return in 2027 with a celebration of song at its most vivid, adventurous and inspiring.

We are thrilled to welcome an exceptional gathering of internationally acclaimed artists to Leeds, including Sir Simon Keenlyside, Fatma Said, Christiane Karg, Carolyn Sampson, Beth Taylor, Christopher Maltman and Christoph Prégardien. Alongside these established stars, we remain passionate about the next generation, giving Young Artists and emerging performers the opportunity to develop, experiment and perform alongside artists they admire.

Our renowned masterclasses are central to this commitment, with this year's students able to learn from some of the greatest practitioners of song: Sir Simon Keenlyside, Roger Vignoles, Kate Royal, Mark Padmore and Christoph Prégardien amongst others.

Collaboration lies at the heart of the 2027 Festival. With the Leeds International Piano Competition, we shine a light on the songs of its new Artistic Director, Sir Stephen Hough. With SAA-UK, we celebrate one of Leeds's greatest musical exports, superstar sitar player Jasdeep Singh Degun, bringing together traditions and voices from across cultures. And, working with the Royal Philharmonic Society, we champion new compositions and the continuing evolution of the song repertoire.

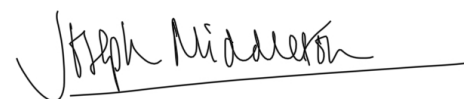
Leeds Song is, above all, a friendly and inclusive festival. Whether you are coming to your first ever concert or have been joining us for years, you will

be made to feel very welcome. We believe great music belongs to everyone, and we want Leeds Song to be a place where audiences, artists and people of all ages can come together, discover something new and share in the extraordinary experience of live music. From the intimate to the spectacular, from centuries-old music to brand-new work, Leeds Song 2027 explores what lies within a song — memory, identity, poetry, place and emotion.

We are enormously grateful to our Friends, patrons, funders, partners and supporters, whose generosity makes all of this possible. If you love what we do and would like to help us continue this work, we warmly invite you to become a Friend of Leeds Song.

Thank you for being part of our Festival. We look forward to welcoming you to Leeds Song 2027.

Come and find the song within.



Joseph Middleton
Director, Leeds Song



2027 Festival at a Glance

Saturday 10 April

p4	1 – 2pm	1 Lunchtime Opening Recital: Kitty Whately, Anna Tilbrook and James Mayhew	The Venue, LC
p5	3 – 5.30pm	2 Bring and Sing! Rehearsal with Gareth Malone OBE	The Venue, LC
p5	6 – 7pm	3 Bring and Sing! Concert with Gareth Malone OBE: Mozart Requiem	The Venue, LC
p6	6.30 – 7pm	4 Pre-concert Talk with Professor Natasha Loges	HAR
p6	7.30 – 9.30pm	5 Evening Opening Recital: Sir Simon Keenlyside and Joseph Middleton	HAR

Sunday 11 April

p8	10am – 12.30pm	6 Festival Masterclass I: Sir Simon Keenlyside	Linacre Studio, HOC
p8	1 – 2.30pm	7 Lunchtime Recital: Fatma Said and Joseph Middleton	HAR
p9	4 – 5.30pm	8 Young Artists Study Event with Professor Natasha Loges	Linacre Studio, HOC
p9	6.30 – 7pm	9 Friends and Patrons of Leeds Song Private Reception	HAR bar
p10	7 – 7.30pm	10 Pre-concert Talk: In conversation with Professor Natasha Loges and Sir Stephen Hough	HAR
p10	8 – 10pm	11 Evening Recital: Sir Stephen Hough with Jess Dandy and Andrew Hamilton	HAR

Monday 12 April

p12	10am – 1pm	12 Friends of Leeds Song Festival Masterclass II: Roger Vignoles	Linacre Studio, HOC
p12	2pm – 5pm	13 Friends of Leeds Song Festival Masterclass III: Kate Royal	Linacre Studio, HOC

Tuesday 13 April

p12	2.30 – 5.30pm	14 Festival Masterclass IV: Christiane Karg	Linacre Studio, HOC
p13	7.30 – 9.30pm	15 Evening Recital: Carolyn Sampson OBE and Joseph Middleton	Brodrick Hall, Leeds City Museum

Wednesday 14 April

p14	4 – 5.30pm	16 Composers & Poets Forum Showcase and Exhibition: A Leeds Songbook	Brodrick Hall, Leeds City Museum
p15	8 – 10pm	17 Evening Recital: Christiane Karg and Joseph Middleton	Brodrick Hall, Leeds City Museum

Thursday 15 April

p16	10am – 12.30pm	18 Festival Masterclass V: Mark Padmore CBE	Linacre Studio, HOC
p16	1 – 2pm	19 Lunchtime Recital: Beth Taylor and Hamish Brown	HAR
p17	3 – 6pm	20 Festival Masterclass VI: Audrey Hyland	Linacre Studio, HOC
p18	6.30 – 7pm	21 Round-table Discussion with Jasdeep Singh Degun and Errollyn Wallen	HAR
p18	7.30 – 9.30pm	22 Evening Recital: Spoorthi Rao and Jasdeep Singh Degun	HAR
p19	9.45 – 11pm	23 Late Night Recital: Errollyn Wallen	HAR bar

Friday 16 April

p20	12 – 1.30pm	24 Young Artists Showcase	HAR
p20	3 – 6pm	25 Festival Masterclass VII: Christoph Prégardien	Linacre Studio, HOC
p20	6.30 – 7pm	26 Pre-concert Talk with Richard Stokes	HAR
p21	7.30 – 9pm	27 Evening Recital: Christopher Maltman and Joseph Middleton	HAR
p21	9.30 – 11pm	28 Late Night Lieder Lounge with Leeds Song Young Artists	HAR bar

Saturday 17 April

p22	11am – 12pm	29 Morning Recital: Nicholas Mulroy and Elizabeth Kenny	Holy Trinity, Boar Lane
p23	2 – 3.30pm	30 Young Artists Finale Concert	The Venue, LC
p23	5.15 – 5.45pm	31 Pre-concert Talk with Richard Stokes	Rooftop Bar, LC
p24	6 – 8pm	32 Festival Closing Recital: Christoph Prégardien and Pauliina Tukiainen	The Venue, LC

HAR = Howard Assembly Room | LC = Leeds Conservatoire | HOC = Howard Opera Centre

(x) = event number

All information correct at the time of going to print.

