

# Creative Minds in Song

**Thursday 8 July, 1pm**

**St Mary-at-Hill, London EC3R 8EE**

Artistic Director: Gavin Roberts

Co-Director: Rebecca Cohen

Patrons: Sarah Walker CBE, Iain Burnside

Registered Charity: no 1147050

# Creative Minds in Song

Creative Minds in Song is a ground-breaking social project pioneered by *Song in the City* originally in collaboration with the *The Maudsley Charity* and now supported by mental health charity *MIND in Tower Hamlets and Newham* and *The Guildhall School of Music and Drama*. Over a series of workshops the project participants have created new songs from the words written by those with lived experience of mental illness. Poet participants from MIND, as well as other partner organisations, worked directly staff and students from Guildhall School to bring the project to fruition.

Through poetry and music, we have given the experience of those who have suffered from mental illness a creative life. The making of these new songs has explored the deep link between mental illness and creativity. The process has also played its part in the battle to de-stigmatise mental illness, as well break down some of the barriers that surround classical music.

This performance features the new songs as well as tells the story of the project and its participants in words and music.

## **Writers**

Murat Ahmed  
Laurie Allen  
Edward Dunne  
Alfie Green  
Paul Happé  
Pamela Hillyer  
Isobel Lane

## **Composers**

Mara-Adriana Pruna  
Sam Gooderham  
Jo Fraser  
Martin Ng  
Emily Hazrati  
Efe Yüksel  
Michał Kawecki  
Audrey Wu

## **Performers**

Jeremy Chan, piano  
Matthias De Smet, piano  
Alaric Green, baritone, guitar  
Alfie Green, pre-recorded voice  
Paul Happé, saxophone  
Lydia Haynes, mezzo soprano  
Isobel Lane, soprano  
Theano Papadaki, soprano, violin  
Bethany Reeves, piano, accordion  
George Roberts, baritone  
Alex Knox, actor

## **Project Directors**

Gavin Roberts  
Rebecca Cohen  
Alex Knox  
Raymond Yiu

## **Thanks to**

Professor Julian Philips  
Dr Karen Wise  
Cerrita Smith  
Pamela Lidiard  
Martha Hartman  
Dinah Stabb

# Programme

## REACHING. *World première*

Poet: Edward Dunne • Composer: Martin Ng

Lydia Haynes (mezzo soprano), Matthias De Smet (piano)

*I think we can't find inner perfection, are not meant to be alone and so need to connect with the world and life by surrendering to God's light. – Edward Dunne*

20  
V. *improvise based on text "steals them back"*

Pno

The image shows a musical score for the piece 'REACHING'. It consists of two staves. The top staff is for the voice (V.) and the bottom staff is for the piano (Pno). The voice part begins at measure 20 and is marked 'improvise based on text "steals them back"'. The piano accompaniment is written in a key with one sharp (F#) and consists of chords and single notes in both hands. The score is decorated with numerous small, hand-drawn triangles scattered around the notes.

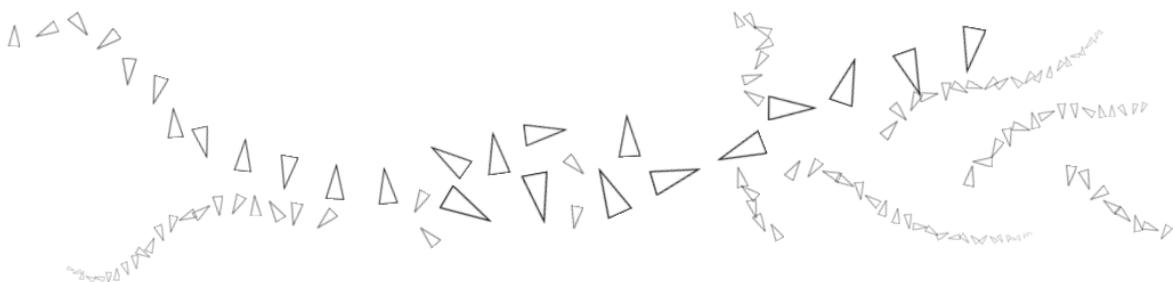
## RAIN

Music & Lyrics: John Lennon & Paul McCartney

Alaric Green (baritone, guitar)

