

## Music Across the Pond presents:

**Gile Underwood, bass-baritone**

Monday, 16 June 2025

### Masterclass Programme:

"Monica's Waltz" from *The Medium*

Gian Carlo Menotti  
(1911-2007)

Natalie Morell, soprano  
Gregory Martin, piano

"Chanson à boire" from *Don Quichotte à Dulcinée*

Maurice Ravel  
(1875 - 1937)

Liam Lynch, baritone  
Gregory Martin, piano

By a Bier-side

Ivor Gurney  
(1890-1937)

Michael Banda, baritone  
Gabriel Harlan, piano

"Zueignung" from *8 Gedichte aus "Letzte Blätter"* Op 10, No 1

Richard Strauss  
(1864 -1949)

Rebecca Crane, soprano  
Gabriel Harlan, piano

"Ich folge dir Gleichfalls" from *St. John's Passion*

J.S. Bach  
(1685-1750)

Ellie Jones, soprano  
Edgar Collett, piano

**BREAK**

“Anzoleta dopo la regatta” from *La Regatta*

Gioachino Rossini  
(1792-1868)

Kathleen Fritter, mezzo-soprano  
Simone Luti, piano

“È la solita storia del pastore” from *L’arlesiana*

Francesco Cilea  
(1866-1950)

Adam Funderburg, tenor  
Simone Luti, piano

“Svegliatevi nel core” from *Giulio Cesare*

George F. Handel  
(1685-1759)

Ada Sadlier, mezzo-soprano  
Simone Luti, piano

“Mein sehnen, mein wännen” from *Die Tote Stadt*

Erich Korngold  
(1897-1957)

Gabriel Banda, baritone  
Simone Luti, piano

## ABOUT GILES UNDERWOOD:



**Giles Underwood** has been Director of Music at University College, Oxford since 2013. He has a varied career as a bass-baritone, voice teacher, vocal coach and conductor. Giles began his musical training as a chorister at Westminster Abbey and went on to study Biology at Magdalen College, Oxford, where he was also an Academical Clerk. He then worked professionally as a singer, before enrolling onto first the postgraduate and then opera course at The Guildhall School of Music and Drama, studying under Professor Susan McCulloch. He took up the post of Professor of Singing at the Royal Academy of Music in 2016, where he teaches individuals at all levels and runs a course in English Song for postgraduate singers. Before that he taught at The Guildhall School of Music and Drama for a number of years.

His opera students have gone on to young artist programmes in Helsinki, Vienna, Zurich and Florence, as well as the Opéra du Rhin and the National Opera Studio. He runs a thriving teaching practice in Oxford. He taught in Cambridge from 2004-13. He has led workshops and education projects for The Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, The London Symphony

Chorus, Cor de Cambra of Barcelona, the Granada Festival and Chorworks in Washington DC. He has had residencies at The College of New Jersey, Duke University, Princeton and The College-Conservatory of Music, Cincinnati in the US. He has been a teacher on Rodolfus Choral Courses every year since 1995 and has taught for the National Youth Choirs of Great Britain.

Giles has sung with many of the UK's leading vocal ensembles, including I Fagiolini, Magnificat, Contrapunctus and Gallicantus. His solo work has taken him around the world, and he has sung roles in operas by Britten, Mozart and Puccini, as well as by James MacMillan, Edward Dudley Hughes, Cavalli, Paisiello, Salieri and Martinu.

In 2014 he founded the instrumental group, The Martlet Ensemble at Univ. This was followed in 2017 by the solo voice ensemble Martlet Voices. These outfits have the primary purpose to offer student musicians the opportunity to play and sing alongside professionals. The groups have performed more than two dozen different themed programmes, singing music from Cornysh and Monteverdi to newly commissioned works, and playing some of the great chamber music from Brahms and Schubert to Finzi, Wagner, Debussy and Mozart.