Leeds Song reserves the right to change artists, programmes and events if necessary.

Saturday 10 April

Sat 10 April, 1–2pm
THE VENUE, LEEDS CONSERVATOIRE

Lunchtime Opening Recital ①

Kitty Whately mezzo-soprano
Anna Tilbrook piano
James Mayhew artist

Tickets £15, £5 (unwaged/disabled),
FREE (U30/students)

As Kitty Whately sings and Anna Tilbrook plays, acclaimed artist James Mayhew will create a world of colour and imagery live on stage. His illustrations will unfold in real time, projected above the musicians, transforming the music before your eyes and allowing each song to take on a life of its own.

We are delighted to welcome British mezzo-soprano Kitty Whately and pianist Anna Tilbrook to open the Festival with this unique interdisciplinary recital. Featuring a richly varied programme of haunting landscapes, folk traditions and powerful dramatic narratives featured both in established traditional German and English song repertoire as well as music by lesser-known and contemporary composers, the performance brings together music and visual art in an extraordinary shared act of imagination — the audience watching, listening and discovering the work as it happens.

Come and experience the magic of a song not only heard, but **seen**.

Clara Schumann
Lorelei

Franz Schubert
Gretchen am Spinnrade

Johannes Brahms
Die Mainacht

Margarete Schweikert
Totenhausen

Johanna Müller-Hermann
Die stille Stadt

Gustav Mahler
Das irdische Leben

Rebecca Clarke
Binnorie

James MacMillan
Scots Song

Grace Williams
The Lament of the Border
Widow

Joseph Horowitz
Lady Macbeth - A Scena



© Sara Porter



Sat 10 April, 3–5.30pm
THE VENUE, LEEDS CONSERVATOIRE

Bring and Sing! Rehearsal Mozart Requiem ②

with **Gareth Malone** OBE
and **Leeds Song Young Artists**

Tickets £20 per singer

Gareth Malone needs little introduction. Presenter of the BAFTA-award-winning TV series *The Choir*, he has inspired countless individuals to take up the joyous pursuit of singing. Leeds Song is delighted to welcome Gareth to the city for a third year, to lead the Bring and Sing! Chorus through a rehearsal of Mozart's dramatic final work, his *Requiem*. Come along and join Gareth to sing some of Mozart's most sublime choral music!

Rehearsals begin at 3pm followed by a performance at 6pm. Please confirm your voice type at the point of booking. Details of the edition to be used will be communicated to participants nearer the time.



© Tom Arber



Sat 10 April, 6–7pm
THE VENUE, LEEDS CONSERVATOIRE

Bring and Sing! Concert Mozart Requiem ③

with **Gareth Malone** OBE
and **Leeds Song Young Artists**

Tickets £8, £6 (unwaged/disabled),
FREE (U30/students)

Come and support the newly-formed Leeds Song Bring and Sing! Chorus, alongside the Leeds Song Young Artists, as they perform Mozart's haunting masterpiece, his *Requiem*, under the expert direction of television's popular choirmaster, Gareth Malone.



© Tom Arber

Saturday 10 April

Sat 10 April, 6.30–7pm
HOWARD ASSEMBLY ROOM

Pre-concert Talk ④ with **Professor Natasha Loges**

Tickets FREE (please book in advance)

Professor Natasha Loges, internationally recognised musicologist and specialist in song, takes to the stage ahead of this evening's recital to offer an illuminating introduction to the programme. Professor of Musicology at the Hochschule für Musik Freiburg, and formerly Professor of Musicology and Head of Postgraduate Programmes at the Royal College of Music, Natasha brings a wealth of expertise to the repertoire. Her introduction will explore the music, poetry and connections behind tonight's selection, offering fresh insights into the works we are about to hear.



Sat 10 April, 7.30–9.30pm
HOWARD ASSEMBLY ROOM

Evening Opening Recital ⑤

Sir Simon Keenlyside baritone
Joseph Middleton piano

with Leeds Song Young Artist Alumni:

Carleigh Ross soprano

Curtis Vetter piano

Tickets £28, £10 (unwaged/disabled),
FREE (U30/students)

We are honoured to welcome back to Leeds renowned British baritone Sir Simon Keenlyside to give the opening recital of this year's Festival. Internationally celebrated for his versatility and artistry on opera and concert stages around the world as well as an extensive recording catalogue, he is highly sought after as a recitalist, captivating audiences with his renditions of Lieder and song. Tonight he joins Leeds Song director and pianist Joseph Middleton to perform a recital featuring some of the greats of the art song repertoire.

Beginning with the German Romantic lyricism of Schumann and Mahler, the programme moves to the vivid English landscapes and folk-inspired songs of Vaughan Williams, Warlock and Ireland, followed by the witty and illustrative musical depictions of Ravel's *Histoires Naturelles*. A sequence of atmospheric songs by Richard Strauss closes the programme, evoking woodland and winter landscapes, moonlit encounters and tender serenades.

Leeds Song Young Artist Alumni Spotlight

At the start of this evening's concert, we are delighted to present an alumni duo from our 2027 Young Artist Programme in a 15 minute showcase performance, prior to the main recital programme.

