



A CELEBRATION OF PAULINE VIARDOT'S LIFE AND WORK

VIARDOT200

PRIMA DONNA, COMPOSER, MUSE AND INSPIRATION

2-3 APRIL 2022, OBORNE, DORSET

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Programme

Saturday 2 April

2.30pm Recital: songs by Pauline Viardot

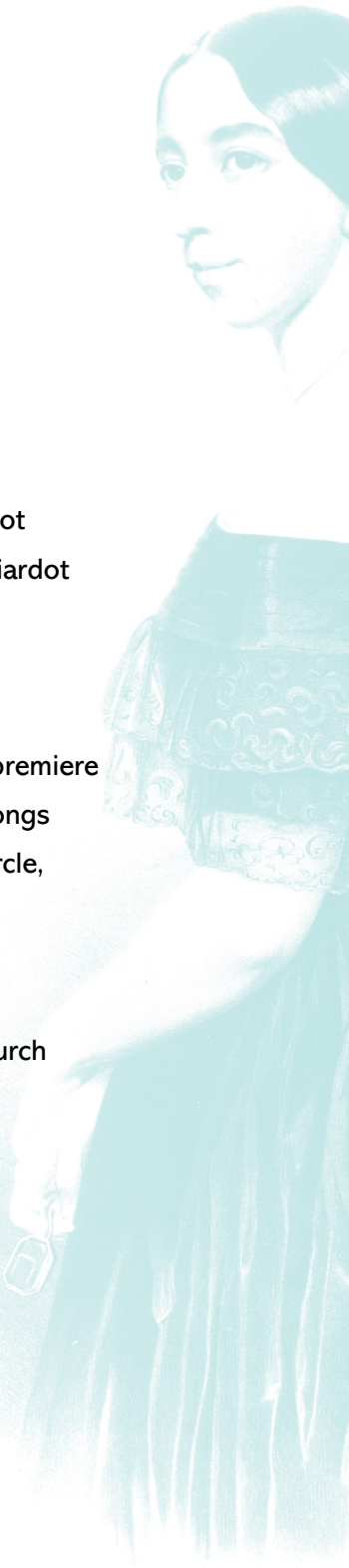
6.00 & 8.30pm Opera: *Cinderella* by Pauline Viardot

Sunday 3 April

2.00pm Workshop: preparing a world premiere

5.30pm Salon concert: *Chez Pauline*, songs and readings from Viardot's circle, featuring two world premieres

Venue for all: St Cuthbert's Church



Welcome

Celebrated across Europe during the mid-19th century, Pauline Viardot was an international opera star, studied the piano with Liszt, played duets with Chopin, enchanted Saint-Saëns, Berlioz, Gounod and the writer Turgenev, was an esteemed pedagogue and hosted arguably the greatest musical salon of her day. She was also a fine composer, though one still heard too rarely today.

Last year marked the bicentenary of Pauline Viardot's birth and in celebration of this it brings me great joy to welcome you to Cameratina's very own **VIARDOT200**: Prima donna, Composer, Muse and Inspiration. Together with a wonderful team of artistic collaborators, I look forward to sharing with you a pot-pourri of events and repertoire over the weekend in Osborne including no fewer than three world premieres, a delightful selection of Viardot's own works and many other pieces written by her dazzling circle of friends and artists. Clara Schumann once asserted to Johannes Brahms: 'She is the most brilliant woman that I have ever known.'

I hope you will soon concur!

Susanna Stranders

Artistic Director

A close-up portrait of a woman with light brown hair, green eyes, and a nose ring, looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. The background is dark.

RECITAL

MÉLODIES ET MORCEAUX

Katie Bray - *mezzo-soprano*

Robert Manasse - *flute*

Susanna Stranders - *piano*

From 6 morceaux pour piano et violon

Romance

From Douze mélodies sur des poésies Russes

Fleur desséchée (Pushkin / tr. Pomey)

La Mésange (Turgenev / Pomey)

Berceuse cosaque (Lermontov / Pomey)

Évocation (Pushkin / Pomey)

Chant du soir (Fet / Pomey)

Géorgienne (Pushkin / Pomey)

From 6 morceaux pour piano et violon

Bohémienne

Canti popolari toscani (Giuseppe Tigri)

Serenata fiorentina

C'era una volta

Povera me!

