



PAUL MEALOR
PRESIDENT

2021 IN REVIEW

AUTUMN 2021

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JAM has achieved so much this year in our mission to nurture and promote UK artists and dynamic education programs that create a sense of discovery and community. 2021 has been a slightly easier year than 2020, although Covid-19 continued to cast its shadow over the arts. For the second year running, we were unable to hold our annual *Music of Our Time* concert at St. Bride's, Fleet Street

in London, but JAM on the Marsh returned live, running from 8th to 18th July with restricted, socially-distanced audiences. Many of the sold out events were filmed for release via JAM's website, for FREE, from 22nd October to 25th November. It was the first festival that new Curator, Anna Tilbrook developed, and plans are well underway for her second festival in July 2022.



Changeling Theatre, St Mary in the Marsh, July 2021

MASTERCLASS SERIES

IN COMPOSITION FOR ORGAN AND BRASS QUINTET

Due to the postponement of our 2020 and 2021 *Music of Our Time* concerts, JAM is yet to perform music submitted during our *Call for Music* in 2019. Our aim is to perform them in March 2022 at St. Bride's Church, Fleet Street. At the end of 2020, JAM did not have a *Call for Music* but instead created its first *Masterclass Series* in composition.

The *Masterclass Series* is an inspirational, interactive composition course aimed at emerging, UK-based composers of any age. In collaboration with Onyx Brass and Francesca Massey (Director of Music at Rochester Cathedral), JAM filmed a series of videos on how to compose for brass quintet and organ, which we released for free via JAM's website and YouTube. We then put out a *Call for Sketches*, asking composers to submit their musical

ideas for either brass quintet or organ. Following a judging panel, six composers were invited to have their sketches workshopped by Onyx and Francesca, led by international composer Paul Mealor, as part of JAM on the Marsh.

The next stage was for the composers to develop their sketches into finished pieces, following the guidance from Paul, Francesca and Onyx. On 19th October, JAM returned to St. Bride's for a *Celebration Concert* where the six world premieres were performed and the first President's Commission was awarded to Janet Wheeler. This commission will be performed during our *Music of Our Time* concert on 23 March 2022 at St. Bride's, bringing our first *Masterclass Series* to its conclusion.

This first *Masterclass Series* proved to be a huge success. Given that JAM widely works with music written for choir, we have decided to run a second series next year in writing for choir. JAM is proud to announce that we will be collaborating with VOCES8 and the VOCES8 Foundation. Not only will VOCES8 workshop the sketches with the composers and give a performance in JAM on the Marsh, additionally Apollo5 and the VOCES8 Scholars will also work on this *Masterclass Series* with the successfully chosen composers. It is a huge thrill for all of us at JAM to work alongside the VOCES8 Foundation. Our hope is that this will give composers an inspirational impetus and the tools to successfully write choral music.



Paul Mealor leading Masterclass Series, Hythe, July 2021



Masterclass Series Participants, Hythe, July 2021



JAM Celebration Concert, London, October 2021



First President's Commission awarded to Janet Wheeler

JAM ON THE MARSH

CELEBRATING OUR 8TH FESTIVAL SEASON



Messiaen *Quartet for the End of Time*, Hythe, July 2021



Caritas Choir with Paul Mealor, Hythe, July 2021



Composers Jonathan Dove & Jack Oades, Hythe, July 2021



Stone Sculpture by Angela C. Smith, Hythe, July 2021

Last year, Michael Bawtree's second JAM on the Marsh as Festival Curator was entirely virtual due to Covid, so it was an absolute joy to welcome back live audiences this July.

The first two concerts were excellent introductions to our new Festival Curator, Anna Tilbrook, as she first performed Dvorak, Sally Beamish and Saint-Saëns' *The Carnival of the Animals* with fellow pianist Libby Burgess and actress Esme Patey-Ford, and then accompanied the great British soprano, Lesley Garrett. She was involved with two other performances including a song recital with James Gilchrist and performances of Messiaen's iconic *Quartet for the End of Time* and Elgar's *Piano Quintet in A minor*. Other hugely established artists that Anna introduced to the festival included Michael Collins (clarinet) and Kosmos Ensemble, alongside brilliant, young talent such as the Fibonacci Quartet, Ben Goldscheider (horn), Elizabeth Bass (harp) and Daniel Shao (flute).

It was a great privilege to host Canterbury Cathedral Choir's first visit to the festival, under its new Director of Music, David Newsholme. David brought an inventive programme of Bernstein's choral masterpiece *Chichester Psalms* plus works by Jonathan Dove, Judith Weir, Britten and Harris. All at JAM HQ look forward to many future visits by the Cathedral Choir and David.

JAM's President, Paul Mealor, one of the most performed composers in the world, is also a skilled choral conductor. It was a delight, therefore, to welcome him and his Caritas choir to JAM on the Marsh, giving the world premiere of Jack Oades and Grahame Davies' Festival Commission, *Between the Stormclouds and the Sea*. The text is a direct response to Grahame's visits to Romney Marsh over the last few years. It is clear from its mesmerising beauty that both the composer and librettist have fallen in love with this unique part of the UK.