Robert Schumann
Ballade des Harfners

Gustav Mahler
Des Antonius von Padua Fischpredigt
Frühlingsmorgen
Ablösung im Sommer
Phantasie
Der Tamboursg'sell

Ralph Vaughan Williams
The vagabond
Youth and love
The infinite shining heavens

John Ireland
Three Ravens

Peter Warlock
Piggesnie

INTERVAL

Maurice Ravel
Histoires Naturelles

Richard Strauss
Waldesfahrt
Winternacht
Nachtgang
Wasserrose
Ständchen



© Robert Weckman



Sunday 11 April

Sun 11 April, 10am–12.30pm
**LINACRE STUDIO,
HOWARD OPERA CENTRE**

Festival Masterclass I ⑥

with **Sir Simon Keenlyside**

Tickets £15, £5 (unwaged/disabled),
FREE (U30/students)

Following his opening recital of the Festival, we are delighted to welcome British baritone Sir Simon Keenlyside to lead the first of our Festival Masterclasses. Keenlyside's illustrious career has included performing in the world's most prestigious concert halls and opera houses in a varied array of roles and repertoire, as well as amassing a critically acclaimed discography. Members of our 2027 Leeds Song Young Artists programme will benefit from his experience and expertise as they explore a selection of song repertoire together.



© Robert Weichman

Sun 11 April, 1–2.30pm*
HOWARD ASSEMBLY ROOM

Lunchtime Recital ⑦

Fatma Said soprano
Joseph Middleton piano

Tickets £20, £10 (unwaged/disabled),
FREE (U30/students)

*please note this is a full-length recital with interval

Fatma Said and Joseph Middleton are a musical partnership of rare chemistry, and we are delighted to welcome them back to Leeds following performances together on stages around the world. Fatma has captivated audiences with her radiant voice, extraordinary versatility and instinctive musicality, equally at home in opera, concert and song.

Their programme begins with the intimacy and poetry of Lieder, before turning to the vivid colours and rhythms of de Falla. The programme culminates in a set of improvisations and Egyptian songs, offering a glimpse into Fatma's musical heritage and her remarkable ability to move effortlessly between traditions.

An afternoon of colour, discovery and musical storytelling from two exceptional artists.

"Said and Middleton gave us just the right pacing to draw the listener completely into the inner world of each song... Song recital heaven." *Wigmore Hall, The Arts Desk*

'Innocence'

Felix Mendelssohn
Die Liebende schreibt

Johannes Brahms
Lerchengesang

Felix Mendelssohn
Suleika

'Longing'

Franz Schubert
Ständchen

Johannes Brahms
Immer leiser wird mein
Schlummer

Franz Schubert
Der Zwerg

*Plus further works to be announced from the stage
including traditional Egyptian songs*



© Simon Fowler



Sun 11 April, 4–5.30pm
**LINACRE STUDIO,
HOWARD OPERA CENTRE**

Study Event ⑧

Pauline Viardot: A Portrait in Song

with **Professor Natasha Loges**
and **Leeds Song Young Artists**

Tickets £15, £5 (unwaged/disabled),
FREE (U30/students)

Professor Natasha Loges leads our Young Artists through a lecture recital exploring the songs of singer-composer Pauline Viardot. Across a sixty-year international career, Viardot composed c.200 songs, many still unpublished.

Illustrated by performances by the Young Artist duos, this programme traces Viardot's friendships with figures from the Schumanns to Tchaikovsky, Fauré and Bizet. The event coincides with the publication of Professor Loges's new biography, *Pauline Viardot*, the first study to place her music at the heart of her remarkable life.

Sun 11 April, 6.30–7pm
HAR BAR

Friends' and Patrons' Private Reception ⑨

A special 'Thank you!' for members of the
Friends of Leeds Song

Tickets FREE to the Friends of Leeds Song
(please book in advance)

Without the support of the Friends of Leeds Song, we simply wouldn't be able to fill the city with song. Why not join today and access a range of benefits including priority booking and invitations to special events? Please see page 27 for further details.

Sunday 11 April

Sun 11 April, 7–7.30pm
HOWARD ASSEMBLY ROOM

Pre-concert Talk ⑩

Professor Natasha Loges
in conversation with
Sir Stephen Hough

Tickets FREE (please book in advance)

One of the most distinctive artists of his generation, Sir Stephen Hough has forged an illustrious international career as a pianist, composer and writer. Alongside his celebrated work as a performer, his compositions reveal another facet of his remarkable musical imagination.

Ahead of his evening recital, Professor Natasha Loges joins Stephen Hough in conversation to explore his own songs, his musical influences and his wide-ranging artistic interests. An illuminating and thought-provoking conversation offering a rare insight into the creative mind of one of today's most remarkable musicians, before he performs a selection of his own works for piano and voice.



Sun 11 April, 8–10pm
HOWARD ASSEMBLY ROOM

Evening Recital ⑪

Sir Stephen Hough piano
Jess Dandy contralto
Andrew Hamilton baritone

with Leeds Song Young Artist Alumni:
Siri Bengtsson Marklund soprano
Joshua McDade piano

Tickets £28, £10 (unwaged/disabled),
FREE (U30/students)

Named by *The Economist* as one of the world's Twenty Living Polymaths, Sir Stephen Hough combines an illustrious career as a concert pianist with those of composer and writer. We are delighted that the newly appointed Artistic Director and Chair of the Jury of the 2027 Leeds International Piano Competition joins us for this recital, presented in collaboration with one of our principal artistic partners in the city.

Hough has written an extensive and distinctive catalogue of songs, two cycles of which feature in this evening's programme, performed alongside rising stars contralto Jess Dandy and baritone Andrew Hamilton. He opens with a solo piano set including Schumann's vibrant *Carnaval* and his own sophisticated and witty arrangement of Sherman's music from *Mary Poppins*.

A fascinating encounter with the many sides of one of today's most remarkable musicians.

Leeds Song Young Artist Alumni Spotlight

At the start of this evening's concert, we are delighted to present an alumni duo from our 2027 Young Artist Programme in a 15 minute showcase performance, prior to the main recital programme.