La innamorata

Morirò

From 6 morceaux pour piano et violon

Berceuse

La Coquette (Pomey) from 6 *Mazurkas de Chopin, series 1: no. 4*

Chanson de la pluie (Turgenev) from *Le dernier sorcier*

Les Filles de Cadix 6 *mélodies* (De Musset)

Pauline Viardot

Mémoires et Morceaux

Pauline published nearly 200 songs between 1841 and 1905, often with the technical abilities of her students in mind. A polyglot, she set texts by Musset, Turgenev, Pushkin, Gautier, Mörike and Goethe and these songs were known and admired by Chopin, Liszt, Schumann, Mendelssohn and Saint-Saëns. Viardot herself, writing to a friend in 1864 noted, 'I believe that I am more proud of the money that my little jottings have brought me than of that which I have earned as a singer.'

This recital features a contrasting selection of Viardot mélodies: inspired by her relationship with Ivan Turgenev, we hear some songs based on Russian poetry translated into French by Louis Pomey, the stepbrother of Turgenev; then a charming set of Tuscan songs; and the recital concludes with three much-loved songs, the coquettish 'Les Filles de Cadix' bringing us back to Pauline's Spanish roots.

Most of Viardot's compositions were for voice, however she did write many works for piano and a few works for violin and piano which were, as these Morceaux, composed for and dedicated to her son Paul, a concert violinist. In this recital, Robert and Susanna will perform three of these delightful pieces in an arrangement for flute and piano.

Most of her music was published while she was still alive, a testament to her popularity and the quality of her compositions.

A Madriestralia Malbido de Nequeras.

CENDRILLON

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Imp. Senart

Cinderella

Synopsis

Written for her salon at the age of 83, Viardot's *Cinderella* is a chamber operetta comprising musical numbers and dialogue, with witty twists to Charles Perrault's beloved fairy tale. It has been described as 'a retelling of the Cinderella story with Gallic wit, Italianate *bel canto*, and a quirkiness all her [Viardot's] own.' Here at VIARDOT200 we are thrilled to present the first performance of this charming work in a new English translation by Jeremy Sams.

Instead of a step-mother, this story has the foolish Baron de Pictordu, with his two vain daughters, Maguelonne and Armeline, both pining for the Prince. After receiving an invitation to the palace for a grand ball, the two sisters prepare for this marvellous event. Marie (Cinderella), is left behind while everyone else attends the ball. Hearing her sad song, the Fairy Godmother appears and promises to make Cinderella's dreams come true: she will go to the ball. Meanwhile, the Prince and his good friend Count Barigoule swap places to test out the true natures of potential brides. A mysterious but beautiful stranger appears at the ball, and she and the Prince fall in love at first sight. Will he be able to find her again when she runs away at midnight?

Baron Pictordu

Marie *known as Cinderella, daughter of Pictordu*

Maguelonne *another daughter of Pictordu*

Armeline *another daughter of Pictordu*

Fairy Godmother

Prince Charming

Count Barigoule

Conducted from the piano by

Director

Kieran Rayner

Claire Lees

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Workshop... ...Performers' brief

**PLEASE NOTE: This workshop is a ticketed event
and will be open to the public to observe**

Date: Sunday 3rd April - 2.00pm
Artists: Katie Bray and Ellipsis (Flute, Oboe, Piano)
Brief: To explore and rehearse two new works specially commissioned by Opera Cameratina for Viardot200. Composers will attend this workshop.

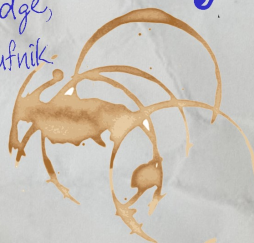
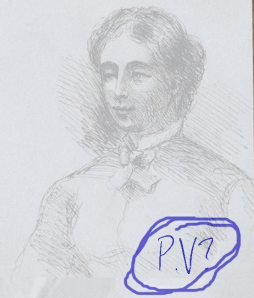
The Composers



Dani Howard.
Established presence in international music. Recently been awarded Royal Philharmonic Prize for her Trombone Concerto.



Lilly Vardaneaux
Early in career. Winning national awards since 11 yrs old!! Was Guildhall School of Music, now at Cambridge, pupil of Roxanna Panufnik.



ms

Workshop

Preparing a world premiere

Composers Dani Howard and Lilly Vadaneaux work with Katie Bray and Ellipsis on their new compositions, setting the poem *Enough* by Ivan Turgenev, specially commissioned by Cameratina for VIARDOT200.