## ABOUT OUR PIANISTS:



Applauded in London by the Sunday Times for performances of "great panache," pianist **Gregory Martin**'s playing has been called "filled with imagination, fire, and lyricism...a virtuoso performance" and praised for its "mature and subtle understanding, all the while handling formidable technical difficulties with ease and fluency." He has been featured throughout the United States, Europe, and Japan as both a soloist and chamber musician, as well as being a prize-winner in various international competitions. Highlight performances have included engagements at Carnegie Recital Hall; collaborations with members of the Chicago, Detroit, Indianapolis Symphonies, the New York Philharmonic, and the Dresden Staatskapelle; and the premieres of unpublished compositions by Ralph Vaughan Williams and Gerald Finzi. He is an active composer, his works having been called "glorious" and "inspired," and in 2014 was named co-artistic director of the Ronen Chamber Ensemble (Indianapolis). He has lectured at the University of Berlin, the Grieg Academy (Norway), and Oxford University, and is Head of Academics and Piano at Music Across the Pond (England). Recent publications are the translation into English of composer Emile Naoumoff's memoirs, and articles on Vaughan Williams, Grieg, and J.R.R. Tolkien. He is a 2017 recipient of a Creative Renewal Fellowship from the Arts Council of Indianapolis, and has recorded for Centaur Records and Toccata Classics, of which *Fanfare* remarked his pianism to be "polished and refined, and sensitive to the varied styles of the works." Martin studied at Indiana University, the University of Cincinnati, and Worcester College, Oxford, and is Assistant Professor at the University of Indianapolis.



A native of Lucca, Tuscany, orchestral conductor and pianist **Simone Luti** has gained recognition and acclaim for his musical instincts and sensitivity both on the podium and at the keyboard. As part of his musical training, M° Luti studied piano with Gloria Belli, Konstantin Bogino and Fabrizio Papi while his formal studies in composition were overseen by Pietro Rigacci. During his compositional studies, his passion for opera blossomed and he went on to earn academic scholarships to study opera, firstly at the Teatro Verdi in Pisa, and afterwards in Milan at the Academy for performing Arts associated with the Teatro della Scala. He studied conducting with Vittorio Parisi at the Academy of Giuseppe Verdi in Milan, and at the Accademia Chigiana in Siena with Gianluigi Gelmetti.

In 2002, M° Luti began working as coach at the Teatro della Scala and main Italian Theatres, collaborating with the most significant directors, singers, and film directors in the operatic world. In parallel, he also collaborated with Mirella Freni, Luis Alva, and Luciana Serra in opera training academies, Luis Alva, and Luciana Serra, devoting himself to the musical training of young opera singers.

M° Luti has conducted on the podiums for such organizations as The Musical Festival in Ticino Locarno, Switzerland, the Gratchen Festival in Amsterdam, the Opera Studio Nederland, Opera National de Montpellier, in Albania at the Opera Theatre in Tirana, the Symphony Orchestra of Bacau, Romania, and the International Opera Theatre of Philadelphia (in Teatro degli Avvaloranti, Città della Pieve; Teatro Mancinelli, Orvieto; and The University of Performing Arts, Philadelphia), Orchestra London & London Symphonia, and many more. Other international engagements took him to Cremona as coach for As.li.co's productions of *Pagliacci*, *La Voix Humaine*, *The turn of the screw*, *Medea e Zauberflote*, as chef de chant for Théâtre du Chatelet's production of *Norma*, as a coach at the Opera de Montréal, as coach of Accademia Filarmonica Romana's production of the opera *For You*, as musical director for American Opera Theater's production of *La Tragédie de Carmen*, *Dido and Eneas*, *Butterfly*, *Riders to the sea*, *Rigoletto*, both in Italy and Baltimore, as well as numerous collaborations for recitals and concerts in Italy and abroad.

At the keyboard, M° Luti has performed as a solo and collaborative pianist in recitals, opera galas, and chamber groups for theatres and musical institutes throughout Italy, Canada, United States of America, France, Austria, Switzerland, and Belgium. These collaborations led to recitals with international opera stars such as Irina Lungu with whom he collaborated at the Lucerne Festival.

M° Luti also now shares his work with the next generation and as such become musical director of the Canadian Operatic Arts Academy, hosted at the University of Western Ontario and its Faculty of Music, and its sister program Accademia Europea Dell'Opera, in Milan, Amsterdam and Lucca where he conducted *Suor Angelica*, *Gianni Schicchi*, *Così fan tutte*, *Don Giovanni*, *The*

*turn of the screw*, *Le nozze di Figaro*, *Butterfly*, *La Cenerentola* and *Die Zauberflöte*, and *La Finta Giardiniera* amongst many others. He has been also musical director of the Summer Opera Workshop of Indiana University. He also currently serves as Music Director and Conductor of both Western University's Symphony Orchestra and Chamber Orchestra as well as holding the positions of Musical Director & Head Coach of the Opera Program, and Lecturer for the Art of Vocal Coaching.

Most recently, M° Luti had the immense pleasure to join the Canadian Opera Company as Assistant Conductor for their production of *La Bohème* (2019), Head Coach and Assistant Conductor of *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* (2020), *Aida* (2020 and cancelled due to COVID), *Gianni Schicchi* (2021), *Traviata* (2022), and will be returning as Head Coach and Assistant Conductor for the upcoming COC production of *Le Nozze di Figaro* (2023) as well as *Macbeth* (2023) and *Tosca* (2023). Also at the COC, he has worked with the ensemble for the past 4 years, honoured to be part of such a prestigious operatic training program.