Robert Schumann
Carnaval

Robert B. Sherman arr. **Sir Stephen Hough**
Mary Poppins Suite

INTERVAL

Sir Stephen Hough
Dappled Things
Herbstlieder



© Clive Park



© Jacobus Snyman



© Sim Caney-Clarke

 **THE LEEDS**

Monday 12 April

Mon 12 April, 10am–1pm
LINACRE STUDIO,
HOWARD OPERA CENTRE

Friends of Leeds Song Festival Masterclass II ⑫

with **Roger Vignoles**

Tickets FREE to the Friends of Leeds Song (please book in advance)

As a special thank you to the Friends of Leeds Song, this masterclass offers a unique opportunity to get close to the action and meet our Young Artists as they prepare new repertoire under the expert guidance of Roger Vignoles, one of the most distinguished accompanists of our time.



© Ben Ealovega

Mon 12 April, 2–5pm
LINACRE STUDIO,
HOWARD OPERA CENTRE

Friends of Leeds Song Festival Masterclass III ⑬

with **Kate Royal**

Tickets FREE to the Friends of Leeds Song (please book in advance)

Renowned English soprano Kate Royal has captivated audiences on the world's great opera stages and concert platforms, from the Royal Opera and Glyndebourne to the Metropolitan Opera and Teatro Real. An exceptional singing actress, celebrated for her musicality, intelligence and ability to bring characters vividly to life, she brings a wealth of experience to this masterclass.



© Jason Joyce

Tuesday 13 April

Tue 13 April, 2.30–5.30pm LINACRE STUDIO, HOWARD OPERA CENTRE

Festival Masterclass IV ⑭

with **Christiane Karg**

Tickets £15, £5 (unwaged/disabled), FREE (U30/students)

Christiane Karg is regarded as one of the most versatile lyric sopranos of her generation. Equally at home on the opera, concert, and recital stages, she has established a distinctive artistic profile through innovative song and concert programming, and appearances at many of the world's leading opera houses.

© Greta Schenker



Tuesday 13 April

Tue 13 April, 7.30–9.30pm
BRODRICK HALL, LEEDS CITY MUSEUM

Evening Recital ⑮

Star Falling

Carolyn Sampson OBE soprano
Joseph Middleton piano
Andrew Staples creative director

Tickets £28, £10 (unwaged/disabled), FREE (U30/students)



Star Falling is an immersive staged recital created by creative director Andy Staples, pianist Joseph Middleton and soprano Carolyn Sampson, bringing together music from nearly nine centuries in an atmospheric world of light, darkness, silence and wonder. Inspired by Messiaen's extraordinary *Chants de terre et de ciel*, the programme moves from the visionary music of Hildegard von Bingen through Crumb, Boulanger, Dutilleux and Messiaen, exploring states of being rather than telling a single story. In the evocative surroundings of Broderick Hall, lighting and projections by Andy Staples will transform the space around the performers, creating a visual landscape in which music, poetry and image become one.

At the heart of the evening is Messiaen's deeply personal cycle, written to celebrate marriage, family, love and new life, before the programme journeys through grief, historical trauma, consolation and renewed wonder. The evening also looks firmly towards the future, with two world premières commissioned through the Royal Philharmonic Society's Composers Programme, by Roderick Williams and Aníbal Vidal. From medieval chant to brand-new music, *Star Falling* is a journey into the infinite — an invitation to listen, look and experience these extraordinary works anew.

Hildegard von Bingen
O chorcans (lux stellarum)

George Crumb
Makrokosmos I
The Night in Silence
under Many a Star
(from *Apparition*)

Night
(from *Three Early Songs*)

Lili Boulanger
Reflets

Henri Dutilleux
Chanson de la déportée

Olivier Messiaen
Chants de terre et de ciel

Leoš Janáček
Good Night (from
On an Overgrown Path)

Aníbal Vidal
World Première of new cycle,
Leeds Song Commission

Cheryl Frances-Hoad
Star Falling

Elizabeth Maconchy
Sun, Moon and Stars

Erik Satie
Les anges

John Tavener
Zodiacs

Roderick Williams
The Primal Seed of Mind
— World Première

IK
SHIGERU KAWAI

RPS
ROYAL PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY

Wednesday 14 April

Wed 14 April, 4–5.30pm*
BRODRICK HALL, LEEDS CITY MUSEUM

Composers & Poets Forum Showcase and Exhibition:

A Leeds Songbook ⑩

Tickets £15, £5 (unwaged/disabled),
FREE (U30/students)

*Doors will open at 3.15pm for entrance to the art exhibition.
The showcase recital will begin at 4pm.

"... what do you get if you speed-date composers from northern colleges with local poets? The answer is 'A Leeds Songbook', an inspiring portrait of the city and its inhabitants across the centuries. The atmosphere was relaxed but the buzz was electric..."
The Guardian

Our ongoing Leeds Songbook project adds new works to the song canon. Poems about the people of Leeds, written by local poets and set to music by visiting composers, performed by our Leeds Song Young Artists. In 2027 the project will also include visual artworks reflecting the themes of these new songs, presented in an exhibition alongside the showcase performance.

Firmly rooted in the local community, the Songbook draws on months of collaboration and Festival workshops. Join us to experience the powerful results in this inspiring exhibition and showcase.



SHIGERU KAWAI

Wed 14 April, 8–10pm
BRODRICK HALL, LEEDS CITY MUSEUM

Evening Recital ⑪

Christiane Karg soprano
Joseph Middleton piano

Tickets £28, £10 (unwaged/disabled),
FREE (U30/students)

Christiane Karg is one of the supreme Lied artists of her generation, celebrated internationally for the intelligence, warmth and extraordinary expressive range she brings to song. A natural storyteller with an exceptional ear for poetry and text, she has made the recital platform a central part of her artistic life, appearing at the world's great concert halls and festivals with many of the leading pianists of our time.