Despite her prolific catalogue of works, Viardot lacked confidence as a composer – not surprising in an era which presumed that women didn't, shouldn't and couldn't compose. It is right that times are changing and many more female composers are now featuring in concert halls around the world. And how exciting to showcase two of them at VIARDOT200.

Exploring how the text and drama of Turgenev's poetry can come to life through their compositions, Dani and Lilly will open our ears to this new music, describing some of the approaches they have used to paint their colourful and evocative musical landscapes.



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Chez Pauline

You are cordially invited to the
Paris Salon of Pauline Viardot
for an evening of songs and
readings from Viardot's circle,
including two world premieres.

A recital that will feature music, readings and art from
the artistic personalities who visited the Salon,
many of whom dedicated work to Viardot
or credited her with launching their careers –
from Brahms and Saint-Saëns to Fauré and
Tchaikovsky, from George Sand to Tolstoy.

Sunday 3rd April 2022 - 5.30pm.

Black Tie Optional

Chez Pauline

Ellipsis

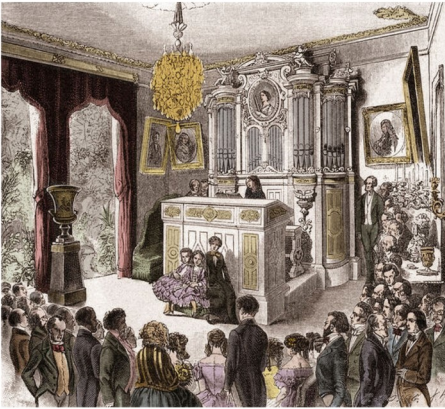
Susanna Stranders *piano*
Robert Manasse *flute*
Melanie Ragge *oboe*

Narrator

Henrietta Bredin

Singers

Georgia Mae Bishop *mezzo-soprano*
Liam Bonthronne *tenor*
Katie Bray *mezzo-soprano*
Robert Lewis *tenor*
Claire Lees *soprano*
Kieran Rayner *baritone*
Alison Rose *soprano*
Katy Thomson *soprano*



No matter where she lived throughout her life, Pauline Viardot held a music salon every Thursday evening in her home. Classical musicians have rarely connected so widely with important figures of the day as she did through her salon. Indeed, toward the end of her life, Pauline Viardot wrote a three-page, multi-column list of everyone she had ever met, worked with or loved. She ended up with over 300 names, a who's-who of 19th-century cultural figures.

In this salon recital, we meet a handful of these inspiring artistic personalities - composers such as Rossini, Liszt and Schumann and novelists including Victor Hugo and Ivan Turgenev. Many composers would also use the soirée as an opportunity to perform their new and noteworthy works and in keeping with this, Chez Pauline will feature our two world premieres by composers Dani Howard and Lilly Vadaneaux.

Part One

Viardot: student and professor

Jugendglück

Franz Liszt

Robert Lewis

Ich denke dein

Maria Wilhelmj / Goethe

Alison Rose

Mon coeur s'ouvre à ta voix

from *Samson et Dalila*

Saint-Saëns / Lemaire

Georgia Mae Bishop
and Liam Bonthrone

Pauline and Ivan

Enough *world premiere*

Lilly Vadaneaux / Turgenev

trans. Garnett

Katie Bray and Ellipsis

The Viardot-Garcías: a family of musicians

Deh vieni alla finestra

from *Don Giovanni*

Mozart / Da Ponte

Kieran Rayner

Il mattino

Maria Malibran / anon

Claire Lees

À l'aurore

from *Trois petites pièces*

Paul Viardot

Robert Manasse

Puisqu'ici-bas toute âme

Fauré / Hugo

Alison Rose and Katy Thomson

Ecco, ridente in cielo

from *Il barbiere di Siviglia*

Rossini / Sterbini

Liam Bonthrone

Part Two

Viardot's circle

Séparation

from *12 Mazurkas de Chopin, no. 6*

Alison Rose and Kieran Rayner

Viardot / Pomey

O blonde Cérés

from *Les Troyens*

Berlioz

Liam Bonthrone

Seit ich ihn gesehen

from *Frauenliebe und leben*

Robert Schumann / Chamisso

Georgia Mae Bishop

Romance

op. 22 no. 1

Clara Schumann

Melanie Ragge

Dein blaues Auge

Brahms / Groth

Claire Lees

None but the lonely heart

op. 6 no. 6

Tchaikovsky / Goethe

Katy Thomson

Ah! Lève-toi, soleil!