*The first time I heard 'Rain' by the Beatles on the radio it happened to be raining outside so I stopped and watched it, It was nice, so I did it often. The feelings grew over time and now, when I see rain, I stop and watch as it washes everything and imagine it is washing away all the wrongs, sins, sadness, sorrow and pain so we can start again afresh. If I am indoors, I get a stool and watch. It always feels good.*

– Edward Dunne



## OUTSIDE *World première*

Poet: Alfie Green • Composer: Efe Yüksel

Theano Papadaki (soprano) Bethany Reeves (piano),

Alfie Green (pre-recorded voice), Efe Yüksel (electronics)

*Oddly, this composition fills me with hope. The very darkest of experiences are in some ways closer to the sublime than anything else. Efe has realised this fantastically, and I'd like to thank him for creating such a beautiful piece of music. – Alfie Green*

Musical score for 'OUTSIDE' (World première) by Efe Yüksel. The score is in 6/4 time and consists of three systems. The first system (measures 45-47) features a vocal line with lyrics 's o o ha' and a piano accompaniment. The second system (measures 48-50) continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The third system (measures 51-53) concludes the piece. The score includes various performance instructions such as 'Very Wide/Irregular Vibrato Imitate Ring Mod. in Previous Bar', 'Continuous downwards gliss. Imitate granular synth.', 'R.o.c. High', and dynamic markings like 'mp', 'mf', 'sub. p', 'p', 'f', '8va', and '8vb'. The piano part includes 'rising clusters' and 'gliss.' markings.

## ON THE NATURE OF DAYLIGHT

Music: Max Richter

Theano Papadaki (violin), Bethany Reeves (piano)

*Chosen by Alfie Green for inclusion in today's concert*



# ODE TO DOLLY

Poet: Murat Ahmed

Alexander Knox (actor)

## küçük aslan (little lion) *World première*

Poet: Murat Ahmed • Composer: Emily Hazrati

Theano Papadaki (soprano, violin), Lydia Haynes (mezzo soprano)

Bethany Reeves (alto, accordion), Alaric Green (baritone, guitar)

*'Küçük Aslan' is based on experience I had as a teenager. The experience is something I have also wanted to write about but was unable to as I was afraid not only for myself but also for the boy in my year (that I based Küçük Aslan on). It wasn't until this year I was able to write the poem. Writing the poem in Turkish enabled to express myself in a way that the English language could not but also made it more personal to me. I also wanted people to see how beautiful the language can be. – Murat Ahmed*

**Crisp, biting; slightly aggressive**

**FID.** 19 *pizz.* *arco sul pont.* *pizz.* *arco*  
*f p sf sf p sf sf* *gliss.* *gliss.* *sf*

**MEZZO SOP.** *mf*  
Lit-tle, lit-tle li-on, lit-tle li-on

**BAR.** *mf* *f*  
Kü-çük, kü-çük as-lan as-<sup>5</sup>-lan

**A. GTR.** *f*

## OVER THE RAINBOW

Words: Yip Harburg • Music: Harold Arlen

Paul Happé (tenor saxophone), Lydia Haynes (mezzo soprano), Rebecca Cohen (piano)

## HOW FAR *World première*

Poet: Paul Happé • Composer: Joseph Fraser

Paul Happé (tenor saxophone), George Robarts (baritone), Matthias De Smet (piano)

*My poem 'Carers Clapping' [set by Joseph Fraser as 'How far?'] is about what happened at the beginning of the pandemic when we all went out to clap for carers. My contribution was to play 'Over the Rainbow' on my saxophone from my balcony which was heard by everyone around who were clapping outside. The notes fly up and are carried on the breeze to be received far away by a friend. – Paul Happé*

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## ICH BIN DER WELT ABHANDEN GEKOMMEN

Poet: Friedrich Rückert • Music: Gustav Mahler

Isobel Lane (soprano), Gavin Roberts (piano)

