



JAM 2026 COMPOSER RESIDENCY

Into the Bellows

Composing for Accordion with Ryan Corbett

Special Thanks

Into the Bellows exists because of the generosity and belief of:

Paul Mealor LVO

Edward Armitage BEM & Sarah Armitage

John Frederick Hudson PhD

Welcome to JAM's 2026 Composer Residency

Into the Bellows is, before anything else, time and space. A week away from the everyday in a cottage on the Kent coast at Littlestone, where the diary empties and the head begins to clear. Three composers can settle into the kind of serious, unhurried attention that creative work needs. It is also a laboratory: time alone with the page, and time in the room with virtuoso accordionist Ryan Corbett, exploring the technical and expressive territory of an exceptional instrument.

JAM has always believed that magical things happen when composers and performers work together. Twenty-five years bear that conviction out: 46 commissions, more than 200 world premieres, and over 16 hours of new music, from Paul Mealor LVO, Jonathan Dove CBE, and Mark-Anthony Turnage to the emerging voices shaping the next chapter of British music. *Into the Bellows* belongs firmly to that lineage.

From an online session in May, through seven days at Littlestone with Ryan Corbett and principal tutor Paul Mealor LVO, an Open Masterclass in July, the world premiere at the JAM on the Marsh Festival on 11 July, and a professionally recorded London performance in November — three composers will create substantial new fifteen-minute works for accordion, each mentored from first idea to final score.

What remains afterwards is more than three new pieces of music. It is three composers changed by the place, changed by the people, and changed by the time spent inside the technical and musical world of the accordion, plus a meaningful addition to the repertoire *of our time*.

John Frederick Hudson PhD
Artistic Director, JAM

Composers

THREE COMPOSERS. SEVEN DAYS. ONE ACCORDION.

Composers Noah Max, Zhenyan Li and George W. Parris take up residence in a cottage on the Kent coast to write new fifteen-minute works for accordion alongside virtuoso accordionist Ryan Corbett. Between the shingle and the bellows, they will test ideas and push their craft further than a desk in a major city might allow.

"The relationship between composer and performer is where music is truly born."

— JOHN FREDERICK HUDSON, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

01.
ZHENYAN LI





02.
NOAH MAX



03.
GEORGE W. PARRIS

Mentors



RYAN CORBETT

Accordion | Associate Artist of JAM

A portrait of Paul Mealor IVO, a man with short brown hair and glasses, wearing a dark textured blazer over a blue button-down shirt. He is seated and looking directly at the camera. The background consists of three large, arched windows with a grid pattern, through which bright light is streaming, creating a high-contrast scene with deep shadows on his face and clothing.

PAUL MEALOR IVO
International Composer | Lead Tutor

A portrait of John Frederick Hudson PhD, a man with short blonde hair, wearing a dark blue patterned tuxedo jacket, a white dress shirt, and a colorful patterned bow tie. He is looking slightly to the left of the camera with a serious expression. The background is a solid, dark blue.

JOHN FREDERICK HUDSON PhD
Composer | Residency Director

Into the Bellows

A residency that unfolds across the year:

*an online start in May, a week by the sea in May, refinement in June,
a world premiere in the JAM on the Marsh Festival in July and a London premiere in November.*

PHASE ONE

Arrival

18 MAY

MONDAY

Arrival & Welcome

17:15

Arrive Ashford International

Southeastern from St Pancras
JAM arranges collection to Littlestone

18:00

Arrive at the No.10 Cottage

Settle in · drop bags · brief tour

19:00

Welcome

Residency Introduction

20:00

Team Dinner

No formal session

PHASE TWO: COMPOSITION

with Paul Mealor LVO

19 MAY

TUESDAY

09:00 - 10:30

Composing Time

11:00 - 13:00

Composition Session

Paul Mealor LVO

13:00 - 14:00

Lunch (self-catered)

14:00 - 15:00

Group Walk

Littlestone Beach
Filmmaker present

15:00 - 17:00

Composition Session

Paul Mealor LVO

17:30 onwards

Composer Evening

Composing and time together
(self-catered)

20 MAY

WEDNESDAY

09:00 - 10:30

Composing Time

11:00 - 13:00

Composition Session

Paul Mealor LVO

13:00 - 14:30

Lunch (self-catered)

14:30 - 16:30

Handover Session

Paul Mealor LVO + Ryan Corbett

16:30 - 18:30

Personal | composing time

19:00 - 20:00

Reception with the JAM team

Thank to Paul Mealor +
welcome Ryan Corbett

20:00 onwards

Dinner (self-catered)

