

ICONS & LEGENDS

SongEasel's 2022 Series



Artistic Director's Welcome



Icons & Legends: What comes to your mind when you consider this topic? I have no doubt that it will evoke a wonderful range of subjective responses, and I would love to hear about them! For me it elicits memories of people I admire greatly, both musicians and those from other walks of life... stories that excite, inspire and transport, but also physical objects that symbolise a connection to a bygone era or a dear person: departed or far away. These powerful reactions are a restorative symbol after a challenging few years, and they motivate me to become a better version of myself.

The event that inspired this series of recitals was a true meeting of minds. I was fascinated to learn of this event which celebrated the premiere of Stravinsky's *Le Renard* in Paris, as referenced in Richard Davenport-Hines' book, *A Night at the Majestic*. Hosted by philanthropic Londoners Violet and Sydney Schiff, the evening included Proust, Joyce, Picasso, Stravinsky and Diaghilev... as well as significant quantities of drink, the stars being fashionably late, and occasional moments of near hostility!

A night such as this would have been impossible during the first few years of the current pandemic, and I leapt at the chance to explore this subject in detail, one which fundamentally represents the building of social ties and true human connections. It has been an incredibly exciting programme to curate, drawing inspiration from this iconic and legendary dinner meeting with programmes that use poetry by James Joyce (Ailish Tynan, 19th June), Poulenc's illustration of Eluard's Pablo Picasso (Laurent Naouri, 7th April), and elements of *Le Renard* (Ensemble Sovrennik, 28th June). Less directly, the programme explores belonging, including from the perspective of war and exile (Markus Matheis & Lynda Nwabudike, 15th May), a variety of interpretations of the word 'Icons' (Satriya Krisna, 1st May), and the flamboyant gestures of Winnaretta Singer with inspiration from Greek legends (Fleur Barron, 19th May).

Our Fringe and Young Artist Programme delve into the sense of belonging, with performances in Ninth Life Pub, Catford (30th April) and Rocketvan Coffee Shop (13th May) as well as performances at Ageing Well Lewisham Befrienders meetings and a Ukrainian Refugees Aid concert in the Oxford Proms. Look out for social media snippets detailing what captures the imagination of our artists as they explore our series theme, and I look forward to seeing lots of you at performances over the coming months.

APRIL



7.30pm, 7th April: Natural Legends
BLACKHEATH HALLS SE3 9RQ

Laurent Naouri (bass-baritone)
Jocelyn Freeman (piano)
Anna Ovsyanikova (speaker)

**Poulenc, Crickboom, Chaminade,
Fauré, Ravel, Ibert**

MAY



12noon, 1st May: Icons
ST LAURENCE CHURCH, CATFORD SE6 2TS

Satriya Krisna (tenor)
Jocelyn Freeman (piano)

Schubert, Wolf, Fauré, F. X. Seotopo

MAY



12noon, 15th May: Belonging
ST LAURENCE CHURCH, CATFORD SE6 2TS

Markus Matheis (baritone)
Lynda Nwabudike (soprano)
Jocelyn Freeman (piano)

**Schubert, Schumann, Milhaud,
Bankole**



7.30pm, 19th May: Songs of Sappho
BLACKHEATH HALLS SE3 9RQ

Fleur Barron (mezzo soprano)
Jocelyn Freeman (piano)

**Brahms, Gurney, Hahn, Vercoe,
Strohl, Debussy**

JUNE



12noon, 19th June: Meeting of Minds
ST LAURENCE CHURCH, CATFORD SE6 2TS

Ailish Tynan (soprano)
Jocelyn Freeman (piano)

**Poulenc, Copland, Bridge, Barber,
John Cage**

Supported by The Leche Trust



7.30pm, 28th June: The Poet's Echo
BLACKHEATH HALLS SE3 9RQ

Ensemble Sovrennik

Gemma Summerfield (soprano)
Gareth Brynmor John (baritone)
Abi Hyde-Smith (violin), Jocelyn Freeman (piano)

Britten, Stravinsky, Prokofiev, Shostakovich

FRINGE EVENTS



Partnering with Ninth Life Pub, Catford to launch the project, which is described as Le Chat Noir meets feline-inspired quirky SE6 pub, SongEasel presents star Spanish soprano Lorena Paz Nieto alongside SongEasel curator and pianist Jocelyn Freeman, bringing French salon songs into the heart of South East London's favourite hospitality venues.

The programme will be repeated in Rocketvan Coffee Shop and Bar in May.

30th April @ 6pm NINTH LIFE PUB CATFORD SE6

13th May @ 6pm ROCKETVAN COFFEE SHOP SE17

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FREE ENTRY!*

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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Schools' workshops and lunch club recitals... Join our mailing list to find out more.

Supported by the Lee Educational Charity of William Hatcliffe

YOUNG ARTIST PROGRAMME

6th April: Laurent Naouri Masterclass in Elephant & Castle

5th June: Ailish Tynan Masterclass in
St Laurence Church Catford
Supported by The Leche Trust

Professional Performance Platforms in partnership with Ageing Well Lewisham's Befrienders at The Grove, Sydenham
May 17, June 14 and 28

For more information please visit
<https://www.jocelynfreeman.com/2021/08/23/songeasel-young-artists/>

FRIENDS OF SONGEASEL

We rely on the support of our Friends: without this amazing generosity, our work simply would not be possible.

We invite you to join the Friends of SongEasel by supporting an aspect of the series from less than £5 per month. Pick up a leaflet or send us an email for more information.

***JOIN OUR FAMILY OF FRIENDS:
SHARE OUR JOURNEY OF SONG!***

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<https://www.jocelynfreeman.com/2022/03/14/icons-legends/>

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