For Leeds Song, she reunites with Joseph Middleton for a programme exploring the enduring fascination of Italy for the great German composers. From the elegance of Mozart and Beethoven's Italian songs to Schubert's *Canzoni*, the dramatic world of *Didone abbandonata* and Haydn's *Ariadne auf Naxos*, this is music steeped in sunlight, longing, passion and theatricality — an irresistible celebration of the Italian voice as imagined through the German Lied tradition.

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Der Zauberer
An Chloë
Das Veilchen
Oiseaux, si tous les ans
Dans un bois solitaire
Ridente la calma

Ludwig van Beethoven
Selection of Italian songs

Franz Schubert

Vier Canzonen
Didone abbandonata,
'Vedi, quanto adoro'

Joseph Haydn
Ariadne auf Naxos



"Her hovering, smoky pianissimo takes your breath away... a breathtaking emotional journey."

★★★★★ **The Guardian**

SHIGERU KAWAI

Thursday 15 April

Thu 15 April, 10am–12.30pm
**LINACRE STUDIO,
HOWARD OPERA CENTRE**

Festival Masterclass V ⑮

with **Mark Padmore CBE**

Tickets £15, £5 (unwaged/disabled),
FREE (U30/students)

British tenor Mark Padmore makes a very welcome return to Leeds Song to share his artistry and musical insight with members of this year's Young Artist's programme. Through coaching and discussion, together they will discover the stories, techniques and musical choices that bring art song to life.



© Marco Borggreve

Thu 15 April, 1–2pm
HOWARD ASSEMBLY ROOM

Lunchtime Recital ⑲

Beth Taylor mezzo-soprano
Hamish Brown piano
Paul Whittaker OBE BSL Interpreter

Tickets £15, £5 (unwaged/disabled),
FREE (U30/students)

Rising star Beth Taylor, “one of today’s most electrifying young mezzo-sopranos” (*The Times*), joins pianist and Leeds Song Young Artist alumnus Hamish Brown in a recital that comes to Leeds from its début at the Edinburgh International Festival. Their Edinburgh performance was praised for turning “the conventional song recital into a gripping piece of drama” (*The Arts Desk*).

Shaped by the sea, myth, memory and the shifting boundaries between the human and natural worlds, the programme travels through more than a century of music. Here, the sea becomes both landscape and metaphor — alluring, mysterious, turbulent and dangerous — in a captivating journey through song.

This concert will be signed by British Sign Language interpreter Paul Whittaker.

**Traditional Orkney
folksong**
arr. Biles-Liddell
The Grey Selkie o’ Sule
Skerry

Cameron Biles-Liddell
The Breakers

Dame Ethel Smyth
Three Moods of the Sea

Connie Converse
Excerpts from
The Cassandra Cycle
Cassandra’s Entrance
Under a Lullaby
Vanity of Vanities

Stuart Macrae
Medusa

Rebecca Clarke
The Seal Man



© Helena Marion Photography



Thu 15 April, 3–6pm
**LINACRE STUDIO,
HOWARD OPERA CENTRE**

Festival Masterclass VI ⑯

with **Audrey Hyland**

Tickets £15, £5 (unwaged/disabled),
FREE (U30/students)

Our Young Artists programme continues to go from strength to strength, with alumni now featuring on the world’s great stages. In demand at home and internationally, pianist Audrey Hyland, Head of the Vocal and Opera Faculty at the Royal College of Music, steers our Young Artists through this afternoon’s masterclass, offering her expert guidance and infectious enthusiasm as she explores the art, craft and character behind each song.



Thursday 15 April

Thu 15 April, 6.30–7pm
HOWARD ASSEMBLY ROOM

Round-table Discussion ②①

with **Jasdeep Singh Degun**
and **Errollyn Wallen**

Tickets FREE (please book in advance)

An opportunity to hear from Festival artists themselves in discussion with one another! — in advance of their forthcoming recitals, sitarist and composer, Jasdeep Singh Degun and composer Errollyn Wallen offer engaging perspectives on their work and music in a round-table discussion.



© Azzura Primavera

Thu 15 April, 7.30–9.30pm
HOWARD ASSEMBLY ROOM

Evening Recital ②②

Gayaka = the art of vocal expression in two traditions of Indian Music

Spoorthi Rao voice
Jasdeep Singh Degun sitar
and musicians from Opera North's *Orpheus*

Tickets £25, £10 (unwaged/disabled),
FREE (U30/students)

The human voice lies at the heart of Indian classical music. This special double bill brings together its two great traditions: Carnatic music from South India and Hindustani music from North India.

Carnatic vocalist Spoorthi Rao, joined by traditional accompaniment, opens the evening with the intricate melodic and rhythmic language of South Indian classical music.

In the second half, award-winning sitarist Jasdeep Singh Degun, joined by tabla, explores the Hindustani tradition. Trained in the Imdadkhani gharana's gayaki ang — an approach in which the sitar emulates the nuance, expression and fluidity of the human voice — Jasdeep reveals an instrumental tradition rooted deeply in song.

Presented in partnership with South Asian Arts UK and Opera North

opera
north

SAUK
SOUTH ASIAN PERFORMING ARTS



Thu 15 April, 9.45–11pm
HAR BAR

Late Night Recital ②③

Errollyn Wallen CBE
composer, singer, pianist

Tickets £15, £5 (unwaged/disabled),
FREE (U30/students)

Master of the King's Music and multi-award-winning composer Errollyn Wallen CBE has been named as one of the world's top twenty most performed living classical composers. Tonight, in a rare solo recital, she performs a selection of her own songs from the piano in the intimate setting of the HAR bar.

The programme features her characteristic blending of classical, folk and popular music idioms and the expressive lyricism and emotional depth of her writing.