JAM ON THE MARSH CONT.



Festival regulars will know that there is much more on offer than just music. 2021 included theatre and seven exhibitions with stone and wood sculpture, photography, print and a sculpture trail by returning land artist, Jon Foreman. The visual arts crossed the Romney Marsh from Hythe to Dungeness, including a photography exhibition by Jan Enkelmann of images of London in lockdown in the carriages of the Romney Hythe & Dymchurch Railway, bringing art to as much of our community as possible.

Changeling Theatre, St Mary in the Marsh, July 2021

JAM on the Marsh has been working with children since our very first festival. This has involved enabling children from the Romney Marsh primary schools to give world premieres of works commissioned for them, working with some of the UK's finest musicians and singers including Onyx Brass on many occasions, Canterbury Cathedral Girls' Choir and many others, and performing at very high levels with professional musicians during the festival.

Over the last two years, we have been unable to work with the schools and their children, significantly limiting musical development. As we approached this past July and Covid guidance changed, we were allowed to bring two different musical experiences to three schools: Kosmos Ensemble brought their thrilling, genre-crossing music, and London Mozart Players' Leader, Ruth Rogers, and her young son, Alexander, performed *Ferdinand the Bull*. The children loved these visits and begged us and the performers to return... which we will!



Ruth Rogers education visit, Dymchurch, July 2021



Kosmos Ensemble education visit, New Romney, July 2021

JAM ON THE MARSH: VIRTUAL

Following the success of last year's virtual festival, eight concerts and six exhibitions from this year's JAM on the Marsh were filmed for release in JAM on the Marsh: VIRTUAL running, for FREE, from 22nd October to 25th November, all accessible via www.jamconcert.org. JAM's *Celebration Concert*, with six world premieres from the *Masterclass Series*, was also filmed and included in this autumnal offering.

This free, virtual release by JAM featured remarkable music making by some of the UK's finest players, ensembles and singers. How many arts organisations gift their audiences releases by the likes of London Mozart Players with James Gilchrist (tenor) and Ben Goldscheider (horn) performing Britten's *Serenade for Tenor, Horn and Strings*; Messiaen's *Quartet for the End of Time* by Michael Collins (clarinet), Simon Blendis (violin), Sally Pendlebury (cello) and Anna Tilbrook (piano); Paul Mealor conducting his professional choir Caritas performing one of his finest works, *Now Sleeps the Crimson Petal*; introduce emerging artists alongside the established like Elizabeth Bass (harp) with the Canterbury Cathedral Choir? We do at JAM, and we are truly proud of this offering.

In addition to this, JAM will re-release all nine virtual concerts and six exhibitions in the week between Christmas and New Year; an excellent way to recapture the summer sun in the midst of the long festive break.



Canterbury Cathedral Choir, Hythe, July 2021



Caritas Choir with Paul Mealor, Hythe, July 2021



London Mozart Players with tenor James Gilchrist, New Romney, July 2021

JAM IN 2022

ENABLING · PROMOTING · SUPPORTING
MULTI-ARTS IN THE UK FOR 20 YEARS

Looking forward to next year, JAM will resume its *Music of Our Time* concert at St. Bride's Church, Fleet Street in London on Wednesday 23rd March at 7:30pm. This will include the world premiere of Janet Wheeler's President's Commission, the London premiere of Jack Oades' *Between the Stormclouds and the Sea* and, at last, the music programmed for our 2020 London concert. The concert will be performed by The Chapel Choir of Selwyn College, Cambridge, Onyx Brass, Simon Hogan (organ), Mark LeBrocq (tenor) and Michael Bawtree (conductor).

Leading up to JAM on the Marsh 2022, JAM will recommence its education work with schools from January, when singing coach Rebecca Lodge will begin weekly visits to two Romney Marsh primary schools. Rebecca will lead afterschool singing clubs, bringing vibrant music to the children. This project will culminate in a performance in the festival with the children singing Timothy Jackson's *Opening Night* with Onyx Brass. This fantastic, twenty-minute work was co-commissioned by JAM and Onyx Brass and it is a particular joy to revisit it.



Michael Collins, Ivychurch, July 2021



JAM on the Marsh will celebrate its 9th Festival Season from Thursday 7th to Sunday 17th July. Anna Tilbrook's second festival will open with Changeling Theatre's *The Importance of Being Earnest* and a weekend of chamber music including Shostakovich's *Piano Quintet in G minor* and a concert by VOCES8. Other highlights include Michael Collins returning to the festival to give the world premiere of our Festival Commission, Judith Bingham's *Clarinet Concerto*, alongside Copland's *Clarinet Concerto* and the festival debut of the London Tango Quintet. Whilst music remains central to the festival, visual arts will be ever-present including a trail of mosaics across all 14 mediaeval Romney Marsh churches and several exhibitions.



JAM Celebration Concert, London, October 2021



VOCES8 coming in 2022



Masterclass Series, London, October 2021



Onxy Brass, London, October 2021



JAM on the Marsh Team, Littlestone, July 2021

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— THE FIFTH CONTINENT —



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