

SUMMER PIANO FESTIVAL: PIANO LAB PREMIERES

TUESDAY 16 JUNE, 5.30PM
DUKE'S HALL



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Edward Harris-Brown (b 2006)

Groove Train

Chloe Lui violin

Harold Lee oboe

Jacob Jordan clarinet

Edward Harris-Brown piano

Emanuil Ivanov (b 1998)

Diary Entries

Ten miniatures

Emanuil Ivanov piano

Edward Harris-Brown

Four Meditations

from *The Daoshi Ballads*

Edward Harris-Brown piano

Emanuil Ivanov

Directions

In three movements

Boyan Ivanov clarinet

Jonasz Szachtmajer violin

James Hindle cello

Emanuil Ivanov piano

Arthur Kokerai (b 2006)

Veronika

Nine settings of Lesya Ukrainka

Veronika Barylo soprano

Arthur Kokerai piano

Isabella Gellis introduces exciting premieres from composer-pianists working in the contemporary music group Piano Lab. The concert includes the first performance of Arthur Kokerai's song cycle *Veronika*, nine settings of Lesya Ukrainka; and Edward Harris-Brown's new work *Groove Train*, as well

as his *Four Meditations*, inspired by the ninth century Chinese poet-monk Hanshan.

The poems and plays of Lesya Ukrainka, Ukraine's foremost female poet, translator and feminist activist, are associated with her belief in her country's independence. Lesya Ukrainka was a carefully considered pseudonym: her real name was Larysa Petrivna Kosach. Born in Novohrad-Volynskyi in 1871, her first poem, *Hope*, was written at the age of nine when she heard her Aunt Olena had been deported as a revolutionary. When she was seventeen, Lesya and her brother formed a literary circle called The Pleiades, to promote Ukrainian literature and to translate foreign classics into Ukrainian. Her poems are primarily concerned with love, struggle and freedom. Dying of tuberculosis in 1913, her funeral in Kyiv was patrolled by the authorities, fearful of a mass protest. Most unusually six women carried her casket: a testament to her fight for women's rights. Monuments and theatres dedicated to Lesya Ukrainka abound not just in Ukraine but all over former Soviet republics, the United States and Canada. Each summer in Toronto, Ukrainians gather at the Lesya Ukrainka monument in High Park to celebrate her life and work.

LYRICS

O.***

The bright sun through the tranquil
heavens streams,
And gilds the groves in living green;
How tenderly it smiles among the
leaves,
And plays where hidden shades
convene.

And so my love enfolds and nurtures
you,
Unseen, yet constant and serene.

I I Stood and Listened to the Spring

I stood and listened to the Spring,
And Spring spoke many things to me;
She sang a bright and ringing song,
Then whispered soft in secrecy.
She sang to me of love's delight,
Of youthful joy and hopeful days;
She sang anew what long before
My dreams had sung in hidden lays.

II I Would Become a Song

I would become a song this hour,
So clear, so radiant, so free,
To wander through the waiting world,
And let the wind carry me.

To soar beneath the shining stars
On wings of music pure and bright,
To fall upon transparent waves,
And hover o'er the restless night.

Then would my dreams resound afar,
And all my secret happiness,
More radiant than the clearest stars,
More mighty than the sea's excess.

III All, All Forsaken

All, all forsaken, to fly unto thee,
My only love, my blossom torn apart!
All, all forsaken, with thee to perish—

Such bliss would heal this lost and
ruined heart.

To stand beside thee and cry aloud for
battle
The dark enchantment stealing thee
away;
To win thee back—or perish at thy side,
And let our joy and sorrow die that day.

IV Tell Me, My Beloved

Tell me, beloved, where have all my
tears gone?
Have they dissolved like summer rains at
dawn?

Or have they drifted through the autumn
mist away,
And now above me hang like heavy
clouds of gray?

V The Night Was Dark and Still

The night was dark and still.
Beside thee, O my friend, I stood;
With grieving eyes I looked on thee;
The night was dark and still.

Sad sighed the wind among the garden
trees.
Thou sangest, whilst in silence sat I
there;
Thy song within my heart did softly ring;
Sad sighed the wind among the garden
trees.

Far in the heavens flashed a lonely
light—
Alas! what sorrow then laid hold on me!
A keen-edged knife had pierced my
heart...
The night was dark and still.

VI Do Not Make Me Sing That Song

Oh, sing not unto me that lay!
Wound not my heart anew!
My sorrow sleeps within my breast—
Why should thy singing waken it?