SHIGERU KAWAI



Friday 16 April



Fri 16 April, 12–1.30pm
HOWARD ASSEMBLY ROOM

Young Artists Showcase ②④

Tickets £15, £5 (unwaged/disabled), FREE (U30/students)

Your opportunity to enjoy the finest young duos of the Leeds Song Young Artist Programme, coached over the week by Sir Simon Keenlyside, Roger Vignoles, Kate Royal, Christiane Karg, Mark Padmore, Audrey Hyland, Christoph Prégardien, Scott Brooksbank and others.

Alumni from the Leeds Song masterclasses include such stars as Nicky Spence and Elizabeth Watts, and the most recent prize-winners at the Kathleen Ferrier Awards have come directly from our stable. Come and enjoy the next generation of Lieder singers and pianists!

Fri 16 April, 3–6pm **LINACRE STUDIO, HOWARD OPERA CENTRE**

Festival Masterclass VII ②⑤

with **Christoph Prégardien**

Tickets £15, £5 (unwaged/disabled), FREE (U30/students)

Following their showcase performance earlier in the day, our Young Artists return for the Festival's final masterclass, working with one of the world's foremost lyric tenors, Christoph Prégardien. A celebrated performer and revered teacher, Prégardien brings decades of experience from the international stage and his teaching posts at the Hochschule für Musik und Theater Zürich and the Academy of Music in Cologne.

Working across a varied selection of song repertoire, our Young Artists will benefit from his exceptional musicianship, insight and artistic perspective — a fitting culmination of their Festival experience, ahead of Prégardien's own Festival-closing recital the following evening.



Fri 16 April, 6.30–7pm **HOWARD ASSEMBLY ROOM**

Pre-concert Talk ②⑥ with **Richard Stokes** **Tickets** FREE (please book in advance)

In this pre-concert talk, Leeds Song Patron and Professor of Lieder at the Royal Academy of Music, Richard Stokes, reflects upon Schubert's seminal song cycle, *Winterreise*, exploring Müller's vivid and intriguing poetry, the work's psychological themes and its compelling and darkly expressive music.

FRI 16 April, 7.30–9.30pm
HOWARD ASSEMBLY ROOM

Evening Recital ②⑦

Winterreise

Christopher Maltman baritone
Joseph Middleton piano

with Leeds Song Young Artist Alumni:

Naomi Boot mezzo-soprano

Viviana Jaga-Radu piano

Tickets £28, £10 (unwaged/disabled),
FREE (U30/students)

One of the most sought-after dramatic baritones of today, Grammy Award winner Christopher Maltman has appeared to wide acclaim on musical stages across the world. Following two recent and most-anticipated opera role débuts in *Der fliegende Holländer* with the Bayerische Staatsoper and in *Siegfried* at the Royal Ballet & Opera, we welcome his return to Leeds in a performance of Schubert's masterwork, *Winterreise*.

Schubert's iconic and deeply psychological song cycle setting the dark and immersive poems of Wilhelm Müller depicts a rejected lover's bleak, solitary journey through a winter landscape in a stark, though richly evocative soundscape.

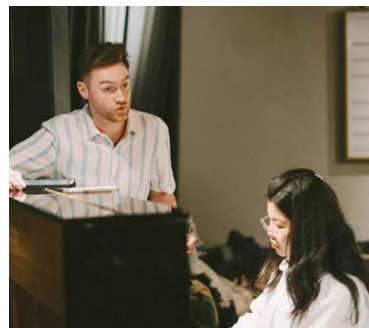
In this evening's recital, together with pianist Joseph Middleton ("the perfect accompanist", *The Times*), Maltman brings Schubert's defining song cycle to life with his characteristic dramatic instinct and sensitivity.



Franz Schubert
Winterreise

Leeds Song Young Artist Alumni Spotlight

At the start of this evening's concert, we are delighted to present an alumni duo from our 2027 Young Artist Programme in a 15 minute showcase performance, prior to the main recital programme.



Fri 16 April, 9.30–11pm **HAR BAR**

Late Night Lieder Lounge ②⑧

with **Leeds Song Young Artists**

Tickets Free (no booking required, subject to capacity)

Join us in the HAR bar for an informal late-evening session of song and poetry presented by our Leeds Song Young Artists. Expect everything from Schubert to Sondheim, Dvořák to Disney.

Saturday 17 April

Sat 17 April, 11am–12pm
HOLY TRINITY, BOAR LANE

Morning Recital ②⁹

The Birth of Song – Sacred and Secular Devotion

Nicholas Mulroy tenor
Elizabeth Kenny lute

Tickets £15, £5 (unwaged/disabled),
FREE (U30/students)

Journey into the intimate world of early song where the human voice and lute combine to explore love, longing, faith and devotion.

Join leading performers of early music and regular collaborators, tenor Nicholas Mulroy and lutenist Elizabeth Kenny, in the historic surroundings of Holy Trinity, Boar Lane for a programme which moves between the sacred and secular worlds of seventeenth-century Europe. This crafted selection of works traces the birth of a new musical language from Renaissance song to the expressive heights of the Baroque through which the audience will experience exquisite poetry, divine lyricism, intimate storytelling and profound musical spirituality.



© Raphaële Photography



'Appetiser'

Robert Johnson

Have you seen the bright lily grow?

'Songs from A Musical Banquet'

Anon Italian

1610 Sta notte mi sognava

Giulio Caccini

(arr. anon English)

Amarilli, mia bella

John Dowland

In darkness let me dwell

Heinrich Schütz

from *Kleine geistliche Konzerte*

Ich will den Herren loben

O Jesu nomen Dulce

O Misericordissime Jesu

'Glories of Venice'

Alessandro Grandi

Tota Pulchra Es

Alessandro Piccinini

Toccata cromatica

Alessandro Grandi

O intemerata

Claudio Monteverdi

Nigra sum

Alessandro Piccinini

Ciaccona

Claudio Monteverdi

Laudate Dominum

'Orpheus Britannicus'

Henry Purcell

Music for a while

In the black, dismal dungeon

Evening Hymn

Sat 17 April, 2–3.30pm
THE VENUE, LEEDS CONSERVATOIRE

Young Artists Finale Concert ③⁰

Tickets £15, £5 (unwaged/disabled),
FREE (U30/students)

Come and support the outstanding singers and pianists who have immersed themselves in song over the course of the past week in Leeds. If past years are to go by, the standard will be extremely high, the repertoire eclectic and the buzz electric.