*This song by Mahler means a great deal to me. I think that it is the most beautiful song ever written. To me, it is full of a glowing serene joy. The singer has let go of the world and lives alone in their heaven, in their love and in their song. Their song is their life and love. – Isobel Lane*

Translation:

*I am lost to the world  
With which I used to waste much time;  
It has for so long known nothing of me,  
It may well believe that I am dead.  
Nor am I at all concerned  
If it should think that I am dead.*

*Nor can I deny it,  
For truly I am dead to the world.  
I am dead to the world's tumult  
And rest in a quiet realm!  
I live alone in my heaven,  
In my love, in my song!*

## MY CHILD *World première*

Poet: Isobel Lane • Composer: Michał Kawecki

Lydia Haynes (mezzo soprano), Jeremy Chan (piano)

*The poem 'My Child' was written in May and October in 1993. I had found myself completely unable to continue working in January, had stopped living at home and was preparing for a concert which took place in June after which I found myself in hospital for the first time. I had just about held myself together to do the concert where I was one of five singers doing ensembles. In it I achieved a lifetime ambition of singing Sophie in the Trio and following duet from 'Der Rosenkavalier'. After that I didn't sing again for 18 years. The child is my internal child, not a child that I had borne. – Isobel Lane*



## **CHAINED; FALLING THROUGH THE CRACKS**

Poet: Pamela Hillyer

Pamela Hillyer (signer), Alexander Knox (actor)

## **THE FORGOTTEN FEW** *World première*

Poet: Pamela Hillyer • Composer: Audrey Wu

Theano Papadaki (soprano), Matthias De Smet (piano)

## **TOGETHER** *World première*

Poet: Pamela Hillyer • Composer: Gavin Roberts

Theano Papadaki (soprano), Matthias De Smet (piano)

*I wrote these poems during lockdown, they are an insight to how much of an impact the Coronavirus has had on me and others our mental health has been really impacted.*

– Pamela Hillyer

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## **CURTAINS, DRAW BACK** *World première*

Poet: Paul Happé • Composer: Mara Pruna

Mara Pruna (piano), Alaric Green (baritone)

*‘Every Spring when the cherry blossom appears I am taken back to my childhood home where outside my bedroom window, there was a big cherry tree. The arrival of the pink blossom announced the arrival of Spring and a time to go outside and be released from winter imprisonment to play with friends in the hills and woods of Cannock Chase in Staffordshire where I grew up. Children have been deprived of these natural freedoms over the last year. – Paul Happé*

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## **MR ARTHA RITIS**

Poet: Laurie Allen

*Read by the poet*

## **LOOK YONDER** *World première*

Poet: Laurie Allen • Composer: Sam Gooderham

George Robarts (baritone), Jeremy Chan (piano)

*Sitting in gentle repose in the beautiful chapel of St Joseph’s hospice*

*The spirit touched me greatly*

*Aware there is life beyond yonder*

*These are the words of my poem*

*Look yonder – Laurie Allen*

## WE SHALL OVERCOME

Words and Music: *Traditional*

*In the face of adversity, physical or mental trauma, the affirmation of the song 'we shall overcome, we shall overcome someday, deep in my heart I do believe we shall overcome some day' repeated each morning or sung, bringing gentle baby steps towards the healing process. – Laurie Allen*

*We shall overcome (twice)  
We shall overcome, some day.*

*Oh, deep in my heart,  
I do believe  
We shall overcome, some day.*

*We'll walk hand in hand (twice)  
We'll walk hand in hand, some day.*

*Oh, deep in my heart,  
I do believe  
We shall overcome, some day.*

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# SONG IN THE CITY FUTURE CONCERTS

Patrons: Sarah Walker CBE, Iain Burnside  
Artistic Director: Gavin Roberts  
Co-Director: Rebecca Cohen

## 1pm, Monday 19 July, Creative Minds in Song

Tickets: £10, £8 concession

St Marylebone parish Church, NW1 5LT  
*nearest tubes Baker Street, Regent's Park*

Tickets: [www.stmarylebonefestival.com](http://www.stmarylebonefestival.com)

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