Thou knowest not what thoughts are
mine
When pale and speechless thus I stay;
For then, deep-hidden in my heart,
That mournful song sobs night and day.

VII Hope

No fate is mine, no liberty is mine;
One hope alone still lingers in the
gloom:
To see Ukraine once more before the
end,
To look again upon my native land.

To gaze once more upon the blue
Dnipro—
There to abide, or there to find my
grave,
It matters not; the choice is all the same.
To see once more the steppe, the lonely
mounds,
And call to mind my long-extinguished
dreams...

No fate is mine, no liberty is mine.

VIII Lullaby

The moon so bright above,
Its gentle silver ray
Has fallen softly here.
Sleep, little one, today—
For late has grown the day.

Sweetly you shall sleep
Before you come to know
What sorrow truly means,
How swiftly grief will grow,
How pain begins to flow.

Bitter hour of life!
(Translated by Arthur Kokerai)

BIOGRAPHIES

Edward Harris-Brown

Edward Harris-Brown is a pianist and composer from Shrewsbury. He is a second-year undergraduate studying with Joanna MacGregor. He appears as a soloist, duo partner, chamber musician and jazz pianist in recitals across the country, and has had his compositions performed at venues in Shrewsbury, York, Manchester, Oxford and London. Previously Edward studied at Chetham's School of Music under Murray McLachlan, winning all the internal piano and composition prizes. He reached the televised rounds of BBC Young Musician and was awarded the First Prize at the EPTA UK competition, First Prize at Abingdon and Worthing Concerto Competitions. Recent highlights include a nationwide recital tour and writing incidental music for a Covent Garden production of Macbeth; he will be directing his own chamber music festival next month.

Emanuil Ivanov

Emanuil first attracted international attention after receiving the First Prize at the 2019 Ferruccio Busoni Piano Competition in Italy. Since then he has been invited to some of the world's most prestigious halls, including La Scala, Milan, Wigmore Hall and – most recently - the Weill Recital Hall in New York. Born in Bulgaria, Emanuil is completed his Advanced Diploma studying under Joanna MacGregor and Christopher Elton, having been awarded the prestigious Bicentenary Scholarship. Emanuil's recording of Scarlatti Sonatas was recently released on Naxos, and his new recording of Rzewski's The People United will Never be Defeated was

released on Linn Records last Christmas. Emanuil continuously displays an affinity for some of the repertoire's less frequently performed works and performed Busoni's massive Piano Concerto several times in 2025, followed by complete cycles of Shostakovich's Preludes and Fugues. His performances have been featured on BBC Radio 3, Italy's Rai Radio 3 and Japan's NHK Radio. Emanuil performed Rachmaninov's Piano Concerto No 1 with John Wilson and the Royal Academy of Music Symphony Orchestra last November, and made his debut at Carnegie Hall's Weill Hall. As well as being a prolific composer, he is the first Sulamita Aronovsky Fellow at the Royal Academy of Music.

Arthur Kokerai

Arthur Kokerai is a second-year undergraduate of Russian/Zimbabwean heritage, studying with Joanna MacGregor. Arthur began his training at Moscow's renowned Gnessin School of Music, and he has performed in major Russian venues including the Moscow Conservatory and Zaryadye Concert Hall; he also won the Bronze Medal at the XI International Tchaikovsky Competition for Young Musicians. Arthur is a very active composer as well as a soloist. Last year he composed a major piano quintet and 60-minute violin concerto. He will be performing piano concertos by Beethoven and Britten this autumn (having recently performed Rachmaninoff Piano Concerto No 3), as well as numerous recitals. Arthur and his family now live in Armenia.

DON'T MISS OUR OTHER SUMMER PIANO FESTIVAL EVENTS

Wednesday 17 June 10am

Schumann: The Complete Piano Works IV
Duke's Hall
10am A Wild Pianism
11am Interludes, Narratives
Duke's Hall

Wednesday 17 June 1pm

Royal Academy Wigmore Hall Piano Series
Khrystyna Mykhailichenko
Bach/Busoni and Brahms

Wednesday 17 June 2.30pm

Schumann: The Complete Piano Works IV
2.30pm Inspirations
3.30pm The Young Ones
4.45pm Epilogue
Duke's Hall

Wednesday 17 June 6pm

Messiaen's Quartet for the End of Time
Duke's Hall

Our Autumn Piano Festival celebrates the complete piano music of Janáček on 10 November 2026, Duke's Hall