Sat 17 April, 5.15–5.45pm
THE ROOFTOP BAR, LEEDS CONSERVATOIRE

Pre-concert Talk ③¹

with **Richard Stokes**

Tickets FREE (please book in advance)

Professor Richard Stokes, expert linguist and song pedagogue, who has just published *The Carl Loewe Song Companion* (Bittern Press), gives one of his typically illuminating talks to introduce the closing recital of the Festival. One of the leading authorities on poetry set to music, Richard will provide insight and context to the repertoire featured in this eclectic programme.



Saturday 18 April

Sat 17 April, 6–8pm
THE VENUE, LEEDS CONSERVATOIRE

Closing Evening Recital 32

Christoph Prégardien tenor
Pauliina Tukiainen piano

with winners of Northern Aldborough Festival's
New Voices Singing Competition 2026

Tickets £28, £10 (unwaged/disabled),
FREE (U30/students)

To bring the 2027 Festival to a close, we are delighted to welcome the eminent German lyric tenor Christoph Prégardien back to Leeds, joined by his duo partner, the distinguished Finnish pianist Pauliina Tukiainen. Together they present a programme with a first-half centred on one of the defining poets of German Romanticism, Joseph von Eichendorff, including Wolf's atmospheric songs from *Gedichte von Joseph von Eichendorff* and Schumann's much-loved *Liederkreis*, Op. 39. After the interval, the programme moves to the exquisite world of French mélodie, with songs by Henri Duparc, before concluding with a selection of songs by Franz Schubert, a fitting end to a vibrant Festival, its celebration of the breadth and depth of art song, and artists of the highest calibre.

Hugo Wolf
from *Gedichte von Joseph von Eichendorff*
Der Musikant
Verschwiegene Liebe
Ständchen
Nachtzauber

Robert Schumann
Liederkreis nach Joseph von Eichendorff, Op. 39

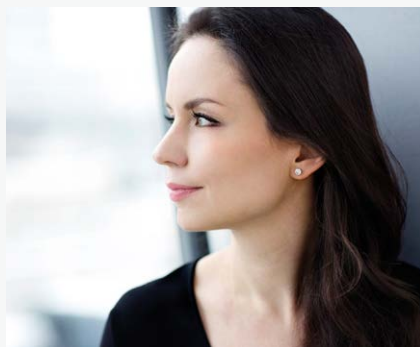
INTERVAL

Henri Duparc
Chanson triste
Soupir
Le Manoir de Rosemonde
L'invitation au voyage
Phidylé

Franz Schubert
An Silvia
An die Entfernte
An mein Herz
Alinde
Des Fischers Liebesglück
Der Zwerg

"This was lieder singing of the
very highest class."

★★★★★ The Guardian



© Astrid Ackermann

School Culmination Concerts

Friday 13 November 2026

YEADON TOWN HALL

Living Lieder 11am–12pm

Discovering Lieder 1.30–2.30pm

Friday 19 March 2027

THE BALLROOM, PUDSEY CIVIC HALL

Living Lieder 11am–12pm

Discovering Lieder 1.30–2.30pm

These two concerts round off our award-winning education projects.

The **Living Lieder** project sees our team including a singer, pianist and a poet, visit secondary schools to work with participants who learn a song from the Lieder canon. Focusing on good performance technique, they explore the text of the song by composing their own response.

Discovering Lieder is a 45-minute recital designed to follow a workshop session which has been taken into participating primary schools by our team of animateurs. It feels just like a regular Lieder recital with the usual composers and languages, but there's a surprise finale as each school performs its very own verse of Schubert's 'Das Wandern'.

These culmination concerts are a joyful sharing of the transformative power of music and a celebration of bringing new audiences into the wonderful world of Art Song!

For more information about our Learning and Participation Programme, please visit:
www.leedssong.com/learning

Tickets: Parents, guardians and carers of those taking part will be contacted directly about booking tickets via your school. For anyone else wishing to attend, please contact us in advance either by calling the Leeds Song office on 0113 243 4438 or emailing info@leedssong.com. Tickets are subject to availability and allocated on a first come first served basis.



Visiting Leeds Song

THE VENUE, LEEDS CONSERVATOIRE
3 Quarry Hill, Leeds, LS2 7PD
www.leedsconservatoire.ac.uk/visit-us

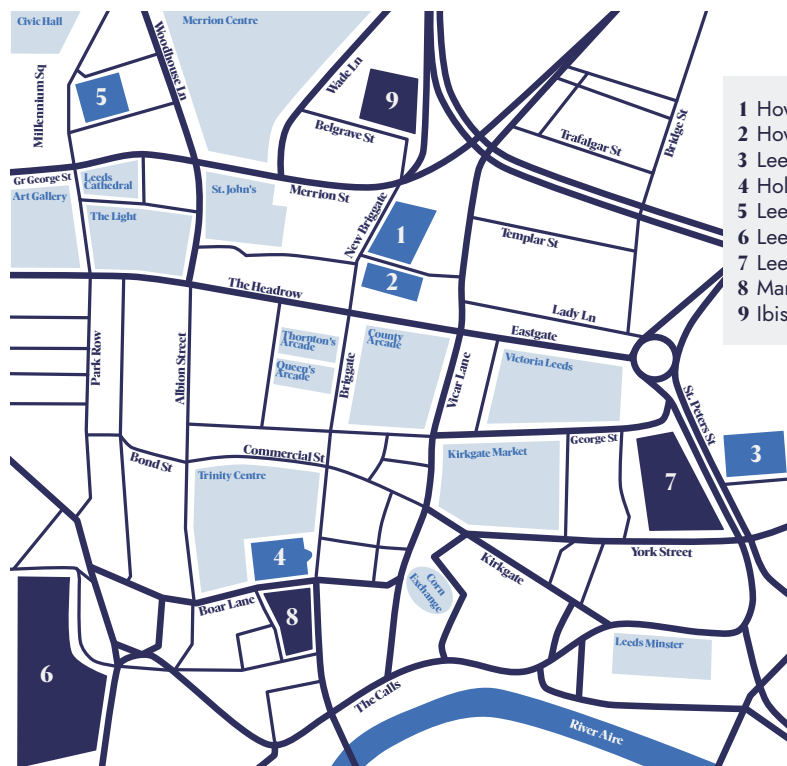
**HOWARD ASSEMBLY ROOM,
HAR BAR, HOWARD OPERA CENTRE**
32 New Briggate, Leeds LS1 6NU
www.operanorth.co.uk/howard-assembly-room/plan-your-visit

