



YEAR IN REVIEW

2022



For the first time since 2019, JAM has been able to run our full programme of live events stretching from March to October. This has included our annual **Music of Our Time** concert, our second **Masterclass Series** (with VOCE8), a wonderful and vibrant **JAM on the Marsh** festival, multiple commissions and our Masterclass Series concert.

JAM presented its annual **Music of Our Time** concert in March, at St Bride's Church, Fleet Street. This concert gave us the opportunity to perform five successful submissions that we received from JAM's *Call for Music* in the autumn of 2019. The long wait for this programme to be performed was, of course due to Covid, which postponed planned concerts in 2020 and '21. JAM's annual *Call for Music*, an open call for composers to submit their music, is at the very heart of JAM's remit of enabling emerging composers. The March programme also included the world premiere of Janet Wheeler's *Up in the Morning Early* and the London premiere of Jack Oades' *Between the Stormclouds and the Sea*, both commissioned by JAM. Fulfilling JAM's desire to perform the submitted and commissioned pieces to a live audience was an utter joy.

2022 HAS BEEN A TRIUMPH FOR JAM

During Music of Our Time, JAM was able to honour and recognise one of JAM's staunchest supporters, Sarah MacDonald, Director of Music in Chapel of Selwyn College, Cambridge. Sarah has been involved with JAM for 20 years, preparing the choir for every concert that we have done together, before handing it over to conductors like Nicholas Cleobury, Stephen Layton, Christopher Robinson and Michael Bawtree. She has also directed multiple concerts for JAM herself in Cambridge, London and JAM on the Marsh. Additionally, Sarah has been a member of JAM's Music Panel since 2003. In recognition of her support of JAM, Sarah was presented with the first President's Award by JAM's President, Paul Mealor. This was a real and wonderful opportunity to say 'Thank You' to a true member of the JAMily.

Another first happened during Music of Our Time; we heard the first President's Commission, Janet Wheeler's *Up in the Morning Early*. This commission was presented by Paul Mealor during JAM's first Masterclass Series concert in October 2022. Both the President's Award and the President's Commission will become annual recognitions from Paul and JAM.



Sarah MacDonald and Edward Armitage, Chairman of JAM



Sarah MacDonald received the first President's Commission presented by Paul Meador, President of JAM

The Choir of Selwyn College, Cambridge



“...THERE WAS AN ENTICING AIR OF EXPECTATION AND A COLLECTIVE, PALPABLE EXCITEMENT AMONGST THOSE PRESENT AS AUDIENCE AND PERFORMERS ALIKE.”

- AUDIENCE MEMBER

Jack Oades, composer, listening to his *Between the Stormclouds and the Sea*

Jane Shearsmith, *narrator*

Ryan Linham, *trumpet*





Recording Masterclass Series videos with VOCES8

DEVELOPING AS A COMPOSER DOESN'T JUST MEAN HAVING OPPORTUNITIES, IT ALSO MEANS HAVING COMMUNITIES OF FRIENDS AND MUSICIANS AROUND YOU, AND ALSO FEELING VALUED AND SUPPORTED.

THIS IS DEFINITELY WHAT MADE THE EXPERIENCE WITH JAM SO UNIQUE."

- COMPOSER

Workshop with Masterclass Series composers and VOCES8 in JAM on the Marsh



JAM has been supporting and enabling new music since 2000. JAM's **Masterclass Series**, started in 2021, was created to help composers better understand how to write for certain forces. Our aim was to make this series an inspirational, interactive composition course aimed at emerging UK-based composers of any age. Our 2021 Series supported composers in how to write for brass quintet and organ. Over this year-long project we worked with Onyx Brass, organist Francesca Massey and international composer, Paul Mealor.

MASTERCLASS SERIES

2022's Masterclass Series has been a fabulous collaboration between JAM and the **VOCES8 Foundation**. Together with VOCES8, we created a series of 20 masterclass videos covering practical "dos and don'ts" of choral writing, written by John Frederick Hudson. These are freely available to view via JAM's website, with over 6,000 views to date. We then opened a *Call for Sketches*. From these sketches six composers were given the opportunity of having their compositional ideas workshopped by VOCES8 and Paul Mealor, during JAM on the Marsh in July.

The next stage was for the composers to develop their sketches into finished pieces. Duly done, JAM returned to St Bride's for a celebration concert on 12 October, when the six world premieres were performed by the wonderful VOCES8 Scholars, after which the President's Commission was awarded. Given the quality of the pieces, JAM decided to award two commissions: the President's Commission to Tara Creme will be premiered at JAM's Music of Our Time concert in March 2023 and a Festival Commission to Christopher Churcher, which will be premiered in JAM on the Marsh's 10th anniversary festival in July 2023.

