

Friday 6 December 2024
7.30pm
Milton Court Concert Hall

GUILDHALL
SCHOOL

Guildhall Studio Ensemble

featuring **Bill Laurance**

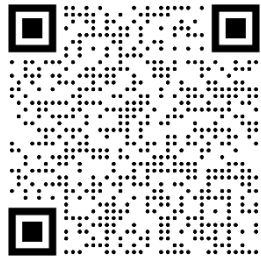
Clare Wheeler director

Bill Laurance piano, keyboard & composer

Digital Programme

Scan the QR code to access our digital programme:

[guildhall-programmes.co.uk/
guildhall-studio-ensemble-2024](http://guildhall-programmes.co.uk/guildhall-studio-ensemble-2024)



Milton Court

Please make sure that digital devices and mobile phones are silenced during the performance.

Eating is not permitted in the auditorium. Drinks are allowed inside the auditorium in polycarbonates.

Filming or recording of the performance is not permitted.

Latecomers will be able to enter the auditorium at a suitable break in the performance.

Programme

All works by Bill Laurance:

Chia

The Good Things (arr. Olivia Murphy)

Balm (arr. Josh Pool)

HAL (arr. Josh Stidwill)

Everything Exists (arr. Sam Gale)

The Pines (arr. Charlie Bates)

Interval

Money in the Desert (arr. Clare Wheeler)

Strange Love (arr. Lucy Joy)

Above All (arr. Jody Humphries & Jack Murray)

The Keeper (arr. Will Everitt)

The Curtain

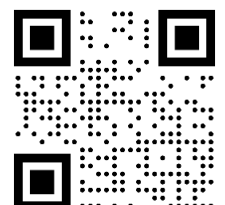
Swift (arr. Josh Pool)

Programme correct at time of publication.

Donate

We hope you thoroughly enjoy today's performance from Guildhall School. If you feel inspired by our students and would like to support world-class training for these talented performers and production artists, we would be grateful for a voluntary donation.

If you want to double your gift at no extra cost to you, why not donate to our Big Give Christmas Appeal from 3–10 December. Scan the QR or visit bit.ly/3Y8SGV



Guildhall Studio Ensemble

Soprano Voice

Emily Kent
Bridget Walsh
Cass Begg

Alto Voice

Evie Hill
Angel Wong
Tiger-Lily Jonathan
Daria Blyzniuk

Tenor Voice

Alastair Eddie

Flute & Alto Saxophone

Lara Ali

Soprano/Alto Saxophone & Clarinet

Damian Bresnan

Tenor Saxophone & Flute

Chris Clayden

Baritone Saxophone, Clarinet & Bass Clarinet

Max Lo

French Horn

Freya Campbell
Ima Kirkwood

Trumpet & Flugel Horn

Carmen Llana Pérez

Trombone

Ben Loska

Electric/Acoustic Guitar

Roland Palmer
Charlie Ralph

Piano & Keyboard

Bill Laurance
Joe English
Joseph Game

Electric/Double Bass & Moog

Eliot Whitehouse
Louis Gascoyne

Drums

David Harkness
Jonny Venvell

Percussion

Ali Ayaz
Kia Lares
David Talisman

Harp

Bibi Afshar-Shirazi

Violin 1

Helena Thomas
Esme Lewis
Nicole Petrus Barracks
Kate Simpson

Violin 2

Natasha Petrovic
Grace Powell
Giulia Lussoso
Malena Benavent

Viola

Sirma Baramova
Connor Quigley
Izzy Doncaster
Dom Stokes

Cello

Anoukia Nistor
Evie Coplan
Cubby Howard

Clare Wheeler director

With a background in both Classical music and Jazz, Clare toured with The Swingles for 11 years, and is now embarking on other musical ventures. Growing up in Kenya, she has sung in African Gospel Choirs, as well as Gospel Choirs in UK, Jazz Vocal Ensembles, Classical Chamber Choirs, Symphonic Choirs and of course The Swingles. She is a solo jazz singer, improviser, composer and arranger, as well as a workshop leader and educator.

Clare taught music theory and harmony at the Academy of Contemporary Music before joining 5-time Grammy winning vocal group The Swingles in 2007. She performed with the group, writing music and making albums for eleven years, having the chance to sing with artists such as Rumer, Jamie Cullum and Labrinth, as well as performing in some of the world's most prestigious music venues and working with legendary conductors.

She has been a guest host of the BBC Radio Two show *The Choir*, as well as arranger and vocal coach on the BBC One show *Pitch Battle* in 2017, working in the final with vocal group Scot Soul and soul legend Chaka Khan.

As a singer Clare performs all over the world, as a soloist, in choirs and vocal ensembles, singing Early Music, Jazz, Gospel, Contemporary Classical and Pop, following her love of music from across all genres, from singing backing vocals for Jacob Collier's Prom Performance in 2018 with the Metropol Jazz Orkester to brand new original tri-lingual, tri-genre setting of Te Deum by John Featherstone across Europe.

Clare writes prolifically for vocal and instrumental ensembles, runs workshops and masterclasses, as well as adjudicating vocal competitions around the world. In September 2019 she joined the Jazz Department staff at Guildhall School of Music & Drama, where she is Faculty Chair of Jazz Voice, teaches improvisation, aural and transcription, vocal jazz and directs the Vocal Jazz Ensemble. She is passionate about empowering singers to achieve their potential within solo or ensemble contexts.

Bill Laurance piano, keyboard & composer

Pianist, keyboardist and composer Bill Laurance's music evokes a striking sense of time and place. As an original member of 5-time Grammy Award-winning group Snarky Puppy, Laurance has toured the world countless times, playing hundreds of concerts to tens of thousands of fans worldwide.

Attending the University of Leeds, he majored in classical composition, exploring jazz, funk and drum and bass in addition to classical music. Since then he has honed the melodic immediacy of this approach, along with his intense improvisational prowess, forging a distinctive personal style that embraces English classical, electronica and jazz-rock sensibilities, alongside gritty contemporary grooves.

In the early-noughties, a twenty-something Laurance was trying to make a living on the Leeds music scene, when an unremarkable but timely pick-up gig presented itself with a young Michael League in singer Michael Solomon Williams' band. Gigs in the north of England forged a friendship with League, who happened to be looking for a new piano player, and League invited Laurance to the US to record the first Snarky Puppy album, *The Only Constant*, and the rest, as they say, is history.

Since then, Laurance has clocked up recordings and performances with renowned artists such as David Crosby, Morcheeba, Salif Keita, Terence Blanchard, Susana Baca, Lalah Hathaway, Laura Mvula, Jacob Collier, Musiq Soul Child, Khalid Sansi, Chris Potter, Lionel Loueke, Carlos Malta, The Metropole Orchestra and the WDR Big Band. He has also worked extensively in the dance world with companies including Alvin Ailey, Ballet Rambert, Matthew Bourne's Adventures in Motion Pictures, Phoenix Dance, Northern Ballet Theatre and the English National Ballet. He has also composed music for a variety of different clients including Apple, Sky, Nokia and Hewlett Packard.

He is a champion of cutting-edge keyboard developments and is endorsed by Moog, Mellotron, Sequential, Korg, Nord, Roli Seaboard, Yamaha, Roland, Arp Odyssey, Keyscape, Sound Brenner, Native Instruments and MXR. Alongside Laurance's touring as a solo artist and with Snarky Puppy, Laurance is the Artist in residence at Morley College London. He is a passionate educator and continues to give clinics at music institutions all over the world.