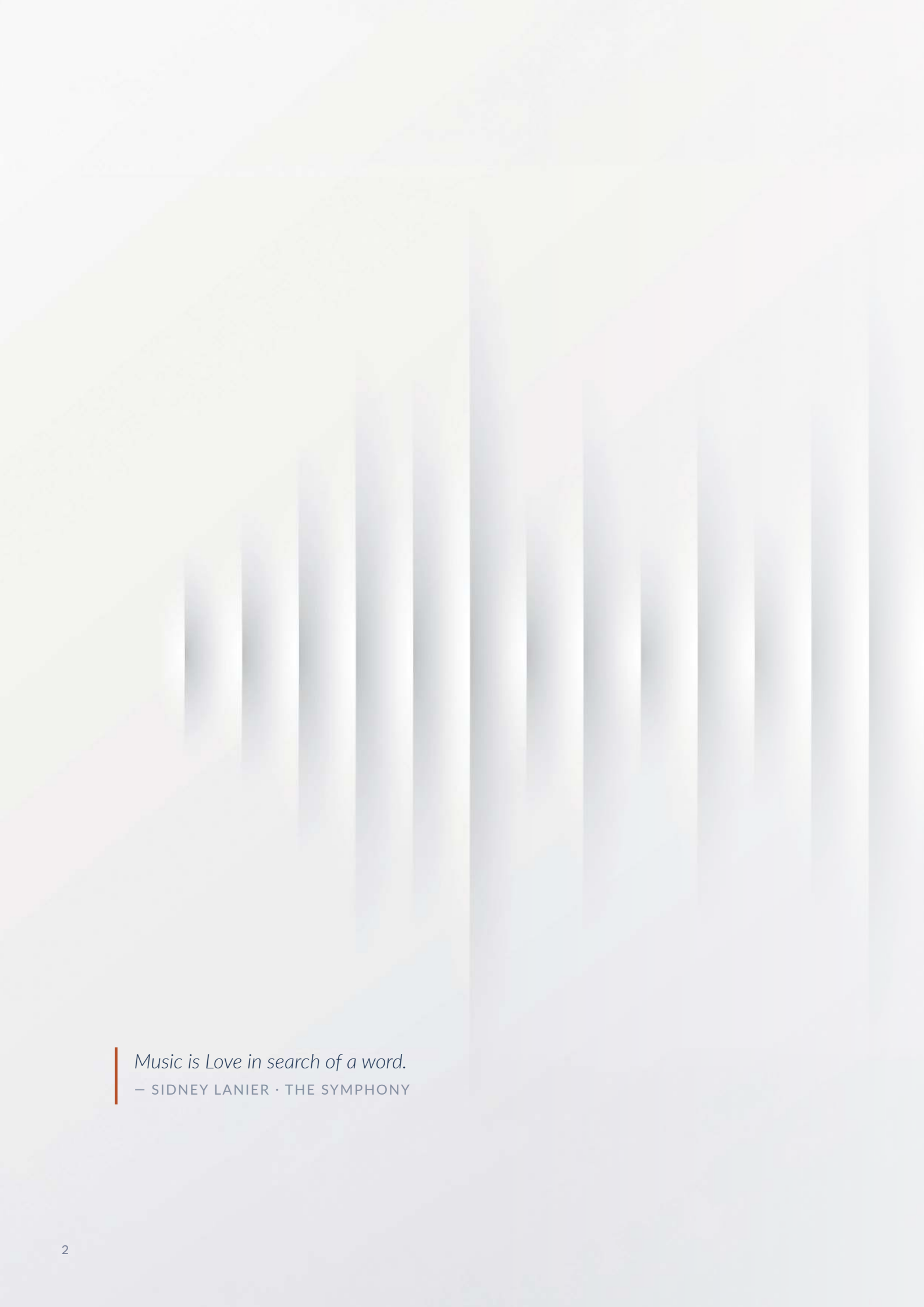




JAM COMPOSER INTENSIVE I • APRIL 2026

Sound Under the Hand

COMPOSING for PIANO • THOMAS KELLY



Music is Love in search of a word.
— SIDNEY LANIER · THE SYMPHONY

A LETTER FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Welcome to JAM's 2026 Composer Intensive I

Sound Under the Hand is something rare in contemporary musical life: an experimental laboratory on the Kent coast, where three composers spend a weekend living and breathing new music in one of the most immersive environments JAM has ever created: a coastal cottage, a piano and a virtuoso performer. Deliberately removed from the ordinary, the residency offers uninterrupted time to ask questions, to discover and to compose.

