

Report Orplid, Urim Masterclasses 2022-23

Introduction

Over the years Urim Masterclass has presented many prominent singers and pianists associated with the lieder art-form, who have taught masterclasses working closely with voice and piano students from all over the world.

What makes the masterclasses so unique is that only voice-piano duos can apply. One can experience the intimacy and intensity of such a musical partnership by working on this specific repertoire. Working from October through to April culminating in a final festive.

In season Urim Masterclass 2022-23 five duos participated.

The masterclasses took place in Brussels in 'La Monnaie' and in the family house 'Maison Solanet'. The final concert took place in the 'Foyer La Monnaie'.

Artistic director Christianne Stotijn is responsible for the content of the masterclasses.

For the organisation she is supported by Leen Van den Borre, production manager.

Every year in June voice-piano duos can register for an audition and a jury will accept up to nine duos.

Students feedback:

"Vielen lieben Dank für dieses wundervolle Jahr und dass Du trotz Corona so wahnsinnig viel möglich gemacht hast!! URIM ist wirklich fantastisch, ich habe soooo viel gelernt und insbesondere während Corona waren die Kurse meine Inseln der Normalität - vielen tausend Dank dafür ❤️ Bis hoffentlich ganz bald wieder und DANKE für alles!! 🥰"
student **Lisa Ochsendorf** – pianist

"Thank you for everything you do for us, young musicians. This masterclass is one of the most beautiful and amazing musical experiences I have ever had." student **Lidia Fittipaldi** – pianist

*"This was one of my favourite Masterclasses! I have learned so much about music, phrasing, I got many new ideas, and it was such a pleasure to work with you both!
I am so excited and so thankful for this experience with all the masterclasses and so grateful to be able to learn from all of you great musicians!
Thank you for everything, for believing in me, for your help and trust!
All the best 🥰 🌸"* student **Tina Drole** – mezzo-soprano



Participants season 2022-23

Magdalena Michalko, soprano
Jorn Quirijnen, pianist

Fleur Strijbos, soprano
Babette Craens, pianist

Guan-Xuan Wen, soprano
Jakub Jirásek, pianist

Ana L. De Oliveira, mezzosoprano
Jelena Pešić, pianist

Sonia Lardy, soprano
Julien Lejeune, pianist



Teachers season 2022-23

19, 20, 21 September 2022

Alexandra Coku & Anthony Spiri
Mozart & Beethoven

5, 6, 7 October 2022

Margreet Honig
Barber, Debussy & Fauré

28, 29, 30 October 2022

Jochen Kupfer & Alexander Fleischer
Schubert & Sommer

12, 13, 14 January 2023

Susan Manoff
Free theme

26, 27, 28 February 2023

Matti Hirvonen
Nordic Songbookpril

20, 21, 22 April 2023

Claar ter Horst & Christiane Libor
Hugo Wolf

21 April 2023

Final Festive Concert



Guest teachers feedback

"Thanks to URIM and to Christianne Stotijn for paving the road to this safe space of creativity, where exploration, risk, and diversity are possible.

I am still filled with gratitude for all of your care, your generosity, and the safe environment created for both me and these young musicians.

It is rare, and to be cherished.

Thank you sooooo sooooo much for the photos which gave me both a lot of laughs about myself and a tremendous appreciation for the 5 duos I met.

I miss all of you, had such a good time and am grateful that we were able to have these very inspiring times together.

*I realise as I look at the pictures that I have developed a desire to continue to nurture these young, amazing musicians!" – **Susan Manoff**, pianist*

*"It was a delight to work with the duos in the URIM masterclass. It was all-around a lovely experience I will not soon forget: warm, open and nurturing atmosphere. Truly inspirational for the participants, but also for the guest teachers!" – **Alexandra Coku**, soprano*

*"It was an honour and a great pleasure to be part of the Udo Reinemann Master Classes. I particularly enjoyed the wonderful working opportunities and the appreciative and warm atmosphere. Thank you, dear Christianne!" – **Alexander Fleischer**, pianist*

Saeson 2023-2024

There have been some changes within Urim, but clearly for the better as it appeared that the new home of Urim - the House of Marie-Claude Solanet in Uccle/Brussels is the warmest and most inspiring place to be. With the unique hospitality of both Olivier and Marie-Claude, their beautiful piano and with a view on their stunning garden, one can only be deeply grateful.

The Final Festive Concert will still take place in the Grand Foyer of La Monnaie. But one single place for the Urim Masterclasses is clearly more inviting to have real conversations and encounters instead of a hurried coming and going, which was often the case at La Monnaie.

For this season the duos have the opportunity to win a recital in France. It will be awarded to the best performing and developed duo, after the four masterclass sessions. This can be an extra encouragement to perform!

Participants

After the audition in June, we accepted 8 duos to participate in the Urim Masterclasses, coming from different countries: Austria, France, Ukraine, Poland, Germany, Belgium, Holland, Portugal, China and England. All voice variations are present: soprano, mezzo-soprano, tenor and baritone.

Agata Kowalik, soprano
Alina Taraban, pianist

Louise Roulleau, soprano
Marie-Louise Tocco, pianist

Jasperina Verheij, mezzo-soprano
Willem van den Dool, pianist

Graham Cooper, tenor
Stephanie Daelemans, pianist

Nina Schumertl, mezzo-soprano
Amelie Warner, pianist

Xiaofang Zhao, soprano
Eunhyeon Baek pianist

Alexander Van Goethem, baritone
Yasin Wachters, pianist

Hugo Kampschreur, tenor
Jorn Quirijnen, pianist



Teachers season 2023-24

23, 24 October 2023

Christianne Stotijn

25, 26 October 2023

Sir Thomas Allen & Joseph Middleton

The English Songbook

4, 5 December 2023

Hartmut Höll

6, 7 December 2023

Julia Kleiter

Karol Szymanowski and Gustav Mahler

Hugo Wolf

29, 30 January 2024

Christianne Stotijn

31 January, 1 February 2024

Arnold Bezuyen & Joseph Breinl

*Robert & Clara Schumann and
Richard Strauss*

11, 12 March 2024

Christianne Stotijn

13, 14 March 2024

Jard van Nes & Hans Eijsackers

The Dutch Songbook

14 March 2024

Final Festive Concert



And finally:

This week we have started our new Urim Season 2023-2024 with a very special group of 8 talented young singers and a strong charismatic teacher: Sir Thomas Allen, one of the most famous and known English baritones of the late 20th century. He is widely admired in the opera world for his voice, the versatility of his repertoire and his acting. He invited both singers and pianists to explore the deepest meaning of the poem by reciting it before singing. Also the pianists were confronted with this part of the art of song that in fact starts by getting to know the poem with an inner understanding. Language/ rhythm/face-expression/body posture/energy-flow between the two people on stage. All these elements were present.

Together with the impressive musician Joseph Middleton, a pianist with whom I sang Schubert's cycle 'Der Winterreise' in Cambridge, England (while it snowed). It was the best beginning of the season we could dream of.

Thanks to your generous and indispensable support every new season develops further and more intensely towards a unique education programme that has spread its name fastly. We have received incredibly positive reactions from both students and teachers.

Our greatest gratitude to you,

Christianne Stotijn

Organisation URIM Masterclasses

Christianne Stotijn, artistic director
Leen Van den Borre, production manager

Board The Orplid Foundation

Ben Ploeger, outgoing chairman
Richard Nowak, incoming chairman
Eke van Spiegel, treasurer
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Amsterdam, November 2023