Tara Creme and Christopher Churcher, winners of the President's Commission Award



JAM ON THE MARSH

For the first time since July 2019, **JAM on the Marsh** was able to welcome back full, live audiences to the glorious Romney Marsh. Over 11 days of Anna Tilbrook's second year as Festival Curator, we were delighted to have many sell-out performances from some of the finest performers from the UK and beyond, with the weather shining favourably on proceedings.

For the first time, the festival visited all 14 of the Romney Marsh's wonderful mediaeval churches, including seven exhibitions, 11 concerts, a day of spoken words with two poetry recitals and an outdoor theatre performance of *The Importance of Being Earnest*, and a series of short films. Anna's programming included many festival favourites like VOCES8, Changeling Theatre and the London Mozart Players, alongside world-class performers making their festival debuts such as singer Lucy Crowe with James Gilchrist, the London Tango Quintet and the Leader and Principal Cellist of the Oslo Philharmonic, Elise Batnes and Louisa Tuck.

Fibonacci Quartet



VOCES8



Holst Singers





James Gilchrist, *tenor*



Lucy Crowe, *soprano*

“JAM ON THE MARSH IS AN ABSOLUTE GEM!

**FANTASTIC TO HEAR PROFESSIONAL PERFORMERS DO IMAGINATIVE
AND ATTRACTIVE PROGRAMMES IN WONDERFUL LOCAL VENUES.”**

- AUDIENCE MEMBER

Changeling Theatre



Craig Ogden, *guitarist*



Audience Member





The Marsh Churches' Mosaics Trail exhibition

The visual arts played a significant part in the festival, with seven exhibitions being displayed across the Marsh including two photography exhibitions, abstract oil paintings, ceramics inspired by space, stone sculpture, a sound installation and a Mosaics Trail. The latter concluded a two-year collaboration with Teach Me, run by Yolanda Houston, supported by The Fifth Continent and The Romney Marsh Historic Churches Trust. All 14 of the Marsh's mediaeval churches' mosaics were designed by Yolanda and created by the local community. These mosaics were donated to each church at the end of the project.

JAM's second short film competition, in collaboration with Screen South, culminated in the first public screening of films made by the finalists of the competition. Eight films were shown and critiqued by industry professionals, with James Pearce's *Time* being announced as the winner. Following this award, the top 3 films were shown preceding the feature film at Cinemarsh for the duration of the festival, giving the public the opportunity to see films made by emerging talent.

"JAM ON THE MARSH IS THE HIGHLIGHT OF MY YEAR."

- AUDIENCE MEMBER

Angela C Smith, sculptor

Pottery exhibition by Penny Graham



PRIMARY SCHOOL EDUCATION

JAM on the Marsh has worked year-round with children since our first festival in 2014. This has enabled children from Romney Marsh primary schools to give world premieres of works commissioned for them and to work with some of the UK's finest, professional musicians and singers during the festival.

Over the last two years we have been unable to work with the schools and their children, significantly limiting musical development. In January 2022, we resumed working with children at St Nicholas Primary School, New Romney and Brookland Primary. Led by Rebecca Lodge, we set-up weekly, after-school singing clubs in each school. Under Rebecca's guidance the children learned Timothy Jackson's *Opening Night*. This 25-minute work, full of fun and frolics, was performed by the children, Rebecca and Onyx Brass in JAM on the Marsh, a highlight of the festival.

Performance of Opening Night in JAM on the Marsh



JAM VIRTUAL

With live audiences very much back to full capacity, JAM reduced its virtual offering in 2022. It released 12 performances, alongside seven exhibitions and the winning film from our short film competition. All of these showcases were released, for free via JAM's website at the end of the summer. This virtual release featured some remarkable music making by some of the country's finest players, ensembles and singers. We were delighted to be able to bring these videos to audience members who were unable to come to Romney Marsh for the third year. These were viewed and enjoyed by people across the UK from Aberdeen to Taunton and across the world. Of course, nothing can compare to the real, live experience.



“SADLY MY WIFE IS NOW VERY DISABLED AND UNWELL. WE BOOKED FOR THE LIVE EVENTS BUT COULD ONLY GET TO ONE. WE THOROUGHLY ENJOYED CATCHING UP WITH JAM VIRTUAL.

THE MUSIC BRINGS MY WIFE SO MUCH CALM.”