A RESIDENCY THAT UNFOLDS ACROSS THE YEAR



PHASE THREE: COLLABORATION

with Ryan Corbett & John Frederick Hudson

21 MAY
THURSDAY

09:00 - 10:30
Composing Time

11:00 - 13:00
Tutorial Session
Ryan Corbett

13:00 - 16:00
Group Lunch +
Outing to Dungeness

16:00 - 18:00
Tutorial Session
Ryan Corbett

18:00 - 19:30
Composition time
+ revision

19:30 onwards
Dinner (self-catered)
+ free time

22 MAY
FRIDAY

09:00 - 10:30
Composing Time

11:00 - 13:00
Composition Session
John Frederick Hudson +
Ryan Corbett

13:00 - 14:00
Lunch (self-catered)

14:00 - 17:00
Tutorial Session
Ryan Corbett

17:00 - 19:00
Composition time
+ revision

20:00 onwards
Dinner (self-catered)
+ free time

23 MAY
SATURDAY

09:00 - 10:30
Composing Time

11:00 - 13:00
Final Play-through
Ryan Corbett

13:00 - 14:00
Lunch (self-catered)

14:00 - 15:00
Industry Talk
Ed and Sarah Armitage
(Founders of JAM)

15:00 - 17:00
Optional Tutorial Session
Ryan Corbett

17:00 - 18:00
Reset & free time

18:00 - 19:00
JAM Donor Reception
(Composers share about their
experience + Ryan Corbett plays
short excerpts from each piece)

20:00
Celebration dinner together

PHASE FOUR

Departure

24 MAY
SUNDAY

09:00
Breakfast at cottage
(self-catered)

09:30 - 10:00
Pack & Gather

10:00 - 11:00
Wrap-up Session
John Frederick Hudson
Ryan Corbett

11:15
Transfer for Ashford
International
JAM arranges transport

12:16
Train departs
Ashford International
Southeastern for
St Pancras Station

Before You Arrive

From the moment you step off the train at Ashford International, let the place and the sea begin to inspire. Here's what to know before you get there.

01 THE TEAM

Ryan Corbett *Accordion | Associate Artist of JAM*
Paul Meador LVO *International Composer | Lead Tutor*
John Frederick Hudson PhD *Composer | Residency Director*
Edward Armitage BEM *Festival Curator | Co-Founder of JAM*
Sarah Armitage *Head of Marketing & Fundraising |*
Co-Founder of JAM
Garith Kay *Filmmaker*

02 GETTING THERE

Travel to and from Littlestone is the composer's responsibility. Upon arrival, your accommodation, tuition and time with Ryan Corbett are fully covered. To help with your journey, JAM is happy to collect you from Ashford International station.

03 GETTING AROUND

Littlestone and the surrounding Romney Marsh are best explored on foot. The beach is three to five minutes from your door, and we would encourage you to walk the coast between sessions.

A walk along the shore is often when new ideas surface or a passage of music settles. The sea air is as much a part of the work as anything that happens at the piano.

04 THE COTTAGE

Each composer has a private bedroom and shared bathroom. Bedding, pillows and towels are provided. WiFi is available throughout.

Not all rooms have a dedicated desk: the kitchen table and garden are both available as workspace, and sessions take place within walking distance.

Please let us know of any accessibility requirements ahead of arrival.

05 FOOD

Dinners on Monday and Saturday evenings are shared group meals provided by JAM: an essential part of the residency week. Meals throughout the week are self-catered. The fridge and cupboards will be stocked with options to cover all dietary requirements, and a local shop nearby has anything additional you might need. Cooking and eating together is, of course, warmly encouraged.

CHECKLIST

What to Bring

The conversations go deeper when there is something already on the page.

MUSICALLY

- **Musical ideas and sketches.** a handful of themes, gestures or sketches is enough to start with. Please do not bring a finished piece.
- **Questions.** Come with specific things you want to explore: technique, texture, notation, structure, resonance. The clearer your questions, the more productive the sessions will be.
- **A laptop or tablet with your notation software** (Sibelius, Dorico, etc.) and charger.
- **Manuscript paper and pencils**, if you prefer to sketch by hand.
- **Headphones.** Useful for late-night work without disturbing others.

PERSONALLY

- **Comfortable clothes** and walking shoes. The coast is three to five minutes from the cottage, and time on the beach is built into the weekend deliberately.
- **Smart-casual clothes** for group dinners.
- **Any personal medications.**
- **An open mind.** The week is designed to push you, so let it.

SAFE SPACE POLICY

JAM operates under its *Creating and Maintaining a Safe Space Policy*. A copy has been sent to the composers and the artist.

QUESTIONS

If anything is unclear before you arrive, please get in touch:
john@jamconcert.org



jamconcert.org