

A stylized, high-contrast portrait of Julian Wagstaff. The image is dominated by red and black tones, with a yellow and white face. The portrait is partially obscured by the text.

SONG TO ME

THE MUSIC AND SONGS OF
JULIAN WAGSTAFF

PROGRAMME

25-28 August 2015 at 8.30pm

artSpace@StMarks - Venue 125
St Mark's Unitarian Church, Castle Terrace, Edinburgh

WWW.SONGTOME.CO.UK

The Edinburgh Festival
fringe

Welcome

It is my great pleasure to welcome everyone attending this evening's performance. This musical evening looks back on nearly fifteen years' work in the theatre and concert hall, from the first production of my musical *John Paul Jones* in 2001 through to the recording of my chamber opera *Breathe Freely* at Scottish Opera last year, and its planned release on Linn Records this October. I am delighted to be joined by five excellent performers, representing some of Scotland's finest professional ensembles and performing companies. If you enjoy what you hear this evening, please do pick up a free catalogue in the foyer as you leave, and feel free to browse the collection of scores and recordings which are also available. I look forward to seeing you again at future concerts and stage productions.

Julian Wagstaff.

The Performers

Marie Claire Breen (soprano) - **Colin Thomas Bryce** (tenor)
Jean Johnson (clarinet) **Mark Bailey** (cello) - **Andrew Johnston** (piano)

The Music and Songs

*Words and music by Julian Wagstaff except where otherwise stated.
Dates in brackets indicate year of composition.*

1. *A Persistent Illusion* - 1st movement (2011)

Commissioned by the Royal Society of Chemistry (local section) to celebrate International Year of Chemistry in 2011 and premièred by Hebrides Ensemble that year, this trio for clarinet, cello and piano was inspired by the past, present and future of chemistry in the southeast of Scotland. The first movement represents the past, and is an imagined conversation between three legendary chemists – Joseph Black, Alexander Crum Brown and Alexander Borodin, the latter perhaps better known as a composer!

2. Three Songs from Three Shows

- i) 'Just Say Your Name' from *People* (2009) – lyrics by David Levin
- ii) 'Hummingbird Duet' from *The Turing Test* (2007) www.TuringTestOpera.com
- iii) 'My Own Space' from *What Goes Around* (2004) – lyrics by Mike Gibb

3. Saxophone Sonata - 3rd movement (2005 - arranged for clarinet and piano)

Commissioned by Johanne Jefferson (née McMullan) for her degree recital at Edinburgh University, this is a rare opportunity to hear an excerpt from this 'early-period' work, in a new arrangement for clarinet with Jean Johnson as soloist.

4. *Für Anothai* (2001 - for solo piano)

My first extant work in the concert tradition, written under the tutelage of Nigel Osborne. The Anothai of the title is Thai composer, pianist and friend Anothai Nitibhon.

5. Three songs from *John Paul Jones* (2000, 2010) www.JohnPaulJonesMusical.com

My stage musical *John Paul Jones* was originally produced by the community theatre group The Freedom Company in 2001, and revived professionally with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, Consort of Voices and guest soloists in 2010. The musical tells the story of the life of the Scots-born hero of the American Revolution. The songs we shall

hear this evening are the tenor solo 'Sword in Hand', written for the 2010 revival, the female torch song 'Song to Me', from which this evening's retrospective takes its name, and the duet 'Almost You' from the final scene of Act I of the musical.

6. Hebridean Sunset Rag (2006, this arrangement 2015)

Originally written for violinist Vicky Jones and pianist Nicholas Ashton, arrangements of this piece also exist for flute and piano, and flute and guitar. The latter arrangement is particularly widely performed. The new arrangement for clarinet, cello and piano was written especially for the present retrospective show.

7. Three songs from *Breathe Freely* (2013) www.BreatheFreelyOpera.co.uk

Breathe Freely is a forty-minute chamber opera commissioned by the University of Edinburgh in 2013. Set during the Second World War, it premièred in Edinburgh's Assembly Rooms in the same year in a production supported by Scottish Opera and conducted by Derek Clark. This evening we will hear the Strauss-inflected 'Der kleine Hund', sung by Marie Claire Breen, and 'To Live is To Regret', sung by Colin Thomas Bryce. The ensemble brings this evening's concert to a close with the rousing finale from Act II of the opera.