LINACRE STUDIO, HOWARD OPERA CENTRE
8 Harrison St, Leeds LS1 6PA
www.operanorth.co.uk/howard-assembly-room/plan-your-visit

BRODRICK HALL, LEEDS CITY MUSEUM
Leeds City Museum, Millennium Square, Leeds LS2 8BH
www.museumsandgalleries.leeds.gov.uk/visit-leeds-city-museum-5xnz

HOLY TRINITY, BOAR LANE
Holy Trinity, Boar Lane, Leeds, LS1 6HW
www.boarlane.church

THE BALLROOM, PUDSEY CIVIC HALL
Dawsons Corner, Cote Lane, Pudsey LS28 5TA
www.conferenceleeds.co.uk/search-a-venue/pudsey-civic-hall/



- 1 Howard Assembly Room
- 2 Howard Opera Centre
- 3 Leeds Conservatoire
- 4 Holy Trinity Boar Lane
- 5 Leeds City Museum
- 6 Leeds Train Station
- 7 Leeds Bus Station
- 8 Marriot Hotel
- 9 Ibis Styles Hotel

HOTEL BOOKING RATES

We are pleased to be partnering with both the Marriott and Ibis Styles hotels in 2027. Please contact the Leeds Song office by emailing info@leedssong.com or calling 0113 243 4438 if you wish to learn more and receive a discount rate code.

LEEDS MARRIOTT HOTEL
4 Trevelyan Square, Boar Lane, Leeds LS1 6ET
bit.ly/4j8wSFR

IBIS STYLES LEEDS CITY CENTRE ARENA
Wade Lane, Leeds, LS2 8NJ
bit.ly/472Lb7L



Friends of
**Leeds
Song**



Join our Friends!

The Friends of Leeds Song play a vital role in supporting the work of the organisation.

The generous donations from the Friends contribute towards our Education programmes, Young Artist training, and mounting an annual world-class festival of song.

Why not join today and access a range of benefits including priority booking, invitations to special events and advance information? Please go to the 'Support Us' section at www.leedssong.com for full details and a downloadable application form.

You can also ring the Festival Office on **0113 243 4438**, email info@leedssong.com to request a form, or pick one up during the Festival.



Leeds Song gratefully acknowledges the generous support of:



Principal Partners

The Liz and Terry Bramall Foundation
BBC Radio 3
Howard Assembly Room
Leeds City Council
Leeds Conservatoire
Leeds International Concert Season
Leeds City Museum
Opera North
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Other Partners

Art Song Challenge
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Holy Trinity, Boar Lane
The Leeds International Piano Competition
LIEBSEL Festival
Liedstadt
Pyramid of Arts
Schuberttada Vilabertran
Shigeru Kawai
South Asian Arts UK
West Yorkshire Music Hub

And everyone who so generously gave to the Big Give Arts for Impact Campaign



How to book

The Opera North Box Office is the Festival Box Office for all events.

You can find full festival booking information, and links to the Box Office via www.leedssong.com/whats-on

To contact the Opera North Box Office directly, please visit:

Online: www.operanorth.co.uk/whats-on

Telephone: 0113 223 3600 (Mon-Fri, 12PM-6PM)

In-person: Howard Assembly Room, 32 New Briggate, Leeds LS1 6NU
(Mon-Fri, 12PM-2PM, or one hour before a concert)

Please direct all ticketing queries directly to the Opera North Box Office, not Leeds Song.

Ticket bundles on sale for Friends from **Tuesday 13 October**

Priority booking for Friends from **Tuesday 20 October**

Tickets go on general sale on **Tuesday 27 October**

Tickets on sale at midday

2027 Festival Discounts

A minimum of 10% off when you book tickets for 6 or more paid Festival events at the same time.
To book multiple tickets, please call the Festival Box Office directly on 0113 223 3600.

Ticket Bundles

Evening concerts: events [5](#) [11](#) [15](#) [17](#) [22](#) [27](#) [32](#) **£165**

Lunchtime concerts: events [1](#) [7](#) [19](#) [24](#) [29](#) [30](#) **£75**

Masterclasses and study events: events [6](#) [8](#) [14](#) [18](#) [20](#) [25](#) **£75**

Full Festival Pass: £340 *excluding the 3 events exclusively for the Friends of Leeds Song

To book ticket bundles, please call the Festival Box Office directly on 0113 223 3600.

Free tickets to students and under-30s

To book free tickets, you first need to create a free under-30s account via the Opera North box office.
Your discount will then be automatically applied upon checkout.

Programmes and translations

Event programmes, programme notes, song texts and translations will be available online from the start of April. A limited number of printed song texts will be made available to purchase at each event.
All recitals will have English surtitles.

Leeds Song is a politically neutral organisation. Views expressed in the works performed at the Leeds Song Festival or by the artists appearing at the Festival are not necessarily the views of the organisation, or anyone who works for the charity.

All information correct at the time of going to print. Leeds Song reserves the right to change artists, programmes and events if necessary.