For over twenty-five years, JAM has placed living composers at the heart of British musical life: 46 commissions, 200+ world premieres and over 16 hours of new music — from Paul Mealer and Mark-Anthony Turnage to the emerging voices who represent the future of the art form. JAM has always believed that the relationship between composer and performer is where music is truly made. *Sound Under the Hand* is a new expression of that belief.

From the online sessions to the residential weekend in Littlestone and the London premiere in November 2026, three composers will work alongside pianist Thomas Kelly in a genuine creative partnership to create new five-minute works for solo piano. The outcome is not only three new pieces of music, but three composers who have pushed their craft further, and a body of work that will outlast the weekend that made it.

This is what JAM has always done.
And this is what JAM continues to do.

John Frederick Hudson PhD
Artistic Director, JAM

Composers

Three composers. Three days. One Piano.

Composers Elif Karlidag, Margarida Gonçalves and Will Frampton take up residence in a cottage on the Kent coast to write new five-minute works for solo piano alongside virtuoso pianist Thomas Kelly. Between the sea and the Steinway, 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.
ELIF KARLIDAG



02.
MARGARIDA GONÇALVES



03.
WILL FRAMPTON



THOMAS KELLY
Pianist | Associate Artist of JAM



JOHN FREDERICK HUDSON PhD
Composer | Residency Director

Sound Under the Hand

A residency that unfolds across the year: an online start in March, a weekend by the sea in April, refinement in May and a London premiere in November.

01

March
ONLINE

Mentoring session to develop your ideas and prepare for the residential weekend.

02

10–12 April
THE WEEKEND

Residential weekend on the Kent coast with pianist Thomas Kelly.

03

May
ONLINE

One-to-one tutorial to refine your work. Final delivery of your score.

04

November
LONDON

Professional London performance of your new work – professionally recorded.

10 APRIL

FRIDAY

Arrival & Welcome

17:15

Arrive Ashford International

Southeastern from St Pancras
JAM arranges collection to Littlestone

18:00

Arrive at the Cottage

Settle in · drop bags · brief tour

19:00

Welcome Dinner

No formal session

11 APRIL

SATURDAY

A Full Day with Thomas Kelly

09:00

Breakfast at your Cottage

10:00 - 12:00

Session I: The Instrument

“First Encounter”

Group masterclass with Thomas Kelly

Tea hosted by Angie Fry

Filmmaker present

12:00 - 12:30

Short Break

12:30 - 13:30

Industry Session

Ed & Sarah Armitage, Thomas Kelly

Filmmaker present

13:30 - 14:30

Lunch at your Cottage

14:30 - 16:40

Session II: The Material

“Into the Piece”

Group masterclass with Thomas Kelly

Includes a short break

Filmmaker will interview composers

16:40 - 17:00

The Debrief

Thomas Kelly & John Frederick Hudson

17:00 - 19:00

Free Time

Coast walk · writing · rest

19:00

Group Dinner

Free evening; no formal session

12 APRIL

SUNDAY

Composition & Departure

09:00

Breakfast at your Cottage

10:00 - 12:25

Composition Tutorials

Group masterclass

with John Frederick Hudson

Individual · 45 min each

12:25 - 13:00

Pack up & free time

13:00 - 13:45

Group Farewell Lunch

13:45 - 14:00

Next Steps

14:00 - 14:20

Collect belongings

14:20 - 14:55

Depart for Ashford International

JAM arranges transport

15:16

Depart Ashford International

Southeastern for St Pancras Station

Before You Arrive

From the moment you step off the train at Ashford International, everything is taken care of. Here is what to know before you get there.

01 THE TEAM

Thomas Kelly *Pianist | Associate Artist of JAM*
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*

02 GETTING THERE

Travel to and from Littlestone is the composer's responsibility. Upon arrival, your accommodation, all meals, tuition and time with Thomas Kelly 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 Friday and Saturday evenings are shared group meals: a central part of the weekend. Sunday lunch is a shared farewell. Breakfast and lunch on Saturday are self-catered: the fridge and cupboards will be stocked with options for all dietary requirements.

There is a local shop nearby for anything additional.