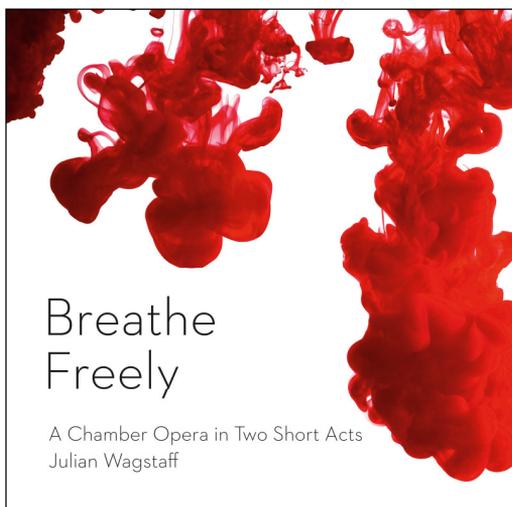
Credits and Thanks

(Please see overleaf for artist biographies)

Assistant Producer: Alexander Horowitz

Stage Manager: Emily Ingram

Arrangements and orchestrations by Julian Wagstaff, with Alexander Horowitz, Georgia Seddon, Mick McGarr and Jon Beales. Original graphics by Pete Rix. Heartfelt thanks to Julia Friedrich for merchandise and front-of-house support. Thanks to Michael Mulligan, Ross Smith and everyone at Coraghy Lane Productions and St Mark's Unitarian Church. Conceived, written and produced by Julian Wagstaff. www.JulianWagstaff.com



The new CD.

Release date: 16 October 2015.

Available online and in record stores.

Features the chamber opera
Breathe Freely and the piano trio
A Persistent Illusion.

Launch event: Tuesday 13 October
2015 at Burlington House, Piccadilly,
London at 7.30pm. Book online at
www.BreatheFreelyOpera.co.uk



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Artist Biographies



Marie Claire Breen (soprano)

Described as “A soprano of rare fluency” (The Daily Mail) Ayrshire born soprano Marie Claire Breen is a dynamic and vibrant young artist. During her years as a Scottish Opera Emerging Artist from 2010-12, Marie Claire’s attractive voice and captivating stage presence led to her casting in roles including **Vixen** in *The Cunning Little Vixen*, **Venus** in *Orpheus in the Underworld*, and **Paggio** in *Rigoletto*. She made her BBC Proms debut in 2010 performing *Serenade to Music* with Donald Runnicles and the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra.



Colin Thomas Bryce (tenor)

Scottish tenor Colin Thomas Bryce trained at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama where he was awarded the Leverhulme Scholarship. To date, he has played **Pirelli** in Longborough Festival Opera’s Young Artist production of *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street* as well as performing extensively with classical cabaret ensemble All That Malarkey at numerous esteemed UK venues. He currently performs as a guest entertainer for Ancora and Opera Boys aboard the world’s finest cruise lines.



Jean Johnson (clarinet)

American clarinetist Jean Johnson is an international collaborator in chamber music programs and has played in some of world’s finest venues, notably the Concertgebouw, Carnegie Hall, the Palais des Beaux-Arts and the Esplanade Singapore. As a soloist, Ms. Johnson has been featured with the Singapore Symphony, the Wuhan Symphony (China), and in Scotland performing concertos by Mozart, Weber and John McLeod among others. She performs regularly with her husband, pianist Steven Osborne, and is a member of the critically acclaimed ensemble Daniel’s Beard.



Mark Bailey (cello)

Born in London, Mark Bailey has performed throughout Europe, the UK, USA and Canada, the Middle East and the Far East, both as soloist and cellist of the internationally acclaimed Edinburgh Quartet. Mark studied at the Royal College of Music on a Foundation Scholarship, where he won all the major cello awards, subsequently studying with William Pleeth and Jacqueline du Pré. He was then invited by Paul Tortelier to study with him for two years in Nice, with scholarships from the French Government, the Countess of Munster Trust and the Suggia Trust. As soloist he has frequently broadcast for the BBC as well as for French, German and Spanish Radio, and has given recitals at the Purcell Room, Wigmore Hall and as a soloist at many leading British festivals.



Andrew Johnston (piano)

Born in Scotland, Andrew has performed as a chamber musician and soloist in Britain and abroad, including concerto performances of Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto No. 1, Grieg Piano Concerto and Beethoven Piano Concerto in Kiev, Ukraine. He gained his Masters Degree in Musicology in 2006 from the University of Edinburgh, and was a student of Norma Fisher, Berndt Goetzke, Murray McLachlan and David Wilde. He performs regularly with ensembles such as the Edinburgh Quartet, Rose Street Quartet, Daniel’s Beard and Calton Consort.



Julian Wagstaff (composer/producer)

Julian lives in his native Edinburgh where he is active as a composer, arranger and guitarist. He studied Composition at Edinburgh University with Nigel Osborne, receiving his PhD in 2008. He is published by Europa Edition, and his music appears on the Circular Records label. Julian’s recent chamber opera *Breathe Freely* was produced in 2013 in association with Scottish Opera, a recording of which is released on the Linn Records label in October 2015. His music is widely performed in the UK, Europe and beyond.