## ABOUT OUR MAP PERFORMANCE FELLOW:



**Rebecca Crane**, Originally from Sioux Lookout in northwestern Ontario, Rebecca is a mezzo-soprano of Anishinaabe First Nations with Irish, English, and German heritage who is a current Master of Music student in the Literature and Performance program at Western University studying under the tutelage of soprano Jackie Short. She recently graduated from the Bachelor of Music Honours Performance program also at Western University. She has been a featured soloist for Stratford Summer Music Vocal Academy, Opera at Western's Opera and Musical Theatre Gala, The Banff Centre's Gather Listen Hear Festival, and Stratford Concert Choir's Sing Along *Messiah*. She has studied and performed the roles of Orlofsky in Strauss II's *Die Fledermaus*, Tisbe in Rossini's *La Cenerentola*, the Witch in Humperdinck's *Hansel & Gretel*, and Lady Angela in Gilbert & Sullivan's *Patience*. A recent alumni of the Banff Centre for the Arts and Creativity, Rebecca took part in last year's Classical Indigenous Music Residency under the direction of Cris Derksen. Thanks to the support of her family and community, Rebecca is able to take part in Music Across the Pond and is grateful for the opportunity.

## ABOUT OUR MAP YOUNG ARTISTS:



**Gabriel Banda**, Gabriel Banda is a baritone that attends the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley and studies under Dr. David Sadlier. His accolades include: Schmidt Vocal Competition National Semi-Finalist, 2 year South Texas NATS 2nd place winner, Texoma NATS 1st place winner, and has received outstanding performers distinction two years in a row at UIL State Solo and Ensemble. He has performed in various masterclasses under world class teachers including: Theodore Carlson, Betsy Bishop, and Angela Brown. Gabriel will be attending Rice University in Houston, Texas next year on a full scholarship.



**Michael Banda** is a Baritone, from Edinburg, Texas, who is attending the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley studying under the direction of Dr. David Sadlier to major in Vocal Performance. His accolades include, Schmidt Vocal Competition National Finalist, two-time 1st Place winner of the South Texas Chapter NATS Competition, 1st place at the 2024 Texoma NATS Conference, being selected as the 1st Chair Bass 2 of the 2024 Texas All State Mixed Choir, and he received an Outstanding Performer Distinction in the 2023 and 2024 Texas UIL State Solo and Ensemble Competition. Most recently, he was selected as a Winner with Distinction in Classical Voice, for the 2025 National Young Arts Competition.



**Edgar Collett** has been playing piano since age 6 and has studied under Marny Pritchard and Ryan Behan. He has participated in piano masterclasses with Paul Barnes and Kenny Broberg, as well as composition masterclasses with Don Freund, Elainie Lillios, David Gompper, and Anthony Davis. He also studies composition with John Berners. He graduated in 2025 from the University of Indianapolis with a degree in Music, but he originally comes from the beautiful foothills of North Carolina. Both of his parents and both of his younger siblings have musical experience, and his grandfather was a lifelong lover of the piano works of Frederic Chopin. He hopes to begin work on a graduate degree in Music Composition after his upcoming gap year.

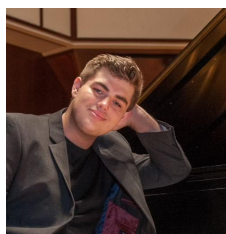




**Kathleen Fritter**, Kathleen Fritter was born and raised in Wheeling, West Virginia, and is currently a sophomore at West Virginia University in Morgantown majoring in Voice Performance and minoring in Psychology, World Music and Fashion Merchandising. Kathleen has studied singing since the sixth grade as well as percussion, violin, piano, steel pans, guitar, and ukulele. She was classically trained in various forms of dance at Oglebay Institute School of Dance in Wheeling, West Virginia, as well as performed in musicals while attending Wheeling Park High School. At WVU she has been a part of the WVU Chamber Singers and has had the opportunity to perform with elite choirs like VOCES8. In her opera courses she has performed The Garden Scene by Giuseppe Verdi from *Fallstaff* as Meg and Pur ti miro by Claudio Monteverdi and Francesco Saccati from *L'incoronazione di Poppea* as Nerone. She has participated in American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) conferences since the seventh grade as a performer and has recently traveled to Dallas, Texas, for the National ACDA Conference as a participant. She is excited to continue her study of music and for the opportunity to participate in many more performances in the future.