CHECKLIST

What to Bring

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

MUSICALLY

- **A rough draft of a new piano piece.** It need not be complete; even a handful of themes, gestures or sketches is enough.
- **Your music printed before you arrive,** or accessible on an iPad or laptop. Finalise your current draft beforehand to avoid relying on editing during sessions.
- **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 weekend 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

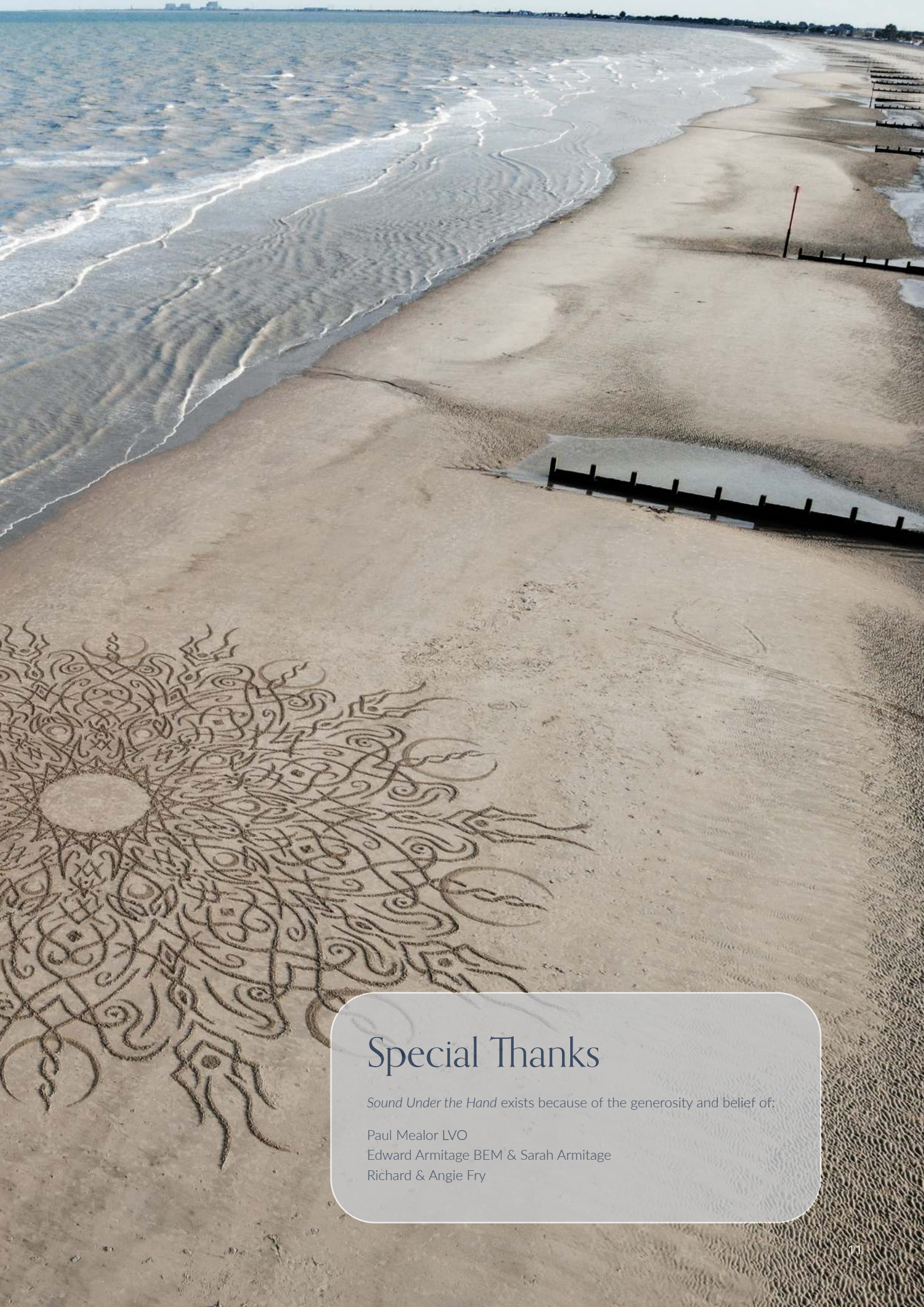
About JAM

For over twenty-five years, **JAM (John Armitage Memorial Trust)** has been a persistent force in British contemporary music: championing composers, commissioning new works and bringing fresh voices to audiences across the UK and beyond.

Founded in 2000, JAM has commissioned 46 new works spanning more than 16 hours of music, from established figures (such as Judith Bingham, Jonathan Dove, Thea Musgrave, Mark-Anthony Turnage and Paul Mealer) to a new generation of composers taking their first steps into the professional landscape. Through the annual *Call for Music* and our flagship concert *Music of Our Time* — which has opened each season at St Bride's Church, Fleet Street, for more than two decades — JAM has premiered over 200 works by early-career composers, shaping the future of British music one commission at a time.

