

7 NOVEMBER 2019

BARBER INSTITUTE, UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM



Beyond Baudelaire

Music, Poetry, and Translation

This day of poetry, music, and translation is organised by the University of Birmingham in collaboration with the Barber Institute and the Oxford Lieder to celebrate the end of the Baudelaire Song Project. The project, which started in 2015, has uncovered more than 1700 song settings of Charles Baudelaire's poetry in several languages and musical styles. Composers – such as Cheryl Frances-Hoad whose setting of 'Une charogne' will be performed in the evening concert – keep finding inspiration in Baudelaire's poetry. Through a language coaching masterclass, a translation workshop, and an evening performance, this day celebrates the on-going influence of the nineteenth century on our contemporary cultures.

PROGRAMME OF THE DAY

**Language Coaching Masterclass: 10am-12pm,
Barber Institute Concert Hall**

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Poetry Translation Workshop: 2pm-4pm, Arts 103

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**Composer Q&A: 4:30pm-5:15pm, Barber Institute
Concert Hall**

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**Evening Performance: 5:30pm-6:30pm, Barber
Institute Concert Hall**

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Language Coaching Masterclass

10am-12pm
Barber Institute Concert Hall

This Masterclass on French songs is led by **Professor Helen Abbott** for five duos. It is **open to the public to attend in the audience**. The masterclass will explore the specificities of singing in French (pronouncing the French 'r', the mute 'e', doing the liaisons) through song settings of 19th-century French poetry. Taking examples from Baudelaire, Verlaine, and other poets, Professor Abbott will also show the importance of informed interpretation and how much knowing about the poets and their works can help to make choices regarding the musical performance.

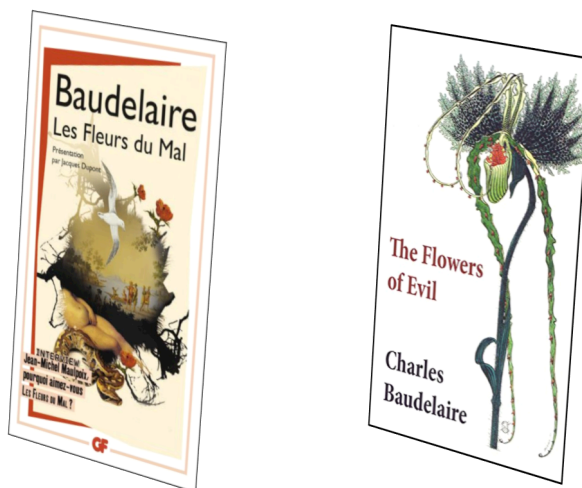
This event is FREE but registration is necessary:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/french-song-masterclass-tickets-75138201383>

Translation Workshop: 'I'll Murder Your Darlings For You'

2pm-4pm

Arts Building 103



This translation workshop led by **Eleanor Brown** will focus on poems from Baudelaire's *Les Fleurs du Mal*. It will explore the following questions: are Baudelaire's formal devices, such as rhyme and metre, essential (style) or incidental (ornament)? To what extent should we be trying to replicate or reflect or replace them in translation? If reproducing the form compromises content, aesthetics or meaning, what other devices might we deploy as translators to make versions which better convey the sense, the music and the energy of the poems?

The workshop is FREE and open to everyone; it is not necessary to know French.

Registration is necessary:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/poetry-translation-workshop-ill-murder-your-darlings-for-you-tickets-74802874411>

French Fables

Composer Q&A:

Cheryl Frances-Hoad

4:30-5:15pm

Barber Institute Concert Hall

Award-winning British composer **Cheryl Frances-Hoad** has composed a brand new song setting of Baudelaire's poetry for pianist Sholto Kynoch and contralto Jess Dandy. The song – which was co-commissioned by the University of Birmingham and the Oxford Lieder – will be premiered in the evening performance. The Baudelaire poem chosen by Cheryl Frances-Hoad, 'Une charogne', has rarely been set to music. This Q&A session offers a unique opportunity to talk to a composer and find out more about the inspiration process and the challenges behind composing a song.

The event is FREE and open to everyone.



French Fables

Evening performance

5:30-6:30pm

Barber Institute Concert Hall

Sholto Kynoch, piano

Jess Dandy, contralto

Henri Duparc (1848 - 1933)

L'invitation au voyage

Tawnie Olson

Le Revenant

Gabriel Fauré (1845 - 1924)

Hymne (Op.7 no.2)

Chant d'automne (Op.5 no.1)

Louis Vierne (1870 - 1937)

Les Hiboux

Cheryl Frances-Hoad (b. 1980)

Une Charogne

Camille Saint-Saëns (1835 - 1921)

La cigale et la fourmi

André Caplet (1878 - 1925)

Le corbeau et le renard *from Trois Fables de Jean de la Fontaine*

Le loup et l'agneau *from Trois Fables de Jean de la Fontaine*

Jacques Offenbach (1819 - 1880)

Le corbeau et le renard *from Six Fables de La Fontaine*

La laitière et le pot au lait *from Six Fables de La Fontaine*

La cigale et la fourmi *from Six Fables de La Fontaine*

The event is FREE and open to everyone.

BIOGRAPHIES

Helen Abbott, Professor of Modern Languages, University of Birmingham

Helen Abbott is a Professor of Modern Languages at the University of Birmingham. She studied at the University of Cambridge and King's College London, completing a PhD thesis on Baudelaire and Mallarmé. She specialises in nineteenth-century French poetry and music, exploring ways of writing about word-music relationships in poetic language, in critical theories, and using digital methodologies. She has published three books on Baudelaire, including the latest *Baudelaire in Song 1880-1930* (Oxford University Press, 2017). Her particular focus is the work of (post-) romantic and symbolist poets including Gautier, Baudelaire, Verlaine, Rimbaud, Villiers de l'Isle-Adam, and Mallarmé. A classically-trained soprano, she connects her intellectual and personal interests in order to lead an international team of researchers on the Baudelaire Song Project (2015-2019, AHRC-funded).

Eleanor Brown, translator

Eleanor Brown studied English Literature at York. Since graduating she has worked variously as a waitress, barmaid, legal secretary, and minutes secretary, to be able to work also as a poet and translator of poetry. From 2001-2002 she was Creative Writing Fellow at the Universities of Glasgow and Strathclyde. She now lives, works, writes, sings (alto) and dances (Argentine tango) in Sheffield. She published two poetry books – *White Ink Stains* (2019) and *Maiden Speech* (1996) – and several verse adaptations for theatre, including Sophocles' *Philoctetes* and Wedekind's *Franziska*. She regularly organises translation workshops across the UK.

Cheryl Frances-Hoad, composer

Cheryl Frances-Hoad was born in Essex in 1980 and received her musical education at the Yehudi Menuhin School, Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge (BA (Hons) Music (double 1st), MPhil with Distinction (Composition)) and Kings College London (PhD, Composition). She has been awarded many prizes, scholarships and residences, including the BBC Young Composer of the Year Competition at age 15. Three CD's of her work have been released on the Champs Hill Records label, with two more albums due out in the next 18 months. Her output addresses all genres from opera, ballet and concerto to song, chamber and solo music, reaching audiences from the Proms to outreach workshops. Recent works include a piano concerto for Ivana Gavric and the Southbank Sinfonia.