- AUDIENCE MEMBER

ANNOUNCING OUR NEW FESTIVAL CURATOR

2022's hugely successful JAM on the Marsh festival would not have been possible without the hard work of Festival Curator, **Anna Tilbrook**. She guided the festival through two difficult years, post Covid, with huge success, bringing creative programming performed by some of the greatest artists. The role of Festival Curator is a two-year role, so 2022 was Anna's final festival. But rest assured that, as Anna is a firm festival favourite, she will return as a pianist alongside the Sacconi Quartet next year and for many years beyond.



Following Anna as Festival Curator was never going to be an easy task. For the next two years, we are delighted to announce the 2023-24 Festival Curator: the esteemed conductor, **Nicholas Cleobury**. Nick has been involved with JAM for nearly 20 years, having first conducted for JAM in 2004. Not only is Nick a highly regarded conductor, but he founded and led Canterbury's Sounds New Festival, founded the Britten Sinfonia, led Britten in Oxford, Oxford's response to Britten's centenary in 2013 and most recently was Head of Opera at the Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University, Brisbane. Having Nick at the helm for the next two years guarantees festivals of the very highest calibre.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2023

Looking forward to next year, the *Music of Our Time* concert will launch JAM's 2023 season at St Bride's, Fleet Street on Tuesday 21 March at 7:30pm. This will include the world premiere of Tara Creme's President's Commission and music chosen from JAM's recent *Call for Music*. The concert will be performed by The Chapel Choir of Selwyn College, Cambridge, Onyx Brass, Simon Hogan (organ) and Michael Bawtree (conductor). Included in the programme will be the world premiere of *ONYX 23* by Mark-Anthony Turnage, co-commissioned by JAM and Onyx Brass.

Leading up to JAM on the Marsh 2023, JAM will continue its education work with schools from January, with singing coach Rebecca Lodge continuing her weekly visits to Romney Marsh primary schools. These afterschool singing clubs, bringing vibrant music to the children, will lead them to be part of JAM's largest commission ever: *The Sky Engine* by Richard Peat (composer) and Timothy Knapman (librettist). This one-hour work is scored for two soloists – Rebecca Afonwy-Jones (mezzo) and Julian Close (bass); Kudzanayi Chiwawa (narrator); primary school children; the Canterbury Cathedral Choir and London Mozart Players (LMP), stage managed by Thomas Henderson, conducted by Michael Bawtree. The Romney Marsh community will be invited to join JAM and LMP in performing in this piece, playing alongside LMP. This will involve taking part in rehearsals during the week commencing 10 July. If you know anyone who would like to be involved playing side by side with LMP in this huge project, they will need to be grade 5 players, please ask them to get in touch with JAM. *The Sky Engine* will receive its world premiere on Friday 14 July in New Romney, with an estimated 100 performers on stage.

JAM on the Marsh will run from Tuesday 4 – Sunday 16 July 2023. Nicholas Cleobury's first festival will open with Changeling Theatre's production of Shakespeare's *Love's Labour's Lost* in the wonderful setting of the Old School Garden, New Romney, after which event after stimulating event will come hot on each other's heels. Expect Anna Tilbrook performing with the Sacconi Quartet; one of the world's finest guitarists, Craig Ogden; exhibitions of ceramics, photography, and paintings; one of the best choirs from the USA; *The Rite of Spring* and, of course, *The Sky Engine*... These and more will be part of JAM on the Marsh 2023.

MUSIC OF OUR TIME

TUESDAY, 21 MARCH , 7:30PM
ST BRIDE'S CHURCH, FLEET STREET

JAM ON THE MARSH

4 - 16 JULY 2023
ROMNEY MARSH, KENT
(LESS THAN AN HOUR FROM LONDON)

"I AM VERY VERY IMPRESSED WITH THE
RANGE OF JAM...FROM PRIMARY SCHOOLS,
FILM, LOCAL ARTISTS AND MUSIC....YOU ARE
BRINGING ON THE NEXT GENERATION."

- AUDIENCE MEMBER

Changeling Theatre



THANK YOU

As recent events have shown, financial support for the arts gets ever harder. Without your generosity JAM could not enable new art and commissions, education projects, support performers and artists, and give first class performances, events, and exhibitions to our audience. Thank you for your continuing support this year.

Cyrill Ibrahim and Grahame Davies



Patricia Rolfe, *Trustee* and Susan Pilcher, *photographer*



JAM Team: Claudia Ott, Edward Armitage, John Frederick Hudson, James Aburn





After concert celebration at JAM on the Marsh

Rebecca Afonwy-Jones, mezzo soprano



Audience applause



Sarah MacDonald and David Gordon-Shute



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JAM is exceedingly grateful to the following individuals and organisations whose generosity enables our creative work.

If you would like to find out more about supporting JAM, please visit jamconcert.org/support

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President of JAM

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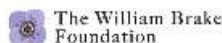
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