Our reach extends far beyond the concert hall. JAM's free digital library of composer interviews and practical resources has been viewed over 150,000 times worldwide, and recent commissions have travelled globally. Paul Mealer's 2025 carol *A Humble Light* alone reached nearly 20,000 listeners in its first year.

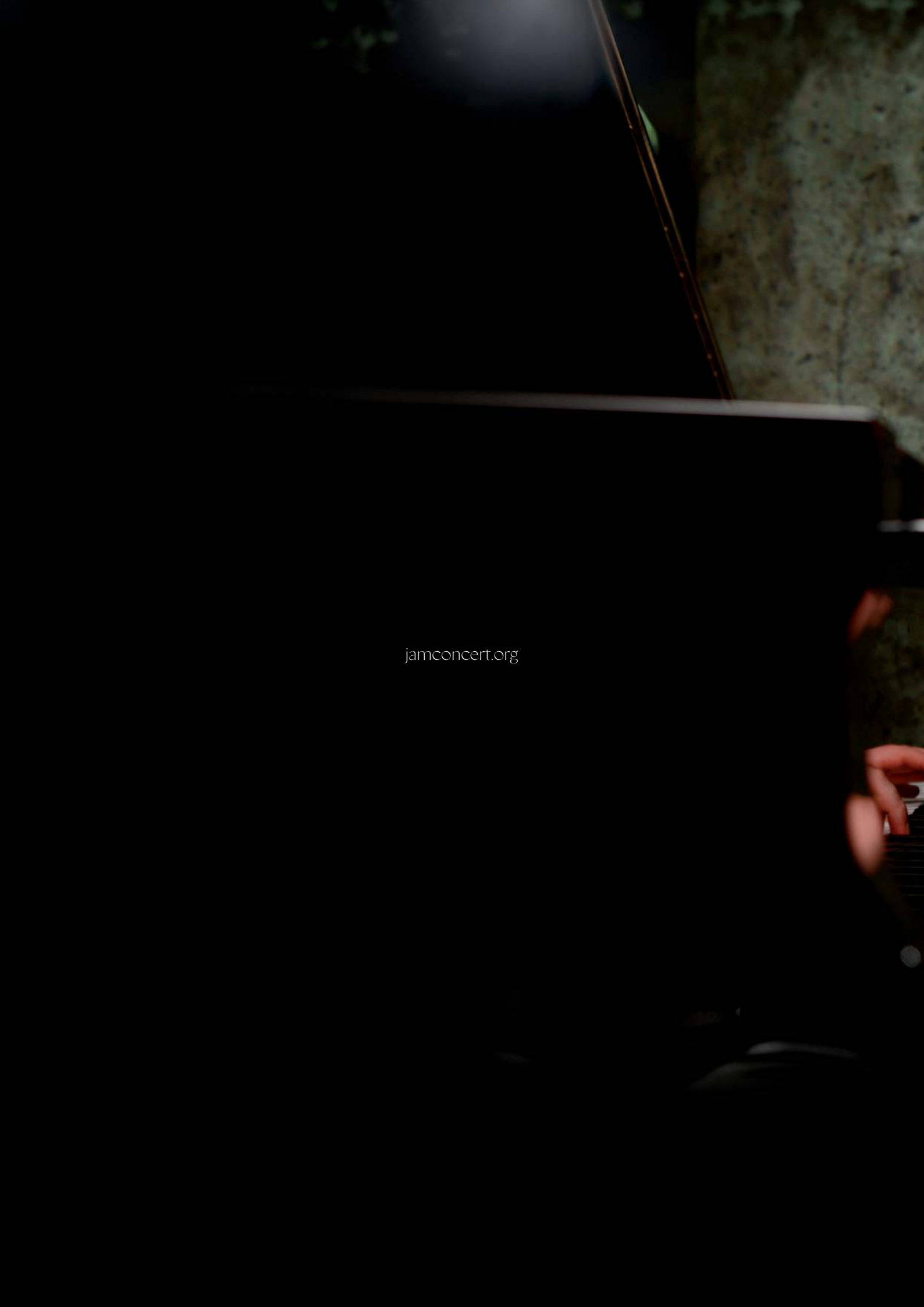
JAM exists to support artists, audiences and the music still to come.



Special Thanks

Sound Under the Hand exists because of the generosity and belief of:

Paul Mealor LVO
Edward Armitage BEM & Sarah Armitage
Richard & Angie Fry

A dark, moody photograph of a piano. The piano is mostly in shadow, with a bright light source from the top right creating a strong highlight on the right side of the keyboard and the person's hands. The background is dark and textured, possibly a wall or a curtain. The overall atmosphere is intimate and artistic.

jamconcert.org