

Sunday 5 June | 7pm | Britten Studio, Snape Maltings

Britten Pears Contemporary Ensemble

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Slide Action trombone quartet

Emily Thorner soprano

Lotte Betts-Dean mezzo-soprano

Malachy Frame baritone

Jonathan Berman conductor

Charlotte Corderoy assistant conductor

Mark-Anthony Turnage (b. 1960)

A Furious Fanfare (2019), world premiere 1'

Harrison Birtwistle (1934–2022)

Carmen Arcadiae Mechanicae Perpetuum
(1977–8) 9'

Blair Boyd (b. 1990)

Behind the Pattern (2019), world premiere 5'

Text: Christina Thatcher, after Charlotte Perkins Gilman
(1860–1935)

Laura Shipsey (b. 1991)

The Time Being (2019), world premiere 6'

Alex Paxton (b. 1990)

Spudspangle (2019), world premiere 5'

Euchar Gravina (b. 1994)

alde initials (2019), world premiere 5'

Theo Chandler (b. 1992)

In the Divining Lair (2019), world premiere 6'

Text: Jacquelynn Berton (b. 1991)

Laura Shipsey (b. 1991)

Crossing Songs (2022, Britten Pears Arts
commission), world premiere 7'

Text: Rabindranath Tagore (1861–1941)

i Lunar

ii Chants

iii Rainbow Ocean

Robin Haigh (b. 1993)

THE DREAMERS (2022, Britten Pears Arts
commission), world premiere 20'

i Animato

ii Calmo

iii Ritmico

iv Semplice, con dignitá

v Allegro energico

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Blair Boyd: Behind the Pattern

Text: adapted by Christina Thatcher © 2016
after the short story, *The Yellow Wallpaper*
by Charlotte Perkins Gilman

There are things
that nobody sees but me.

Behind the pattern
the dim shapes grow clearer, always the same
shape, only very numerous.

It is like a woman, one but many. I can see her,
almost hear her.

Theo Chandler: In The Divining Lair

Text: Jacquelynn Berton (b. 1991)

PSYCHIC [dangling crystal over tarot, the crystal
swinging evenly over a triangle of cards]: The
amulet is restless – the hermit, the hierophant, the
hanged man.

Your gaze, eternally focused within, yet unseeing.
You seek, yet reject what you find. Eyeless, you
walk toward oblivion. Yet you claim no conflict, no
question.

Are you not who you say you are?

CLIENT: I am no one. I was passing by –

PSYCHIC [amulet circling faster]:

But the unquestioning do not seek my counsel. Nor
the happy, nor the sure, nor the sane...

CLIENT: I didn't realize

PSYCHIC [faster]: Neither do the self-possessed –

CLIENT: But I am self-possessed!

PSYCHIC [faster still]: What do you fear?

[amulet suddenly stops, PSYCHIC freezes in place,
CLIENT addresses audience]

CLIENT:

What do I fear? I fear the nameless things... The
legacy unlived. Waking under a late afternoon sun,
the day wasted, time lost. Long shadows washing
the walls. The empty house.

The floorboards glowing gold, dust illuminated,
night still hours off, the tightening in the throat.
The light, the endless, waning light...

[CLIENT suddenly snaps out of it, turns back to
PSYCHIC, who begins moving again, the amulet
swinging]

PSYCHIC: Tell me! What do you fear –

CLIENT: I fear nothing.

Laura Shipsey: Crossing Songs

Text: fragments of text by Rabindranath Tagore (1861–1941) from *Stray Birds*, *The Astronomer*, and *Gitanjali*.

Lunar

You will find, eternal traveller, marks of your footsteps across my songs
The crossing of a sea
I only said “when in the evening the round full moon gets entangled in the branches of
that Kadam tree, couldn’t somebody catch it?”

*Stray Birds 306, 242, and The Astronomer **

Chants

Not hammer strikes
Dark Night
By what dim shore of the ink black river, by what far edge of the frowning forest,
through what mazy depth of gloom
The little flower lies in the dust. It sought the path of the butterfly

Stray Birds 126, 120, Gitanjali, and Stray Birds 264

Rainbow Ocean

Be still, my heart, these great trees are prayers
This life is the crossing of a sea, where we meet in the same narrow ship. [Now] we reach
the shore, and go to our different worlds
Go now, [and carry her with you]

Stray Birds 95 and 242

* for each song the source of the text is listed in order of appearance, one line per source.
[boxed text] indicates an alteration or addition of my own.

Britten Pears Contemporary Ensemble:

Violin I Holly Nelson
Violin II Amalia Young
Viola Justin Julian
Cello Zosia Jagodzinska
Bass Rosie Salvucci

Flute Svea Guémy
Oboe Isabella Pincombe
Clarinet Emily Wilson
Bassoon Edoardo Casali

French horn Will Padfield
Trumpet Jacob Rosenberg
Trombone Raddon Stephenson

Percussion Kalle Hakosalo,
Toril Azzalini-Machecler
Harp Helena Ricci
Piano/celeste Mikaela Livadiotis

Slide Action:

Trombones Benny Vernon, Huw Evans,
Jamie Tweed, Josh Cirtina