**Adam Funderburg**, Adam Funderburg is a graduate student of vocal performance from League City, Texas. He has spent several years at multiple institutions, and has performed in both domestic and international opera programs. Past performances by Adam include Wolf/Cinderella's Prince in Sondheim's *Into the Woods*, Rodolfo in the Act III quartet of Puccini's *La Bohème*, Rinuccio in the opening scene of Puccini's *Gianni Schicchi*, and The Snake/ Lamplighter in Rachel Portman's *The Little Prince*. Adam's accomplishments include being a 2x semi finalist in the graduate men's category of TEXOMA NATS, and 1st place winner in the same category at the South Texas chapter of NATS. Adam will begin his master's degree at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville this fall.



**Gabriel Harlan** is a piano performance major finishing his Senior year at the University of Indianapolis. As a pianist, he dedicates most of his time to the works of J.S. Bach, Robert Schumann and Edvard Grieg and appreciates pianists such as Sviatoslav Richter, Murray Perahia, and Lief Ove Andsnes. After completing his undergrad, he plans to pursue a masters in piano performance as well.



**Ellie Jones**, soprano, is a 2025 graduate of the University of Indianapolis in Indiana, where she received a degree in Choral Music Education. During her time there, she studied voice with Dr. Mitzi Westra and piano with Dr. Ryan Behan and Dr. Greg Martin. Ellie is the 2023 recipient of Indiana's Outstanding Future Music Educator Award and has also been recognized several times by the National Association for Music Education. Her favorite performances in the past year include singing with the Indianapolis Opera Chorus, her senior piano recital, and performing with Mitzi Westra and Indianapolis jazz vocalist Erin Benedict in their concert "Play Time!" In the fall, Ellie would like to direct middle and high school choral ensembles in the state of Indiana. She is excited to share her experiences in England with her future students!



**Liam John Joseph Lynch**, baritone, started singing in choirs in early childhood. He competed in Kiwanis festivals through his entire youth in Vancouver, B.C. Canada, with a heavy focus on popular music categories and musical theatre. Through competition, Liam was awarded a scholarship to the Vancouver Youth Bach Choir where he developed a broader taste for art song. This eventually led him to The University of Western Ontario where he would study popular music on a scholarship of excellence. Liam was introduced to the world of opera landing roles in our productions of *Die Fledermaus* and *The Magic Flute*, as well as getting to sing multiple roles in a recent Opera Gala. Liam is pursuing a Bachelors of Music in Performance.



**Natalie Morell** is a soprano from Corpus Christi, Texas. She currently studies with Dr. Spafford at Texas A&M University in Corpus Christi majoring in vocal performance. In the music department she is part of the Islander Voices (opera workshop) and Camarata (chamber choir). Her past roles in the Islander Voices were the First Witch in *Dido & Aeneas* (April 2025), Druscilla in *Carmenella* (April 2023) and Oberta in Alcina's *Magic Island* (October 2022). Additionally, she sang a solo and choruses in Islander Voices opera scene concerts of American Stage: Opera and Musical Theatre (October 2024), *Ghosts of the Italian Opera* (April 2024) and *Pirates and Prisoners: An Evening with Gilbert and Sullivan* (October 2023). Last summer she participated in The New Voice Festival Emerging Artists Program in Boise, Idaho where she performed in the opera gala concert at Jump Boise and in the chorus as a warrior in the opera production of *Dido and Aeneas & Aeterna* at The Egyptian Theatre (Boise). In the Summer of 2023, she participated in the Opera San Antonio/Classical Music Institute Collegiate Voice Program where she performed in the Opera Under the Stars concert at the Radius Center in San Antonio, Texas.





Mezzo-soprano, **Ada Sadlier**, is completing her third year pursuing a Bachelor's in Music in Vocal Performance, as well as completing her pre-medical requirements. She attends the University of Missouri Kansas City and studies with Dr. Maria Kanyova. Most recently, Ms. Sadlier played the role of Edka in Jake Heggie's *Two Remain* and the role of Lucinda in Sondheim's *Into the Woods*. Ms. Sadlier is also a singer in UMKC's Conservatory Concert Choir. Her achievements include performances in the prestigious Helzberg Hall as a soloist and working closely with renowned composer Jake Heggie on his repertoire. During her three years at UMKC, Ada has been a part of eight operas and musicals. Ada loves music. Her father, David, is a voice teacher and opera singer, and her mother, Lelia, is a classical pianist and composer. Ada also plays the piano, guitar, and ukulele.



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