from *Roméo et Juliette*

Gounod / Barbier & Carré

Robert Lewis

Pauline and Ivan

Listen *world premiere*

Dani Howard / Turgenev

trans. Garnett

Katie Bray and Ellipsis

Viardot prima donna

Una voce poco fa

from *Il barbiere di Siviglia*

Rossini / Sterbini

Katie Bray



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Biographies

Georgia Mae Bishop *mezzo-soprano*

Jersey-born Georgia Mae is a graduate of the Opera Course at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. She was recently an Emerging Artist with the Institute of Young Dramatic Voices led by Dolora Zajick.

georgiamaebishop.com



Liam Bonthronne *tenor*



Liam is a Bicentenary Scholar at Royal Academy Opera, where he has sung Ferrando in *Così fan tutte* and Flute in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. He is a Samling Artist and was an Alvarez Young Artist with Garsington Opera.

www.rayfieldallied.com/artists/liam-bonthronne

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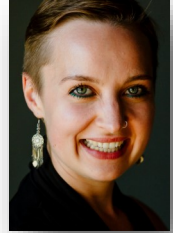
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Katie Bray *mezzo-soprano*

Katie has sung roles with numerous opera companies and in concerts at the Wigmore Hall, Milton Court and Oxford Lieder. She won the Dame Joan Sutherland Audience Prize at the 2019 Cardiff Singer of the World.

www.rayfieldallied.com/artists/katie-bray



Henrietta Bredin *moderator/narrator*

Deputy editor of *Opera* magazine, Henrietta writes for numerous publications and has devised narrated song recitals based on the music of Gounod and Richard Strauss that have been performed throughout the UK.

Ellipsis

Ellipsis performed their inaugural concert in 2009 at the St John's May Festival in Notting Hill. They have recorded a CD of new music, including two new commissions, and love collaborating with guest artists, particularly enjoying concerts with the tenor James Gilchrist as part of the Hull City of Culture concert season.

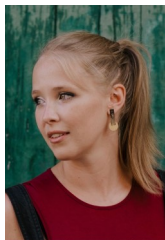


Orlando Figes *author/speaker*

An award-winning writer whose books have been translated into more than 30 languages, Orlando's latest book is *The Europeans*, a history of 19th-century culture told through the lives of Pauline Viardot, her husband Louis Viardot and Ivan Turgenev.

www.orlandofiges.com

Biographies



Dani Howard *composer*

Born and raised in Hong Kong, Dani studied at the Royal College of Music and has written works for orchestras including the London Symphony Orchestra, the BBC Symphony Orchestra and the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic.

www.danihoward.com

Claire Lees *soprano*

Claire studied at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama and has sung Barbarina in *Le nozze di Figaro* for Opera Holland Park and in the Glyndebourne chorus of Handel's *Giulio Cesare* and *Saul* and Barber's *Vanessa*.

www.clairelees.co.uk



Robert Lewis *tenor*

Robert is a graduate of the Guildhall School of Music and Drama and has been a Jerwood Young Artist at Glyndebourne. He is one of the youngest singers to win the W. Towyn Roberts scholarship at the National Eisteddfod of Wales.

www.harlequin-agency.co.uk

Robert Manasse *flute*

A freelance flute-player and teacher, Robert has played with a wide variety of orchestras and ensembles. His recordings include an award-winning CD of music by Harrison Birtwistle. He plays a silver Louis Lot flute from 1883.

ellipsisensemble.co.uk/about/flute/



Biographies

Melanie Ragge *oboe*

Melanie studied Medicine and Music at King's College Cambridge, ultimately graduating with an MPhil in musicology. She performs nationally and internationally, has made a number of recordings, is an oboe Professor at the Royal Academy of Music and regularly coaches and gives masterclasses.

ellipsisensemble.co.uk/about/oboe/



Kieran Rayner *baritone*

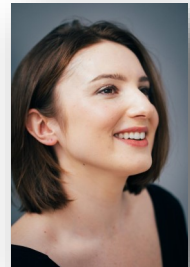
Kieran is a current Britten Pears Young Artist, 2021 International Handel Competition finalist and Royal College of Music Opera School graduate. He has performed solo at the Royal Albert Hall and Buckingham Palace, and across Britain, Europe, Asia and the Pacific Islands.

kieranrayner.com

Alison Rose *soprano*

Alison's roles since studying at the Guildhall and the National Opera Studio include Papagena in *Die Zauberflöte* at Glyndebourne, Barbarina in *Le nozze di Figaro* for Garsington Opera and English National Opera, the title role *The Cunning Little Vixen* at the Grimeborn Festival.

www.alisonrosesoprano.com



Susanna Stranders *artistic director/piano*

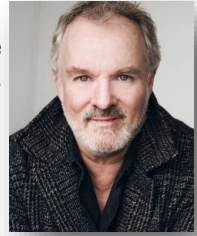
British pianist, conductor and répétiteur Susanna has worked with opera companies throughout the world. She was head of music and chorus master for Garsington Opera and is now a member of the music staff at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden.

www.susannastranders.com

Jeremy Sams *translator*

Jeremy is a composer, writer, director, pianist and translator. He has translated operas from French, Italian and German, including *L'Étoile* for Opera North, *Figaro's Wedding* and Wagner's *Ring* cycle for English National Opera.

theagency.co.uk/the-clients/jeremy-sams-2/



Cecilia Stinton *director*

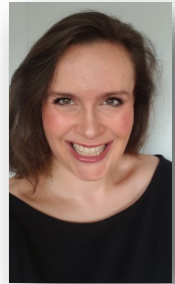
After initially training as a violinist, Cecilia studied History of Art. She is artistic director of Spectra Ensemble and has directed and assisted on productions at Opera Holland Park, Garsington Opera, the Royal Opera and the Berlin Opera Academy.

www.ceciliastinton.com

Katy Thomson *soprano*

Katy is a Britten Pears Young Artist (2021-22) and a recent graduate of the Royal College of Music Opera Studio. She was a Garsington Opera Young Artist in 2021, notably stepping in for one performance, and making her debut, as the Marschallin in *Der Rosenkavalier*.

katythomson.co.uk



Lilly Vadaneaux *composer*

Lilly is a composer, pianist and choral scholar studying Music at Clare College, Cambridge. She has won numerous national composition awards, and many of her works have received public performances and have been broadcast on BBC Radio 3.

www.facebook.com/lillyvadaneauxcomposer



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The logo for Ambache Charitable Trust features the word 'Ambache' in a large, elegant, blue script font. Below it, the words 'CHARITABLE TRUST' are written in a smaller, blue, all-caps sans-serif font.

ABOUT CAMERATINA

Cameratina is a group of classical music enthusiasts who co-fund small-scale operas and recitals. The group works with its Artistic Director to choose the music that it wants to hear and shares equally all costs of the production not covered by ticket revenues.

For both aesthetic and practical reasons, Cameratina has a focus on less familiar chamber operas performed in small venues. This gives an intimacy and immediacy to the music that larger productions can miss. All subscribers have an equal say in steering Cameratina's direction, including the choice of music and venues.

It is not just the performances though. Talks, dinners with the performers, exclusive recitals and other social events will be interspersed between the main events. The small group of subscribers enables an inclusive and lively company of like-minded enthusiastic people to mix with the best young talent in UK opera and enjoy the complete musical experience.

Cameratina is still a relatively new venture although this is its fourth visit to Osborne. To date the group has funded a number of musical events in Osborne including John Gay's *The Beggar's Opera*, Handel's *Acis and Galatea*, Walton's *The Bear*, and Donizetti's *Rita*, but there is no doubt that VIARDOT200 is its most ambitious venture yet. Lunchtime concerts are sometimes held in London and we hope to be able to do the same this coming Autumn.

There are currently just under 30 regular subscribers, with around 25 participating in any one venture. Each project is stand alone and subscribers can sign up for just one venture if they choose. Ideally, we would have a slightly larger core group of regular subscribers and if you feel this might be for you, do please get in touch.

For further information, please contact Elaine Fairless or Nigel Masters
elaine@ed-financial.co.uk nigel.b.masters@btinternet.com



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